

2022 ROWITA Recipients

Teresa Radzinski is a committed advocate of the arts in St. Johns County and beyond as evidenced through her public service and philanthropy. As a Managing Director at Bank of America, she works on behalf of her clients to purposefully invest their money to build a socially and fiscally responsible portfolio. Radzinski received the Bank of America Presidents Award and serves as Board Chair for the Lightner Museum where she has led renovation of the south terrace and garden.

Jane Sims is a professional storyteller, educator, fine arts promotor, and founding member of the Tale Tellers of St. Augustine Storytelling Guild. In 1991, she worked with legendary Gamble Rogers to produce a storytelling festival in the city to help St. Augustine High School fundraise for a piano. With her exceptional skills, Sims is preserving the art of storytelling for future generations.

Donna Guzzo is the President and Executive Director for the First Coast Cultural Center. She is a Rotarian and member several chambers of commerce. Guzzo has 30 years of fundraising experience and oversees a multi-faceted program promoting the arts through youth and adult educational programs, master workshops, and Sound Connections® Music Therapy for children with special needs. As an ambassador for the United Nations' Teach SDGs (Teaching Sustainable Development Goals), she has included these goals as part of the curriculum for Cultural Center camps.

****2021 program paused due to COVID-19****

2020 ROWITA Recipients

Karla Wagner was the proprietor of the former Corazon Cinema and Café, an art house cinema that hosted rotating exhibits and supported local artists and organizations with a space for fundraisers and advocacy events. The Corazon hosted film festivals, including the St. Augustine Film Festival, the Hispanic Cultural Film Festival, and LunaFest; it hosts actors and musicians, comedians, storytellers, and artists of the spoken word. Karla restored the historic 1880s building to create a central meeting and dining venue for St. Johns County's citizens and tourists.

Roxanne Horvath is an artist and preservation architect, overseeing the restoration or renovation of numerous historic properties including the Alcazar Hotel, the Ponce de Leon Hotel, the St. Johns Visitor Information Center, and Hastings Elementary School. She is a current member of the City of St. Augustine City Commission and, since her election in 2012, has been a champion of the arts, supporting public art projects and numerous arts and culture exhibitions and performances. She is a multi-media artist who has exhibited locally and regionally and is a leader in local efforts to combat the effects of climate change and sea level rise.

Leslie Robison is the Kenan Distinguished Associated Professor of Liberal Education in Art at Flagler College. She has a local community art practice engaged in exposing students to issues in our community and to effect change, collaborating with organizations including the Council on Aging, St. Francis House, St. Augustine Youth

Services, the St. Johns Youth Academy, Wags and Whiskers, and the Lincolnville Museum & Cultural Center. Robison's studio practice employs a variety of media, from drawing to performance, to examine and challenge institutional power structures. Her work has been included in many national and international group exhibitions including recent exhibitions at the Center for Contemporary Political Art in Washington, D.C., ARC Gallery in Chicago, Illinois, and Praxis Gallery in Newcastle, England.

Dr. Leslee Keys moved to St. Johns County in 1997 and has since been a leader in the conservation of historical and architectural resources. She has served as Director of Corporate, Foundation and Government Relations, Director of Historic Preservation at Flagler College, and has assisted more than a dozen St. Johns County organizations in securing nearly \$20 million to preserve and interpret historic assets and cultural resources. She is author of three books about arts, culture, and architecture in the County: *Hotel Ponce de Leon: The Architecture and Decoration*; *Hotel Ponce de Leon: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of Flagler's Gilded Age Palace*; and *Flagler College: The First Fifty Years*. Recipient of honors and awards from more than 15 different preservation organizations, she currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the U.S. National Committee for the International Council on Monuments and Sites, and is a past President of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.

Carol Prior is a drama instructor, teacher, artist, writer and director with more than 30 years of experience teaching literature and theatre arts in northeast Florida. She was St. Augustine High School's "Teacher of the Year" in 1987-1988; was awarded the "National Theatre in our Schools Award" by the American Association of Theatre Educators in 1993-1994 and 1994-1995; and served on the national board of the American Alliance for Theatre Education. Carole is founder of two successful local writing groups: "The Write Brainers" and "The Write People in the Write House."

