

# Eye On



# The Circle

Enhancing Lives through Art



**E-Newsletter Volume 2**  
April 28, 2023

## Greetings and Thank You!



We had a wonderful turnout for our Closing Reception, and I'm pleased to announce that Circle members donated over \$47,000 to fund VBMA educational impact programs this year. \$44,080 was contributed to our collective dues fund, and another \$2,950 was donated specifically to the Pre-K program. This is a Circle funding record, and puts us well on our way to achieving our Five Year Strategic Plan financial impact goals.

We were delighted to have Brady Roberts, Vero Beach Museum of Art Executive Director and CEO with us to open the meeting.

After Brady's remarks, Robyn Orzel, Director of Development and Associate Executive Director gave attendees a brief overview of each program on the ballot with approximate costs for our consideration. Our Program/Site Team Committee will be sharing those results with you in their update.

I would like to thank our departing Steering Committee members for their wonderful work on behalf of the Museum's educational impact programs.



Brady Roberts, VBMA Executive Director, and  
Trudy Powers Hoffman



### 2022-2023 Steering Committee

Kate Walsh - Site Visits Co-Chair, Sally Roberts - Membership Chair,  
Pam Larrick - Strategic Plan Chair, Susie Kintner - Co-Chair, Trudy Powers  
Hoffman Chair, Cathy Cronin - Communications Chair, Diane McGinn -  
Hospitality Chair, Susan Von Hagen - Special Events  
Not pictured: Barb Dorvee - Site Visits Co-Chair and Becky Torbin - Past Chair

I would also like to welcome our new Committee members who join the Steering Committee for next year. We are thrilled to have them on board!



### **2023-2024 Steering Committee**

Lori Lazorik - Site Visit Co-Chair, Mary Wright - Hospitality Co-Chair, Anne Golensky - Site Visit Co-Chair,  
Trudy Powers Hoffman - Chair, Catherine Cooke - Membership Co-Chair, Cathy Cronin - Communications Chair,  
Diane McGinn - Hospitality Chair. Not pictured: June Fitzgerald - Membership Co-Chair.

A big thank you for the incredible support we receive from VBMA Director of Development Robyn Orzel and Development Coordinator, Natalie Murdy throughout the year. They attend, support and contribute to everything we do. They gently coach us through our technological challenges and pick up the slack wherever they can. They do this all while they are also managing the rest of the Museum's myriad events. Robyn has been with us since the beginning and has stepped up to fully support us in our Strategic Plan goal.

Natalie started with the Museum, and with us, not quite a year ago, and she jumped in with both feet. She has been a joy to work with, relentlessly positive, gracious, competent, and kind. We don't know how we ever managed without her.

Lastly, a few highlights of our year:

**We added 36 new members**  
**We increased our financial impact to \$47,000+**  
**We published our first informational brochure**  
**We published our 5-year strategic plan booklet**  
**We published our first e-newsletter "Eye on the Circle"**  
**We created seven Member-only enrichment events**  
**We visited and reported on five programs in action**

We look forward to seeing you at our 2023-2024 Opening Tea on Thursday November 16th, and at a members-only event this summer!

With Warmest Regards,  
Trudy Powers Hoffman, Chair

Susie Kintner, Co-Chair



Site Team Members

Selecting one of the five deserving programs was a difficult choice this year for the many Circle members who voted at the April Closing Reception, after the Site Teams had ably presented each program at the March meeting. Based on the vote, *Museum Explorations* will be fully funded at \$37,953 and *A+ART/Rise Expansion* will be partially funded at \$6,127.

As Trudy stated at the Closing Reception, "This was the first vote that I have overseen as Chair of The Circle, and I want to let you know that the outcome is not inevitable by any means. *Museum Explorations* won by only four votes. *A+ART/Rise Expansion* won second place by only two votes, and the remaining three programs on the ballot tied for third place at only two votes behind *A+ART*. If that's not close, I don't know what is. Please remember for next season, that **Every Vote Counts!** Every member is eligible to vote, and attendance is not required. Proxy voting is available to every member for the final vote."

Happily, we have increased our resources to allow The Circle to support more than one program this year and as we continue to fuel our growth, we'll be able to fund more programs in the future.

