



# 2019 Annual Report

# Annual Summary

The Manatee Arts Education Council (MAEC) officially began operations as a branch organization of the Manatee Education Foundation (MEF) on July 1, 2018. MEF is a 501(c)3 public foundation that has been serving Manatee County for over 30 years. MAEC unites educators, artists, community leaders, arts education organizations and institutions, corporations, and individuals in support of our mission.

The vision for the MAEC is for every student in every public Manatee County school to have equitable access to a well-rounded education that includes a comprehensive, sequential, high-quality program of arts instruction; and for our community to have broad-based cultural programs available to support lifelong learning in and through the arts.

The mission of the MAEC is to support, promote, and celebrate PreK-12 arts education in public schools.

MAEC believes that the arts are essential to a complete education. The arts:

- Include dance, music, theatre, visual art, and media art;
- Foster civic engagement, stimulate economic activity, and increase cultural empathy, and thus play a crucial role in sustaining thriving communities;
- Should be made available to all Manatee County citizens through high-quality school-based and community arts organizations;
- Are powerful in the education of students with special needs;
- Are central to the development of all children and to ongoing creative engagement for people of all ages;
- Contribute to the breadth, depth, and diversity of artistic and cultural life that are critical measures of the vitality of Manatee County.

Our very young organization's biggest success has been to thrive in achievement of our first-year goals and initiatives. Through the implementation and management of several programs, we are on the way to realizing our vision. All MAEC programs serve as elements of our mission. Each program focus is either to support, promote, or celebrate PreK-12 arts education in public schools. Some programs overlap and serve dual purposes.



MAEC Launch Party  
Pier 22  
April 19, 2018

## 2018-2019 Operational Timeline

### April 2018

#### *MAEC Launch Party*

Nearly 200 school and community arts professionals, educators, advocates, and students gathered together at Pier 22 on April 19, 2018 to hear all about Manatee County's newest arts education organization. Superintendent, Dr. Diana Greene, greeted guests with welcoming remarks, Manatee Education Foundation President, Mary Glass, discussed the rationale for a partnership between MEF and MAEC. School District of Manatee County Visual & Performing Arts Curriculum Specialist, Julie Hebert, presented a State of the Arts for the attendees – highlighting current successes and goals in arts education within the school district. Ringling College of Art & Design President, Dr. Larry Thompson spoke about the need for public and community support in this new initiative. Student performances were presented by the Lee Middle School Jazz Band, solo elementary school pianist, Kaleb Hebert, and the Southeast High School Guitar Ensemble. Membership was officially opened and we met 75% of our first-year membership goal that first night!



### June 2018

#### *Inaugural Board of Directors Appointed by Founders Dr. Denise Davis-Cotton elected Board Chair by Board of Directors*

Dr. Denise Davis-Cotton, Director of the Florida Center for Partnerships in Arts-Integrated Teaching (PAInT) at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, has been appointed as the MAEC Board Chairwoman. Dr. Davis-Cotton has been a longtime champion of the arts and arts-integrated instruction, a teaching method that combines academics and the arts. She founded the Detroit School of the Arts in 1992 and served as the school's principal, a position she held until 2010. Among other career highlights, Dr. Davis-Cotton received the Milken Educator Award (1998); is a board member and past president of the Arts Schools Network, a national non-profit group that advocates inclusion of the arts in schools; and is the author of *Losing My Mind over Education (Finding My Way Back to Me)*, in which she chronicles the discord between the preparation of her educational journey, what she discovered and what needs to occur to reignite the educational spirit.

## July 2018

### **MAEC Board Convenes**

The Board met for a full day on July 10, 2018 to create and adopt the organization By-Laws, Policies, and Procedures. The year 1 programmatic goals and budget were also developed during this session.



## September 2018

### **All-County Orchestra Concert**

MAEC hosted the First Annual All-County High School Orchestra Concert at SCF Neel Performing Arts Center on Saturday, September 29, 2018. The orchestra featured the top orchestral musicians from our public and charter high schools. The conductor was Anne Parrett. This event was sponsored by the Sarasota Orchestra and the Violin Shop of Sarasota.

## October 2018

### **MAEC Board Development Workshop & Retreat**

The University of South Florida – Sarasota/Manatee and the Florida Center for Partnerships in Arts-Integrated Teaching (PAInT) hosted a Board Development Workshop & Retreat for the full board and committee chairs at USF SM on October 15. Nationally acclaimed arts-integration specialist, Dr. David Flatley, led the group through team building, mission focus, board development, and arts advocacy training that served to strengthen our board's ability to collaboratively work toward achievement of our mission.