2019 ROWITA Recipients

Dr. Dorothy Barrett majored in Voice at Westminster Choir College, earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Rutgers University, and received a Doctorate in Education from Columbia University. Dr. Barrett believes that music and the arts provide options and new possibilities for people of all ages. To that end, she volunteers with the St. Augustine Orchestra, the EMMA Concert Association, and the string instrument programs at The Webster School, Sebastian Middle School, and St. Augustine High School Center for the Arts.

Margaret Jameson graduated from the Arts Institute of Baltimore with a Master's Degree in Early Art Education. Her lifelong passion for the arts and pottery led her to be the founding member of Clay Network, a Northeast Florida non-profit that provides educational opportunities, contributes to charitable causes in the community, and supports the Clay Network's membership by providing sales opportunities, group support, and mentoring.

Linda McAnarney is a Florida-certified Art Teacher with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts and Master's Degree in Art Education from Ohio State University. She is the visual art teacher at Julington Creek Elementary School. She constantly seeks ways to develop new relationships between the St. Johns County School District and its community resources. Ms. McAnarney has cultivated collaborations with the Flagler College Art Department, the Mayo Clinic, Compassionate St. Augustine, and local artists.

Regina Gayle Phillips received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from University of Florida. Ms. Phillips originally came to the Lincolnton Museum & Cultural Center as a volunteer. Within a short time, the Museum's Board of Directors recognized her as having the skills to promote and expand the museum. Under her leadership as the museum's Director, the Lincolnton Museum & Cultural Center has become a vibrant and historical place to attend concerts, historical presentations, and cultural discussions.

Dr. Susanne Schuenke studied Art History during her undergraduate years and received a Master's Degree in Art History and a Doctoral Degree in Art History from the University of Cologne. Through her work as a writer/illustrator, curator of exhibitions for local organizations, and lecturer/teacher at Flagler College and The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, Dr. Schuenke has imparted her belief that art enriches every human's life.

Jo Sinclair graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts and earned a Master's in Art Education from Case Western Reserve University. She has shared her passion for creative encounters throughout her diverse career as a professional artist and art educator of youth and adults at Flagler College, Ketterlinus Elementary School, The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach, Butterfield Garage Gallery, and other local organizations.

2018 ROWITA Recipients

Linda M. Brandt has spent her life in the arts, mostly as a self-trained artist. She has taught art classes at the St. Johns County Council on Aging, is a board member of the St. Augustine School of the Performing Arts, is a co-founder of Artbreakers, as well as a member of the Ancient City Poets. Her work has been displayed in prestigious venues from Paris to London and New York to Laguna Beach. Her paintings are held in private collections around the world including the portrait of the President Ronald Reagan along with portraits of past Ohio Governor, George Voinovich, and several senators. In 2004, Linda underwent brain surgery for a rare and usually deadly tumor. After three years of rehabilitation, she returned to painting. Since then, Linda has donated her time, talent, and artwork to countless fundraisers for numerous local organizations. Linda's recovery and subsequent return to the art world serves as an encouraging and inspiring story.

Deborah Dickey is a playwright and theatre director who received a Master of Fine Arts in Acting and Directing from the University of Florida. She is a board member of A Classic Theatre where she serves as a producer and director. She has a special interest in Florida themes and her most recent play, *Sweet Emmaline: The Musical Journey of Debbie McDade*, tells the story of a local artist who achieved fame as a jazz singer. Another play, *Cross Roads: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Norton S. Baskin in Unguarded Moments* tells the story of two prominent St. Augustine residents. It premiered in 2012 under her direction during the Romanza Festivale. Deborah has served as co-producer for over 20 local productions for A Classic Theatre. She also works as a dramaturg and director of new play development. Deborah's talent for bringing local stories to the stage entertains audiences while also educating them on the rich artistic history found in St. Johns County.