These decisions always pull on our heartstrings, especially those of us who do the Site Visits and experience the programs in action. We see the impact of the interactions between docents and students as they explore a work of art; the joyful fun as a Parkinson's participant "dances" in his chair to an old favorite rock and roll song; and the pride-filled autistic student who shows a rare smile when completing her own piece of art. Each member of the various Site Teams has been touched by these very powerful, human interactions through art.

- |                             |                            |                                |                         |                        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Alzheimer Parkinsons</b> |                            |                                |                         |                        |
| <b>A+ Art Rise</b>          | <b>Museum Explorations</b> | <b>Association Partnership</b> | <b>Veterans Program</b> | <b>ArtZone Refresh</b> |

For a description of each project please click on the link below: <https://www.vbmuseum.org/join-give/the-circle>

Our hope is that as we continue to grow, more Circle members will choose to become involved with the Site Visit Committee to experience the powerful effect the Museum programs have on our Vero community. It is truly "love in action."

We are very grateful to have been Co-Chairs of the Site Visits for the past three years. We extend a warm welcome to Lori Lazorik and Anne Golensky, our new Co-Chairs. We hope you get as much satisfaction and enjoyment as we have had in our time in this position. To our fellow Steering Committee members, it has been a pleasure to serve with all of you.

## Membership

Sally Roberts

An exceptional truth about The Circle is that close to 40% of our membership volunteers within our organization. Our members' enthusiasm is also noteworthy in recruiting new members. Inviting guests to our meetings has an immediate impact. Just since March 20th, we have added 9 new members to our roster. This says so much about our outstanding, spirited and energized organization.

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as Membership chair on the Steering Committee these last three years. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know members through our brief email communications, as well as at The Circle meetings. It is always remarkable to me the talent and knowledge that each member brings to The Circle. For me, volunteering on the Steering Committee achieved one of our unspoken goals: it made me a lifelong supporter of the VBMA. I truly love the Museum and The Circle's mission, and believe that we are blessed to have such a fine cultural resource in our town that does so much for our community.



**New Members**

## Hospitality

Diane McGinn

The April Closing Reception for The Circle was a wonderful event...on a beautiful day! 90 members and guests gathered in the Museum's Buck Atrium, filling the room with the joyful energy of animated conversation and friendships...old and new.

Tables were adorned with fresh flowers and delicious delicacies from Catering by Adrienne Drew, and were enjoyed by all who attended. The raffle added quite a bit of fun with generous prizes from local entrepreneurs. The Circle is especially grateful to Lily Pad, GT Lashes and Brows, Quail Valley River Club, and Tanya Needham at Pampered Life on Ocean Drive and Circle member Sally Roberts, for their generous donations.

A very special thank you to three of our members who sponsored this wonderful event: Barbara Ruddy, Pam Larrick and Mary Carpenter. This event could not have happened without their support. In addition, thanks to the members of the Hospitality committee who made this closing reception such an outstanding success.

We look forward to seeing all of you next Fall when we kick off the 2023-2024 Season at our Opening Tea on Thursday, November 16th. Be sure to mark your calendars!!



## Special Member Events

## Susan Von Hagen

On Thursday, April 20th, we held the last special member-only event of the season at Windsor. We had a great mix of new and seasoned members who enjoyed the tour of Sir Tony Cragg Sculpture Exhibit in the Windsor Gallery and the delicious lunch at the Clubhouse. Sir Tony Cragg is one of the world's most distinguished contemporary sculptors.



This season, The Circle offered seven special events and more than half of our members attended. We've heard rave reviews from many of you about every event. Next year we are planning even more special member events so that more members can attend, including tours at Windsor. We will be offering more events at Windsor, ELC boat tours, private docent tours, after hours events at VBMA where members can invite guests... and that's just the beginning.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for an event the membership might enjoy, please let me know. For those of you who will be here this summer, we are planning to offer several fun outings. Stay tuned for the invitations coming soon.

## Member Snapshot

**Connie Murphy**



### Meet Diane Wilhelm

Diane Wilhelm is a lifelong caring, volunteering kind of people-person! She followed that passion to a nursing career. First as an RN, onward to a BS degree in Nursing and then she capped her credentials with an MBA in Management from the Lake Forest School of Management. In her last position, Diane was the Benefits Manager at AC Nielsen. Diane retired (young) to Vero Beach, and is active at the Riverside Theater, Indian River Hospital and, of course, the VBMA!

