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Art Matters at ArtCenter Manatee 2015 Giving Challenge

August 14, 2015 (Bradenton, FL) - ArtCenter Manatee announces their theme, Art Matters, for the 2015 Giving Challenge, a 24-hour day of online giving administered by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County set for September 1 at noon through September 2 at noon. www.givingpartnerchallenge.org (ArtCenter Manatee).

ArtCenter Manatee's goal in participating in the 2015 Giving Challenge is to raise awareness of the valuable contributions the arts make in our lives and in the life of our community. The ArtCenter has invited members, friends and community leaders to give voice to the reasons art matters to them. From providing an incentive for new residents and businesses looking for a community with a strong arts and culture environment, to artists who credit the arts with adding vibrancy, meaning and confidence to their lives, to children who value the creative expression and problem solving challenges arts allows them. The ArtCenter has produced an Art Matters video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgCqAhX8gpU>) as well as banners quoting local artists and community members.

According to one longtime friend of the ArtCenter:

"Art matters because it teaches you so much more than making art. It is more than the product of your efforts. Creating art builds confidence. When you paint for the pure joy of it rather than striving for a pre-conceived product you will amaze yourself. Art should be about feeling, life, attitude and soul. Making art teaches you to think and problem-solve, to trust your instincts, to live in the moment, and to go with the flow. Art will make you love your life." - Carolyn Ritter, Artist and Teacher

A number of studies have measured the positive impact the arts have on specific health conditions including dementia, depression, PTSD and Parkinson's disease. Art also helps build self-confidence, has a positive effect on our cognitive ability, critical thinking skills and our problem solving capabilities. Art also builds relationships through commonality and inclusion. So what some previously thought as pass time for those with artistic ability is now understood to be a vehicle for academic performance, wellness, and the health and vibrancy of our communities. ArtCenter Manatee has witnessed this impact for many years through our classes and exhibits.

On September 1 and 2, we invite you to support ArtCenter Manatee as we work to raise awareness and financial support for our programs through the 2015 Giving Challenge. The challenge is an online event at www.givingpartnerchallenge.org (ArtCenter Manatee).

"The Community Foundation loves to see excitement generated around giving and a focus on informed philanthropy. Everyone in our community can join the movement to make our community's causes shine," said Roxie Jerde, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

This year, donors giving to organizations they did not support in last year's event will be matched up to \$250 by The Patterson Foundation.

"The arts can serve as a powerful way to engage people in a creative and healing process of self-expression, enabling them to create works that honor their life experience."

- Florida Division of Cultural Affairs

The 2015 Giving Challenge is made possible by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and The Patterson Foundation with support from the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the Manatee Community Foundation.

About ArtCenter Manatee

ArtCenter Manatee is the winner of the 2015 Reader's Choice Award for Best Art Gallery from the Herald Tribune and the 2015 People's Choice Award for Best Gallery from The Bradenton Herald.

Located at the gateway to arts and culture in downtown Bradenton, ArtCenter Manatee is the premier center for visual arts in Manatee County. The nearly 10,000 sq. ft. building features three galleries, five classrooms, an Artists' Market gift shop and an art library featuring over 3,000 art volumes.

Over 300 day, evening and weekend art classes and workshops for adults are offered year round in painting, drawing, pastels, pottery, jewelry design, photography and more. Our KidsArt Summer Camps and After School Programs give students 4-15 the opportunity to express their creativity while they learn valuable skills, have fun and make new friends in over 35 classes designed just for them.

The Artists' Market features unique, affordable gifts by over 100 local artists. Purchases in the Artists' Market help to support our local artists, subsidize the cost of our classes and support the local economy.

Exhibitions in the three galleries change monthly and showcase the work of over 2,000 local, regional and national artists. All are welcome to meet the exhibiting artists and art enthusiasts at our monthly evening opening receptions which are always free and open to the public.

For more information please call 941-746-2862 or visit <http://www.artcentermanatee.org>.

209 9th St W, Bradenton FL 34205

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Attachments:

Carolyn Ritter Quote

Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Quote

Lin Oakerson Quote

ART MATTERS

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Carolyn Ritter, Artist & Teacher

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ART MATTERS



<https://givingpartnerchallenge.org>

2015 Giving Challenge Sept 1 & 2 - Noon to Noon

ART MATTERS



Art Matters to me as a fine art photographer living in downtown Bradenton and I think of ArtCenter Manatee as the vibrant heart and soul of this community. It represents the dimensional nature of its members and the county at large. What I love most is the Center's friendly, relaxed and dynamic atmosphere. There are ongoing classes galore for all ages & stages and an affordable gift shop with one-of-a-kind treasures. There are opportunities to submit your artwork for themed exhibits, whether you are a member or not. Thank you to the entire staff for your welcoming spirit, tireless efforts and success!

Lin Oakerson, Fine Arts Photographer