Carolyn Juliet Fisher received a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Bethune Cookman University and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of North Florida. She was a talented schoolteacher in the St. Johns County School District for thirty-five years, receiving Osceola Elementary School's Teacher of the Year award in 1998. Her other true passion is singing, and she began ministering through song at a very early age. Carolyn has lent her singing talents to many organizations in St. Johns County and can be found singing at churches, weddings, funerals, festivals, schools, birthdays, and other celebrations. Carolyn's love of singing finds her spending countless volunteer hours making a difference in her community, church, and family where she generously shares talents. She is often on the program to honor many events in the St. Augustine community, including the 30th Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Breakfast, the 2014 Civil Rights celebration at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, and during the 2016 memorial service for the civil rights leader Dr. Robert B. Hayling. She sang for ACCORD (Anniversary to Commemorate the Civil Rights Demonstrations, Inc.) events from 2004 through 2014. By all accounts, Carolyn's singing has enriched the lives of many in St. Johns County.

Laurie Allen Klein is a book illustrator and artist whose work has impacted tourism, environmental causes, and education in St. Johns County. Her creations can be found in the hallways and cafeterias of St. Johns County schools (R. B Hunt, Ketterlinus, Crookshank, and Julington Creek Elementary), in our tourist attractions, (St. Augustine Alligator & Zoological Farm, St. Augustine Lighthouse, St. Augustine Aquarium, and the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve), and on the shelves of libraries through her illustrations of children's books, adult and young adult novels, and field guides). Laurie's artwork has transformed many hallways and cafeterias where her adventurous murals depict ecosystems in exotic places that can't help but spur the imagination of all who see them. Her art reaches visitors and residents alike, promoting the environmental richness and unique setting of our county.

2016 ROWITA Recipients

Elyse Brady has been involved in visual and performing arts since childhood, first schooled in drawing, then going on to the theatre scene in Minneapolis and spending almost a decade as a professional singer performing in the US, Canada, and Aruba.

Holding three art degrees, Brady has been the Administrator for the St. Augustine Art Association where art, culture, and history is showcased as part of our heritage. Never sitting still, she oversees new exhibitions, lectures, musical performances, and Art Camp for children.

Manila Clough studied at FSU, Georgetown, and Tulane before her studies were interrupted by a move to Europe where she became a full-time artist. With a BA in Studio Art and English, an MA in Medieval English Literature, and a fellowship as an ABD Doctoral Candidate, she has been a professor and gallery owner before making her mosaic works her full-time passion. Her work can be found in schools, offices, libraries, hospitals, municipal buildings, and private homes. Her generosity, especially when it comes to children and art in public places, is widely known and appreciated.

Caren Goldman has worn many hats as author, award-winning journalist, freelance writer for national magazines and metropolitan newspapers, and a respected voice on spiritual thinking. Serving as executive director and co-founder of Compassionate St. Augustine, the Obelisk Art 450 project was a 24/7 effort for 18 months from a grassroots beginning and assembling a team of community leaders, ultimately leading to both international and national recognition. Compassion through the Eyes of Children is an ongoing program enriching and educating the younger generations.

Jan Tomlinson Master's career is as rich as the many mediums with which she has worked, from linoleum block printed fabric, antique beads, jewelry to large-scale mosaics including the historic map at our Visitor Information Center, 3-tiered piece with 160 species of indigenous birds at the Bird Island Park Amphitheatre and coordinated a student mosaic project for the fountain at Flagler College's new administration building. Chosen to represent the City of St. Augustine, she traveled to Aviles, Spain to create an obelisk for Compassion 450. Founder of the 1st Children's Art Camp in the 80s, she teaches master classes around the country.

JoAnn Nance apprenticed at the Hyde Park Playhouse as a child where she worked with notable actors inspiring her to study voice and musical theatre at Florida School of the Arts, then earning a Bachelor's degree in Theatre at Flagler College during the department's infancy. She had a radio career in the 80s and 90s both locally and in New England. Her work as a teacher has encouraged many students to pursue the arts and her drama department has won countless awards. Outside of school, she remains active in the theatre community performing, directing, and singing at St. Anastasia Catholic Church.

Rosamond Parrish is known throughout St. Johns County and beyond as an accomplished artist, passionate art teacher, generous volunteer for many nonprofit organizations, and dedicated community activist. In addition to serving with EMMA, St. Augustine Art Association, St. Augustine Historical Society, St. Augustine Archaeological Association, and Rotary to list a few, she has designed playbills, brochures, hosted classes, and written and illustrated her books *Lincolville: A Sketchbook Journal of St. Augustine's Historic Neighborhood* and *St. Augustine: A Sketchbook*. An ambassador of Lincolville and a champion of the arts, her contributions to the arts community are ongoing.