## October 2018

### **Manatee Judicial Center Art Gallery**

MAEC worked in partnership with our schools and the Young Lawyers Division of the Manatee Bar Association to display an art gallery in the lobby outside of the juvenile courtrooms in the Manatee Judicial Center. Over 100 K-8 school artists submitted work for consideration to hang in the Courthouse Art Gallery. 29 students had work selected by a panel of young lawyers. A reception to honor the student artists and their teachers was held at the Judicial Center on Oct. 30. Over 80 people attended to celebrate this event.



While distributing certificates to the student artists, the President of the Young Lawyer's Division remarked, "this gallery provides a really nice environment to many young people who are in this lobby for not nice reasons. Perhaps viewing this artwork will inspire a young person who is not currently on the right path to make a change in his/her life." The current exhibit will remain on display through October of 2019.

## November 2018

### **Stranger Strings: Concert in the Courtyard**

Concert in the Courtyard was modified from an existing program known as Concert in the Park. Concert in the Park was an established program featuring all middle and high school orchestras in a performance festival held at the Pittsburg Pirates spring training home, Lecom Park in Bradenton. With the addition of an All-County Orchestra program for high school students, the decision was made to modify Concert in the Park to feature just middle school orchestras. We also moved from Lecom Park to the amphitheatre and courtyard at Manatee High School. 91% of our middle school orchestras participated in this event. Students, teachers, school and community leaders overwhelmingly reported in a post-event survey that the event had a positive impact on students' musical achievement. All profits raised at this event from the sale of tickets, merchandise, and concessions were divided among the participating orchestra programs. These funds will help to ensure that our orchestra students can play instruments that are in proper working order, can participate in state-level competitions with fees attached to participation, can perform new repertoire via the purchase of new music purchased for the programs, etc. Event sponsors included the Pittsburg Pirates, Sarasota Orchestra, Violin Shop of Sarasota, Triton Music Services, Super Sensitive Musical and String Company



December 2018

**SRQ Airport Art Gallery**

MAEC worked in partnership with our schools and the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport Authority to display an art gallery in the main lobby of the ticketing counters at the airport. Over 350 K-12 school artists submitted work for consideration to hang in this gallery. 50 students had work selected by a panel of expert artist adjudicators. A reception to honor the student artists and their teachers was held at the airport December 6. Over 350 people attended to celebrate the achievements of our young artists. The airport personnel distributed ribbons and cash prizes to the students whose pieces were selected for first, second, third, places as well as Best in Show. Additionally, the airport held a drawing for two participating art teachers to win roundtrip airline tickets to any city in the US. The current exhibit will remain on display at the airport through December of 2019.



January 2019

**Manasota Honor Choirs**

MAEC partnered with our schools as well as school in Sarasota County to host the very first ever Manasota Honor Choir. The event featured over 150 auditioned students who performed in a middle school and a high school honor choir. Students in both choirs had the opportunity to work with choral experts who are adept at expanding musicianship in young singers while building collaborative work ethic, perseverance, safe and healthy self-expression, and so much more! SCF Director of Choral Studies, Melodie Dickerson, conducted the high school choir. Chris Edwards conducted the middle school choir. Sponsors included SCF, Sarasota Orchestra, and the Florida Vocal Association.



January 2019

**K-12 Visual Art Exhibit at the County Fair**

MAEC worked in partnership with our schools and the Manatee County Fair to display an art gallery in the main exhibit building on the fairground during the annual 2019 fair. Over 500 K-12 school artists submitted work for consideration to hang in this gallery. A team of school art teachers selected 100 pieces to display, ensuring that all schools submitting artwork had a sampling of work featured in the exhibit. The Manatee County Fair gives a cash gift to all participating schools to be used to purchase arts supplies and equipment for students.



February 2019

**MAEC Mingle**

In effort to provide networking opportunities between our school and community members, MAEC hosted the Spring MAEC Mingle at USF SM. The Florida Center for PAInT sponsored the event. Close to 100 members gathered to network and share best practices in arts education.



## March 2019

### *Play it Forward: Instrument Donation Drive & Petting Zoo*

MAEC participated in Realize Bradenton's Art Slam on March 2, 2019. We hosted a booth that featured an instrument petting zoo for kids of all ages to try out an instrument. We also collected gently used instruments to be donated to our district band and orchestra programs. Over 50 kids visited our tent to try out woodwind, brass, string, and percussion instruments.



