

Cultural Arts Coalition Annual Report 2025-2006



Kwanzaa Celebration



Our Kwanzaa Celebration was held at the Wilhelmina Johnson Center on the 6th day Kuumba, with more than 75 people in attendance. There were poetry, dance and music. Many people had brought food also.

Earth Day

The Earth Day essay contest was successful again this year. We had more than 50 entries. Schools that participated this year were Resilience Middle School, Santa Fe High's Science & Technology, and from Ho, Ghana we had Mawuko Girls School and Ola Senior High School.



EMPOWER COALITION

Cultural Arts Coalition is a partner in the EMPOWER Project that was formed 3 years ago. A part of its work is collaborating with neighborhood representatives



to provide services to income-challenged residents that help to reduce utility burdens. These services include but not limited to insulation, window and door repairs, new energy saving appliances, hot water heaters and sometimes air conditioners. So far funding has been made possible by LBS Foundation. Funding may be made possible through savings from solar roof panels on a county building. The neighborhoods included Duval, Sugarhill/Springhill, and the SWAG areas. There was a community engagement held in each neighborhood and more than 200 people participated.

5TH Ave Arts Festival

The theme for this year's Festival was "Our Sound" with special emphasis on musicians who had performed in Alachua County over the past 50 years. Some of these musicians were recognized at the Festival Reception.



At The Festival Reception held at the Oak Park Center, two people were recognized who have done outstanding work in the arts in Gainesville/Alachua County. They were first Vivian “Mangye” Filer for the Cultural Trailblazer Award. This was with special emphasis on the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center. Also Rhonda Wilson received the Outstanding Artist Award for her long history of Theatre work in Gainesville with special emphasis on the creation of the Star Center.

This year’s festival was held at Santa Fe College Blount Hall for two days. Among dancers, singers and musicians, we welcomed Eastside Alumni Band, The Williams Family, music bands, children activities, art and much more, including lots of food.

Santa Fe College staff provided tours of the Blount Hall facility that not only had information on classes and services but also a wonderful art exhibit.



Science Clubs/Science Bus

We hosted our Science Club for our 13th school term. Club sites included: George Washigton Carver, Caring and Sharing, St Barbara, Passage, Resilience Middle and Lake Forest. We once again had volunteers from Hands-On Gainesville,



University of Florida, GRU LEEP, and a number of retirees who volunteered with our Science program.

Our Science bus made more than 10 visits in Gainesville including schools and afterschool programs. We also visited youth programs in Hawthorne, Archer, Micanopy, Waldo, Newberry, High Springs, Alachua and Starke.



Wilhelmina Johnson Center

Renovations at Wilhelmina Johnson Center began this past spring. There will be several improvements made such as the roof, flooring, bathrooms, the parking lot and playground.

CAC was relocated to Oakview Park facility and was provided our own office and meeting space. We are scheduled to go back into Wilhelmina Johnson Center during the beginning of 2027.



Gainesville Musicians

CAC along with UF College of Journalism are conducting interviews with local musicians to record their experiences playing music in North Central Florida. These musicians have played in the Gainesville Alachua County areas over the past 50+ year. Outside of communities in Alachua County these musicians played in Marion County, Putman County, Clay, Bradford and Duval Counties. We will continue interviewing these musicians to record this history.



Patricia Hilliard Nunn Scholarship

CAC presented its first Scholarship Award. The Scholarship was named in remembrance of Dr. Patricia Hilliard Nunn. The scholarship was donated by Alexis Amaye Obu. The scholarship was awarded to Ta'Liyah Waldon.



Professor Nunn donated many hours to CAC programming and one of those programs was the Environmental Ambassadors.

Alexis Amaye Obu has been a part of CAC Girl Power, Environmental Ambassador and staff of CAC. She now resides in Ireland and has continued to support CAC .

Ta'lyah our scholarship recipient, is a graduate of Eastside High School class of 2026. She is currently enrolled and attending Valencia College in Orlando. Her family joined CAC at Dr. Hilliard memorial to receive a check.

Special Thanks to All of our donors! Whether you gave \$5 or \$500 we wanted to make sure we recognized you and thank you for your support.

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