Shirley Williams-Collins' name is perhaps not as familiar as some because she was always the face behind the camera. Thanks to her photography and poetry, she preserved a St. Augustine history that might have been lost forever. As a teacher she helped students find their own means of artistic expression. A native of St. Augustine, her parents were avid photographers, and she followed the footsteps of Richard Twine and John Jackson. While photographing a building slated for demolition, she found records of the Civil Rights Movement, a previously long-lost archive of this important period.

2015 ROWITA Recipients

Twila Fleming Hudson was born and raised in St. Augustine. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Since her return to St. Augustine, she has used her creative storytelling abilities to teach children to develop their creative talent. She also inspires and educates people through her portrayals of legendary historical figures.

Kerry Fradley was born into a musical family so it's no surprise she went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Piano and Vocal Performance, and a Master of Arts Degree in Choral Performance. Ms. Fradley shares her passion for music in many ways but is most proud of founding the St. Augustine Youth Chorus.

Mary Rhopa la Cierra holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics and a Master's of Fine Arts Degree in Costume Design. She has shared her lifetime interest in fabric and thread through her work for *Cross and Sword*, St. Augustine Art Association, St. Johns County 4-H, and other organizations.

Felicia Rhoden studied classical ballet at the New York City Ballet under the direction of George Balanchine and modern dance at The Martha Graham School of Modern Dance. She appeared all over the country in ballet performances and has been a choreographer and director for over 60 years. Each year, she teaches and inspires more than 300 dancers as the Director of both the Dance Ministry and Liturgical Dance at Christ Episcopal Church.

2014 ROWITA Recipients

Margo Pope is a writer and supporter of the arts. Throughout her newspaper career, one that included many years with the St. Augustine Record, Margo has written articles supporting countless community events and arts organizations. She is also an active member of the Textile Arts Guild, the Florida Heritage Book Festival, and the Woman's Exchange of St. Augustine.

Kathleen Vande Berg has been a music educator for over 30 years. She has been involved in many organizations including the St. Augustine Community Chorus, the St. Augustine Singers, Flagler College Singers, First Coast Opera, and Director of Music at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church.

Carolee Bertisch is an accomplished author of poetry and dedicated advocate for poetry and the arts. Carolee is actively involved with the Florida Heritage Book Festival, Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, and the Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series at the Ponte Vedra Branch Library.

Sally Ann Freeman has served as a fine arts and cultural consultant for three decades. Her art galleries in Jacksonville and St. Augustine helped promote regional woman artists and sculptors. She is a past board member of the St. Johns Cultural Council, the Jacksonville Art Museum, and the Dow Museum of Historic Houses.

Phyllis Gibbs has been Chairperson of the Theater Department at Flagler College since 1999. Under her leadership and guidance, the theatre department has thrived and grown in size and scope. She has been a mentor to countless students, many of whom are making significant contributions of their own to the cultural life of St. Johns County.

Carol Gladstone is a dynamic volunteer for many arts organizations in St. Johns County including the Friends of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, the St. Johns Cultural Council, and the Limelight Theatre. She was a co-chair for “The Gathering of Friends Children’s Arts Festival,” an interactive festival that allowed children to explore different art forms at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre.

Wendy Mandel McDaniel is a mixed media artist and avid arts supporter whose work can be seen at the Visitor Information Center of St. Augustine, Bird Island Park, and Flagler College. She has also been a tireless champion for public art and keeping the arts in our schools, as well as a contributor to numerous artistic, recreational, and cultural community projects.

Faith Tiberio was a co-founder of the Faith and Joseph Tiberio Charitable Foundation, an organization that supports art, education, cultural, and humanitarian endeavors. She has also been a generous supporter of the St. Augustine Art Association, a passion inherited from her mother, and shares with her sister, Kay Burtin. Her generous spirit is also reflected in the role she and the foundation played creating galleries, boardroom library, and lobby of the Lightner Museum. Faith passed in 2017 at the age of 92.