## March 2019

### *Elementary Music Festival*

The Manatee Education Foundation has been supporting the Elementary Music Festival since 2004. This year, at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Elementary Music Festival, MAEC took over operations of the festival. At the 2019 festival, we featured a choral clinician from outside of our district. Kyla Bailey is the Director of the Lumina Youth Choirs in Tampa. The students' voices soared under Kyla's direction. Another exciting element was the addition of an All-County Orff Ensemble. District music teachers, Dr. David Katz and Marsha Juday, collaborated to conduct the Orff Ensemble.



## April 2019

### *Arts Alive: Manatee's Celebration of the Arts*

The Manatee Arts Education Council, in partnership with the School District of Manatee County and the Manatee Education Foundation, held the premier of "Arts Alive: Manatee's Celebration of the Arts" on April 29, 2019 at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. The purpose of Arts Alive is to demonstrate the vibrancy of the arts in our schools and community, to celebrate our successes, and honor leaders who have laid the foundation for building a community that appreciates and values the arts. In celebration of arts in our schools, we were proud to highlight a small sampling of special performances presented by the Elementary Honor Choir, Haile Middle School Storm Dancers, Rowlett Middle Academy Film Students, Lakewood Ranch High School Musical Theatre, and State College of Florida Guitar Ensemble. We also featured outstanding student artwork in the Superintendent's Honor Gallery. These pieces had been displayed in the Superintendent's Gallery in our district offices during the school year and were selected by a panel of visual art experts to be exhibited in the Superintendent's Honor Gallery at Arts Alive. A highlight of the event was the recognition of outstanding arts education legacy leaders from our schools and community with the first-ever Manatee Arts Education Council (MAEC) Arts Alive Awards. Recipients were ten special individuals who were, and continue to be, integral to the success of the arts in our community and schools. Their work has ensured that we have thriving arts programs and will continue to do so for future generations. Notably, each award was presented and named after the first recipient. The awards will carry the names of the first recipients in perpetuity as they are awarded in future years. Sponsors included Manatee Education Foundation, NDC Construction, Ringling College of Art & Design, Willis Smith Construction, Blalock Walters, Fawley Bryant Architecture, CPPI, Barak Law Group, Williamson Dacar Associates, ME&S Contractors, Manatee Memorial Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, Harvard Jolly Architecture, Tandem Construction, Bradenton Area Arts & Culture at the Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Davis Digital.



June 2019

### *smARTen Up Summer Camp*

The School District of Manatee County joined forces with the Manatee Education Foundation (MEF) and the Manatee Arts Education Council (MAEC) to host the First Annual smARTen Up Summer Camp. MAEC was thrilled to offer smARTen Up Summer Arts Camp at Lee Middle School June 3-7. For the students, it was like having specials and electives all day! During camp hours, students engaged in a rotation schedule featuring dance, theatre, visual art, media arts, general music, and choir. Fourth-seventh grade campers also got to experience band and orchestra classes. Many students were able to attend the week-long camp at no cost. MAEC is extremely thankful to the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund and the Eugene F. and Elizabeth Hull Fund at the Manatee Community Foundation, and Wells Fargo for their generous grant awards that helped fund student camp scholarships, camp staff salaries, and camp activity materials and resources.



The Manatee Arts Education Council is extremely proud of a very successful first year of operations. We launched as a branch organization of the Manatee Education Foundation in April 2018 and began fiscal operations in July 2018. In our first year of operations, we established six new programs and events in support of our mission. We partnered with over 30 local, state, and national organizations. We impacted arts education in every Manatee County K-12 public school, 3 public charter schools, and 2 private schools with programming. Next year we look forward to continued success and the launch of one new event and one new initiative. In partnership with Feld Entertainment, MAEC will host district and community leaders at the Arts Rise & Shine Leadership Breakfast this fall. One hundred percent of profits raised for MAEC in our first year of operations will go toward supporting school arts programs via a granting initiative in our second year of operations. This fall, arts teachers will be invited to submit grant proposals to MAEC. We are looking forward to awarding several classroom and professional development grants at the Leadership Breakfast.

As you know, MAEC is a member-powered organization. Your membership dollars help fund all of the amazing programs and events we offer in support of our mission. We invite you to join or renew your membership for the 2019-2020 school year.



**Manatee Arts  
Education Council**

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