

PEOPLE

'Circle' ladies widen their arc of arts-centric philanthropy

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

Members and prospective members of the Circle, a Vero Beach Museum of Art philanthropic group of women who contribute to the museum's community-based art enrichment programs, kicked off the 2024-25 season at an afternoon gathering in the Buck Atrium.

Circle members annually contribute \$325 or more and, after committee members conduct site visits and narrow down choices, members will choose which programs to fund at their April 11 Closing Cocktail Reception.

"Trudy asked me to share that we had a really successful first year of our five-year plan," said Susan Kintner, filling in for current chairperson Trudy Powers Hoffman.

She added that they hope to reach a goal of \$100,000 to con-

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Susan Horn, Gail Shepherd and Claudia Owen.



June Fitzgerald and Gail Prauss.



Eliot Foote and Lori Lazarik.

PHOTOS BY JOSHUA KODIS



Mary Wright, Cathy Cronin and Natalie Murdy.



Gerri Smith and Sheila Herget.



Susan Von Hagen, Catherine Cooke and Marty Snyder.

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Evelyn McGlone, Joy Ann Coll and Susie Ley.



Nora Koontz, Diane McGinn, Marilyn Bosland and Kathleen Joachim.



Kathy Bantleon, Diana Hoffman, Anne Golensky and June De Jonge.

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tribute to the museum's programs.

Steering committee chairs spoke about their recent activities, including planning a series of events which will be listed on the VBMuseum.org Circle webpage.

Robyn Orzel, director of development/associate executive director, noted that over the past 14 years, the



Barbara Williams, Karen Helliwell and Angel LaVine.



Leigh Bennett and Lisa O'Brien.

Circle has greatly impacted the sustainability and growth of the museum's outreach and education programs through partnerships with the school district, Senior Resource As-

sociation, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Association, Moonshot Moment, Veterans Council, Boys and Girls Clubs, and others.

And, she said, thou-
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Christine Ryall, Holly Lentini and Nancy Edmiston.



Suzi McCoy Shriner and Susie Kintner.

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sands of people have enjoyed the museum's family programs, school programs, community access programs, summer art camps, and the Art Zone.

Last year, she said, the Circle vot-

ed to fully fund Museum Explorations and the fall semester of A-Plus Arts, and individual Circle members made additional gifts to support the Pre-K program, Veterans program, and Alzheimer and Parkinson partnership.



Sally Roberts and Diane Wilhelm.

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This year, programs under consideration are:

Alzheimer and Parkinson Association: Movement in the Moment and Movement at the Museum.

Senior Resource Association: Movement in the Moment and Artful En-

gagements.

Family Programs: Museum Stories; Museum Babies; Museum Toddlers; Museum Studios, including a new sensory-friendly program for the autistic; Children's Art Festival and Holidays at the Museum; and the Art Zone.

Veterans Program: Three eight-hour art classes.

Museum Exploration and Museum Exploration on the Go: On- and off-site school programs.

A-plus Art and the RISE Center for the Neurodiverse: For those with

autism and other special needs.

Pre-K at the VBMA: Gallery tours, art activities and take-home art kits.

Homeschool: For families with homeschooled students.

For more information, visit VBMuseum.org. ■