

Luminaries

May 5, 2025

Martin Co., St. Lucie Co., Indian River Co.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

The Circle reaches new funding levels

Contributions to support VBMA education programs

Suzanne Seldes
Vero Beach Museum of Art

VERO BEACH — In 2009, the aftermath of the Great Recession threatened the viability of Vero Beach Museum of Art (VBMA) Community Access programs. Faced with this challenge, a determined group of women came together to ensure that these essential programs received the necessary funding.

Their passion, focus, and collaborative spirit laid the foundation for what would become "The Circle." Through their collective efforts, resources were pooled, a dedicated team emerged, and success followed.

On March 25, The Circle celebrated its 15th anniversary at a special event at the 21st Amendment Distillery. Over 90 members and guests gathered to commemorate the milestone. This event served as both a tribute to the founding members and an opportunity to raise additional funds to support the VBMA.

Melissa DePriest, director of development for VBMA, expressed her gratitude, saying, "I want to congratulate you on a party well-planned! Last night was a fabulous celebration of The Circle's legacy. We are so grateful for all The Circle does to support VBMA."

Throughout the past year, The Circle's Program Observation/Volunteer Committee and the VBMA Education Department showcased the Museum's exceptional Community Access programs, including Family, Adult, and Student programs. These presentations gave Circle members a deeper under-



The Circle 2024–25 Steering Committee: Stuart Weismiller, Mary Wright, June Fitzgerald, Anne Golensky, Trudy Powers Hoffman, Jean Spaulding Kjellman, Lori Lazorik, and Diane McGinn. PROVIDED BY VERO BEACH MUSEUM OF ART

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ST. LUCIE COUNTY

MARTIN COUNTY

FROM THE COVER



The Circle 2024-25 Program
Observation Committee Co-Chairs
Anne Golensky and Lori Lazorik.



The Circle volunteers. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY VERO BEACH MUSEUM OF ART

The Circle

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standing of the value and impact of these initiatives and the significant role The Circle's collective giving plays in making these programs accessible to the community.

The Circle's impact continues to grow. In previous years, members' pooled contributions ranged from

\$30,000 to \$45,000 in support of VBMA Community Access programs. Thanks to funds raised through membership and the success of the anniversary celebration, this year's funding grew by 29%, totaling \$58,000.

During the closing ceremony on April 10 at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, The Circle members voted on the top three

programs to receive funding from a pool of 11 eligible initiatives. Members selected to fund classes for veterans, museum explorations/museum explorations on the go, and holidays at the museum. They additionally voted to use funds to send two VBMA staff to the University of Florida's Arts in Health Intensive, a five-day professional development pro-

gram exploring the arts' role in health-care.

The Circle continues to thrive, with membership growing from just a few dozen women in 2009 to 155 members today. The Circle remains open to women of all ages across Indian River County who share a passion for "Enhancing Lives Through Art."

Luminaries

Luminaries is published each Monday by TCPalm and Treasure Coast Newspapers, part of the USA TODAY NETWORK. It is distributed throughout Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.

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