In 2009, Diane was already volunteering at the VBMA with the "Friends of the VBMA". But Government funding for the arts was waning and the VBMA CEO Cindy Gedeon reached out to Diane and Lyn Adams to request their help in forming a "Giving Circle", a volunteer group

to raise funds for the Museum's outreach programs. Diane and Lyn envisioned and created the first steering committee and developed the first Circle concept - the site visits, the member meetings and fund raising efforts.

Diane has watched The Circle grow since 2009, both in its mission and the friendships made by the members. She is proud of the funding The Circle has raised to support the VBMA education programs.

A true Founding Member. Thank you Diane!

## Strategic Plan Update

**Pam Larrick**

We've made great progress on our path to generating \$100,000 a year and increasing our membership as our Strategy states: Preserve and Fuel.

But making Circle membership personal and serving each of our passions is the cornerstone of all we do. This can take many forms – the onsite visit you choose to do, your vote on where the groups' money will be directed, the special activities you enjoy, and even incremental areas of funding if you so choose.

During our Closing Reception, Trudy introduced this opportunity to provide additional support for any programs that we personally as individuals feel passionate about.

I personally was moved to contribute to the Pre-K fund and the Veterans fund programs. Frankly, I was inspired by an anonymous Circle member who made a gift to fund the Pre-K program year ago, and other Members who stepped up to make sure the Veteran Program actually got the original funding it needed. Your heart can be touched by many things.

## Special Thanks to the following program donors

### APA Partnership

Cathy Cronin  
Donna Auriemma

### Pre-K

Kate Walsh  
Pam Larrick  
Anonymous

### ArtZone Refresh

Arlene Platt

### Veterans

Pam Larrick

We've also introduced important new opportunities to honor friends and loved ones by making a gift to the Museum in their name, through the Circle. You can give individually or in groups in the following ways:

In Memoriam  
In Celebration  
In Tribute  
In Appreciation

Your gifts will be added to The Circle's collective funds (dues) for the year they are given, and will be acknowledged in our newsletter and on our VBMA webpage at <https://www.vbmuseum.org/join-give/the-circle-2023>.

Trudy announced at the Closing Reception that she is making a gift **In Appreciation** of the Steering Committee members completing their terms. And friends of Jan Calfee got together and decided to give an **In Celebration** gift in honor of her birthday. Jan was touched and thrilled. She said this is wonderful. After all, "who needs more stuff. Thank you."

Thank you for everything you do. Your engagement and feedback is crucial to The Circle's success!

## Factoid from the Archives

The headline of the first official communication from the founders was "Hands that give, also receive," which rings true to this day. In its first year, The Circle granted over \$15,000 to support one of the VBMA's engagement programs, *Artist in the School*. Thanks to the vision of the founders and the passion of 19 remarkable women, The Circle continues to thrive 13 years later, touching the hearts and minds of our 130 members today. But, we are not done....



## Communications Update

Cathy Cronin

Many thanks to our members who provided positive feedback and constructive suggestions on the first issue of the *Eye On The Circle* E-Newsletter in March. We love hearing from you! Our team needs your input in order to produce an informative, interesting, engaging, and fun newsletter that everyone will look forward to reading. Please continue to email and/or text any suggestions, ideas, and information you would like us to include in future Eye on The Circle E-Newsletters.

In The News...

·Sophie Bentham Wood, VBMA's Marketing Director and advisor to The Circle, has submitted an article on The Circle entitled "**Art from the HeART**" which will appear in the May 8th edition of *Luminaries* feature in *The Press Journal*. Written by Cathy Cronin and Lee Albro, the article briefly touches on the mission, current status and specialness of The Circle, and we hope you will feel very proud of the organization to which you belong.

·The leadership team is excited about the newly designed Circle page on the VBMA website, which is targeted for a soft launch in late summer. The objective is to create a website that is easy to navigate and contains everything one wants or needs to know about The Circle in one convenient location.

·In the next issue of *Eye on The Circle*, "Sophie's Social Media Tips" will show us how easy it is to help spread the word and share the story of The Circle by posting photos with Circle friends, news tidbits, etc. on your own social media pages. This is a wonderful way to reach local friends who may want to join The Circle. Sharing your photos taken during The Circle's "members only" enrichment events would be appreciated, so we may include them in future newsletters and on our website. Please send your photos to [acathy.egan@gmail.com](mailto:acathy.egan@gmail.com). Wishing you a Happy & Healthy Summer wherever your travels take you.

