

PEOPLE

Circle's wonder women make philanthropy an 'arts' form

BY STEPHANIE LABAFF
Staff Writer

Wanting to “enhance lives through art,” a philanthropic group of women circled the wagons at the Vero Beach Museum of Art to vote on which of the museum’s educational and outreach programs to fund for the upcoming season during their annual Circle Closing Reception.

“Thank you all for your commitment to the Vero Beach Museum of Art,” said Brady Roberts, VBMA executive director/ CEO. “Since the Circle started in 2009, you have raised over half a million dollars. You are women on a mission, and it’s paying off.”

Before giving an overview of the programs under consideration, Robyn Orzel, VBMA director of development/assistant executive director, thanked the committee for all their hard work throughout the year.

“It’s honestly been my honor and privilege to be part of this process over so many years. This past year has



Lyn Adams and Cindy Gedeon.



Robyn Orzel and Mary Wright.



Pamela Siddall and Joan Semmer.



Christine Ryall and Barbara Ruddy.



Gerrl Smith and Jane Nissl.

PHOTOS BY JOSHUA KODIS



Sue Sharpe and Carolyn Miller Jones.

been one of introspection, change, action and growth," said Orzel, before commenting that there were five programs under consideration and a total of \$45,080 to award.

Each Circle member is allowed one vote, and Orzel suggested they vote for the program that "touches your

heart the most."

She promised that she and the rest of the VBMA staff would do everything in their power to find funding for any programs they did not choose.

As ballots were being tallied, Trudy Powers Hoffman, Circle co-chair

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Becky Torbin, Trudy Powers Hoffman and Susie Kirtman.



Mary Anne Liljedahl, Ellen Mendez-Penate and Jan Caffee.



Jane Beattie and Evelyn McGone.



Carol Ceplenski, Connie Murphy and Diane Wilhelm.

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with Susan Kintner, gave members an update on the past year's achievements, highlighting key

items from the strategic plan.

This included the addition of 30 new members, an increase in financial impact to \$45,080, and planning

FINDING THE PERFECT FIT THE ART OF HEARING DEVICE SELECTION



Aaron Liebman, Au. D.
Doctor of Audiology

With the cost of hearing devices not being inexpensive, low-cost devices could be the perfect choice for you. The only way to find out which is best for your hearing lifestyle is to partner with an Audiologist who understands the art and science of selecting and fitting hearing devices.

The advanced technology of today's hearing devices means more features as you go up in technology, making a hearing device more expensive. The higher the technology the better job the hearing aids do at reducing background noise in different environments and enhance speech for better clarity.

Think of it this way. If you were a serious athlete planning on running a marathon and you decided to purchase a treadmill to do some off-season training, you might choose a \$4,500 model on which you could run full speed at varying degrees of inclines, all while the machine kept track of your heart rate and tracked your progress. You would probably also want to have a personal trainer, experienced in achieving the highest possible performance

to assist you in getting the most out of your investment and workouts. However, if you just wanted to take an occasional walk and perhaps lose a few pounds, a \$500 treadmill might just do the trick.

The same considerations are true when it comes to selecting appropriate hearing devices. If you are very active, live in a variety of noisy environments and don't want to be bothered adjusting volume, then you will probably be happier with hearing devices which include advanced features such as directional microphones, feedback cancellation or automatic adjustments. In conjunction with this, you will be most satisfied with your results with the involvement of an experienced Audiologist to tailor the features of the device to your personal needs and achieve maximum benefit. If you live a quiet life and don't mind making manual adjustments, then more economical hearing devices might be perfect for you. In short, it is the art of selection and fitting combined with the science of technology that will have the most direct impact on your level of satisfaction.

As an Audiologist, Dr. Liebman considers style and technology to provide maximum benefit.

He will make recommendations based upon five important criteria:

- Your personal lifestyle
- Your level of hearing loss
- The physical characteristics of your ear canal
- Your cosmetic preferences
- Your budget constraints

"First and foremost, my goal as an Audiologist is to perform a proper diagnostic hearing test so I can decide whether a patient needs to

be referred to an ear, nose and throat physician for a medical evaluation, or if this is strictly a permanent hearing loss that needs help with hearing aids," Dr. Liebman said.

That is what really differentiates me from a traditional hearing aid salesman. I have a Doctorate in Audiology and my diagnosis is based on years of education, not a few months of hearing aid salesmanship. I will take the time to screen and assess all the data prior to making a recommendation for hearing aids. Even AARP says that you are more likely to be successful with a hearing aid fitting by seeing an audiologist than a hearing aid salesman."

Florida requires newly licensed audiologists to have a doctorate in audiology requiring years of study concerning hearing, hearing rehabilitation, anatomy, function of the hearing mechanism and hearing aid technology. Dr. Liebman utilizes a range of manufacturers and technologies and does not believe one manufacturer is "the best."

"If we determine that it is not the best for you, then we'll change to a different style or manufacturer to determine which is best for you." "Furthermore," he adds, "in addition to providing the best technology possible, it is also vital that the "fitter" understand that technology, so the chosen hearing aid can benefit the patient at the highest possible level possible, in terms of comfort and sound quality."

Aaron's Hearing Care is located at 925 37th Place in the Citrus Medical Plaza of Vero Beach. Call (772)562-5100



Gail Shepherd and Claudia Owen.

for the launch of a website. Additionally, they published their first Circle brochure, a strategic plan booklet and their first newsletter in more than 10 years.

Powers Hoffman said that at the request of members, they had initiated alternative ways for members to donate additional monies to the fund, such as celebration gifts, memoriam, tributes and appreciation.

After ballots were counted, Powers Hoffman announced that members had chosen to provide \$37,953 to fully fund the Museum Explorations program, and to partially fund an expansion of the A+ Art program with the remaining \$7,127.

The Museum Explorations program was launched in 2018 in partnership with the school district to "enhance visual literacy, critical thinking and socio-emotional learning through art museum experiences." As many as 60 students visit at a time and receive an art kit, during this multi-sensory arts engagement.

The A+ Art program was launched in 2017, also in partnership with the school district, to promote self-empowerment and personal expression, with students learning relaxation, music and movement, and team building by viewing exhibits and making their own art at the museum.

Ladies are invited to join the Circle which will next meet on Nov. 16 at the 2023-2024 Opening Tea. For more information, visit VBMuseum.org. ■