2013 ROWITA Recipients

Wendy Tatter was introduced to the art of batik while attending Instituto Allende in Mexico. She developed a style all her own and began exhibiting her work in local studios and restaurants and opened She opened W. B. Tatter Studio Gallery on Anastasia Boulevard. She organized San Marco merchants to participate in Uptown Saturday Night, an evening featuring art, antiques, boutiques, and music. San Marco Avenue beautification efforts, the Uptown Saturday Night logo, and other improvements to the San Marco Avenue area can all be attributed to Wendy’s energy, ideas, and support. She also encourages creativity through her workshops at elementary schools and civil associations throughout Florida. She generously contributes her artwork to local organizations and libraries around the country. Over the years she has won awards and accolades for her work not only in St. Augustine, but all over the United States.

Diane Bradley is an artist and lifelong educator with a passion for including youth in the arts. She became involved with the St. Augustine Art Association as a docent, show chairperson, then teacher of an after-school art program. She soon realized that she wanted to be more involved in the organization and sought ways to help it reach its full potential as a Community Arts Center. Diane established a partnership with St. Johns County schools to jointly present the Annual All County High School and Middle School Art Shows. Her partnership with the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind led to the creation of its popular Annual Tactile Show for the blind and visually impaired. She continues to work to ensure sound fiscal practices for the organization including the management of the annual Spring and Fall Art & Craft Festivals and the Nature and Wildlife Exhibition.

Mary Siess is an artist who enjoys watercolors, pen-and-ink drawings, and jewelry design. She donates many of her creations to fundraisers of the organizations she belongs to or supports. Since 1999, she has volunteered at the St. Augustine Art Association in a variety of positions, including docent, computer expert, and has been involved with monthly art exhibits and fundraising festivals. Mary has been one of the pillars of the EMMA Concert Association where she has acted as historian, organizer of the Music Master Series, member of the Program Committee, Tickets and Subscription Committee, President of the EMMA Guild, and Vice-President of the EMMA Board of Directors. Her computer skills helped launch the EMMA website and online ticket sales. Mary has also volunteered her time with Altrusa's work with the Llambias House and Old St. Augustine Village. Her work with the St. Augustine Textile Guild included helping with the Fall Textile Arts Festival and serving as a docent in the Spanish Village.

Debbie McDade was born in Lincolnville in 1928 as Emmaline Maultsby. She attended Excelsior School and sang in the choir at Trinity Methodist Church. She went to New York as a teenager to seek fame and fortune as a singer and, at the suggestion of Louis Armstrong, she adopted the stage name, Debby Moore. During her international career, she sang with Earl "Fatha" Hines, toured Asia representing the United States, made movies in Japan, and wrote songs. Some of her songs were recorded by Woody Herman and Louis Prima; others she sang herself on her 1959 record *My Kind of Blues*. When she returned to St. Augustine in the 1970s there were no opportunities for a Black jazz performer. She found work as a waitress and later at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. She was active in many community efforts, serving as a board member of Excelsior Museum & Cultural Center, and the Foot Soldiers Memorial Project. Debbie passed in 2017 and is listed in the Encyclopedia of Jazz.

Patti Rang has been involved in the creation and organization of events to celebrate the colonial life of St. Augustine in the Spanish and British periods. She has been a leader and contributing member of the East Florida Rangers and the 60th Regiment of Foot in local and regional events, participating in numerous battle re-enactments. Patti was a "camp follower" travelling with her family who were part of the fife and drum corps. She wrote a cookbook drawing on this experience in 1977 featuring the campfire recipes she used to feed the group when in the field.

Patti helped established one of St. Augustine's most famous holiday events that was held annually since 1975: The British Grande Illumination. She was a leader of the Colonial Christmas Caroling in the Historic District for many years and in the mid-1990s, helped produce Voices of the Past to entertain the large crowds the caroling attracted. Patti has also been involved with the St. Augustine Textile Arts Guild, a non-profit group founded in 1995 whose purpose is to teach and preserve textile techniques of the past for future generations. Patti's work in these areas has been instrumental in educating and entertaining the public through her efforts to bring our city's colonial past to life.