

# Luminaries

May 8, 2023

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

**ART is the 'HeART' of The Circle**



**TCPalm.** | **Treasure Coast Newspapers**

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

## ART is the 'HeART' of The Circle

Cathy Cronin and Lee Albro

Vero Beach Museum of Art

VERO BEACH – Art in its myriad forms is therapeutic, instructional, emotional, inspirational, and pleasing! Exposure to its benefits can be transformational. That is exactly what *The Circle* set out to achieve at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. Taking art into the community and drawing people to the Museum is at the heart of *The Circle's* mission.

The foundational objective to preserve the specialness of *The Circle* is accomplished by connecting as friends and fellow collaborators in the financial health of the Museum's community outreach initiatives. This driving force is personal at its core, with friends reaching out to friends who care about access to the arts and giving back to the community. Each member contributes annually to a fund, which is distributed to support one or more outreach programs for the upcoming year selected by the membership. The impact of these combined funds truly makes a difference.

Longtime member Susan Von Hagen and former head of *The Circle's* steering committee, was asked why she remains actively involved with *The Circle*. She says it best: "I love that the group's mission is to help fund community-focused programs that bring the Museum to the people. I have seen the delight on people's faces when they experience what the Museum has to offer. I have also had the pleasure of forging many cherished lifelong friendships. What could be better than making a difference in the community while enjoying the company of a group of dynamic and talented friends?"

*The Circle* is committed to giving its members an experience that is welcoming, valued, and relevant to their interests and passions.

This year, *The Circle* rolled out a new five-year strategic plan to power the membership's growth and raise



VBMA Circle site visit team members Lori Lazorik, Anne Golensky, Sally Calhoun, Julie Wright, Joan Semmer, Gail Prauss, Nancy Cutshall, Nancy Bryant, and Kate Walsh PROVIDED BY DENISE RITCHIE



VBMA Circle Members enjoying lunch at Windsor after a tour of The Gallery. This is just one of The Circle Member special events. PROVIDED BY VERO BEACH MUSEUM OF ART

\$100,000 annually by 2027. This is key to ensure the growth and vitality of this organization and to increase our value to our members, to the Museum, and to the community.



VBMA Circle welcomes new members (front row from left): Mary Louise Preis, Jean DeSantis, Cathy Fountain, Nancy Bryant, and Patsy Moynihan; back row (from left): Jane Beattie, Lori Lazorik, Joan Semmer, Stuart Weismiller, Pamela Siddall, Mary Parker, Ellen Dunn, Sally Calhoun, Nancy Pierce, and Gwen Miller. PROVIDED BY DENISE RITCHIE

Membership in *The Circle* is open to all women in Indian River County who share a passion and commitment to enhancing lives through art. New members are always welcome. To find out more and become a member of *The Circle*, call Director of Development Robyn Orzel at 772-231-0707 ext. 106 or email her at [roborzel@vbmuseum.org](mailto:roborzel@vbmuseum.org).

## ON THE COVER

From left: VBMA Circle Steering Committee Kate Walsh, Sally Roberts, Pam Larrick, Susie Kintner, Trudy Powers Hoffman (Chair), Cathy Cronin, Diane McGinn, and Susan Von Hagen. PROVIDED BY DENISE RITCHIE

## Luminaries

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