### The Circle 2023-2024 Event Calendar Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday	November 16th	3-5 PM	Opening Tea	VBMA Buck Atrium
Wednesday	January 10th	10-11:30A	General Meeting Programs Introduced by VBMA Staff	VBMA HolmesGreat Hall
Wednesday	February 14th	9-11A	Breakfast - Guest Speaker	Vero Beach Yacht Club
Wednesday	March 13th	10-11:30A	General Meeting Site Visit Presentations	VBMA Holmes Great Hall
Thursday	April 11th	3-5P	Closing Reception & Final Vote	VBMA Buck Atrium

## 2022-2023 CIRCLE MEMBERS

Lyn Adams  
Lee Albro  
Donna Auriemma  
Judy Balph  
Kathy Bantleon  
Jane Beattie \*  
Ilona Benham \*  
Tracey Benton \*  
Cindy Binder  
Carla Mills Boardman  
Marilyn Bosland  
Nancy Bryant \*  
Carmela Cagliero  
Jan Calfee  
Sally Calhoun \*  
Kitty Carleton  
Margaret Carnwath \*  
Mary Carpenter \*  
Brenda Nicholson Cavicchio  
Carol Ceplenski  
Kathy Connolly  
Barbara Cook  
Catherine Cooke  
Donna Coughlin  
Cathy Egan Cronin  
Nancy Cutshall  
Diana Davis  
Jean DeSantis \*  
Diane Doherty  
Marianne Doherty \*  
Barb Dorvee  
Linda Downey \*  
Cathy Duckett  
Ellen Dunn \*  
Nancy Edmiston  
Susan Filebark  
June Fitzgerald  
Cathy Fountain \*  
Susan B. Fowler  
Susan Friesell  
Liz Gallagher \*  
Elise Geary  
Cindy Gedeon  
Fran Gilson

Margaret Goembel  
Anne Golensky  
Mary Hall Goodman  
Joanne Green  
Gena Grove \*  
Carol Hancock  
Kay Harvey  
Pat Hastings  
Diana L. Hoffman  
Trudy Powers Hoffman  
Kathleen O'Brien Joachim  
Miller Carolyn Jones \*  
Susan Kintner  
Serena Kratz  
Pam Larrick  
Phoebe Larson  
Lori Lazorik \*  
Holly Lentini  
Mary Anne Liljedahl  
Louise Macy  
Susan Martin  
Paula Matrullo \*  
Diane McGinn  
Evelyn McGlone \*  
Ellen Mendez Penate\*  
Rita Mergemekes \*  
Carol Mettam  
Mariam Michael  
Lauren Michaels \*  
Gwen Miller \*  
Lynn Miller  
Amy Morgan \*  
Laura Moss  
Kitty Mountain  
Patsy Moynihan \*  
Connie Murphy  
Sharon Novak  
Lisa O'Brien  
Theresa O'Reilly \*  
Mary Parker \*  
Nancy Pierce \*  
Arlene Platt  
Gail Prauss  
Louise Mary Preis \*

Marilyn Ragland  
Katie Raynor  
Sally Roberts  
Suzanne Roff \*  
Diane Rose  
Lisa Rosmarin  
Betsy Ross \*  
Carol Ross  
Barbara Ruddy  
Christine Ryall  
Mary Lasky Ryan  
Pamela Sandzen \*  
Debra Schmidt  
Louise Schmitt  
Jamie Schulte  
Joan Semmer \*  
Lou Shannon  
Sue Sharpe  
Gail Shepherd \*  
Suzi Shriner McCoy  
Pamela Siddall \*  
Gerri Smith  
Mary Addington Smith  
Marty Snyder  
Gillian Stewart  
Mary Streep \*  
Caroline Taylor  
Linda Teetz  
Ann Tharpe  
Leah Tompkins  
Becky Torbin  
Patty Tovell  
Susan van der Stricht  
Sandy Vest  
Susan Von Hagen  
Judy Walck  
Kate Walsh  
Georgia Welles  
Stuart Weismiller \*  
Jenny Wellschlager  
Diane Wilhelm  
Bonnie Wilson  
Julie Wright  
Mary Wright

\* New Members 2022-2023 Season