



ArtCenter Review

ACM has been active in the visual arts in Manatee County since 1937. Exhibits, classes, events and an Artists' gift shop bring about 50,000 people to the downtown Bradenton area, where they shop, eat, consume fuel and sleep, all contributing to the local economy. Based on a calculator from Americans for the Arts that takes into account our overall attendance, county population and budget, our annual economic impact is \$1.82 million, contributing 56.8 FTE jobs and \$196,507 to state and local government.

Education is a key area for ArtCenter Manatee and we continue to expand programming. In the past two years, we have added 15 new instructors. We offer 425 classes and workshops for adults and children in drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, & special interest classes. Our Free Arts & Healing targets an underserved population in Manatee County that experiences mild to moderate memory loss. There have been many links between the arts & healing, helping people to reconnect to themselves & their families, offsetting depression, increasing ability to focus and participate and to sparking the creative self.

Art education has been shown to reduce drop-out rates and improve school performance. After School and KidsArt programs train young artists in important skills beyond art including critical thinking, problem solving and quality task performance which will help them to become more effective students and future employees and leaders. We work with groups such as the Girl Scouts, Just for Girls, Lighthouse of Manasota and others to provide after school.

Outreach and enrichment programs throughout the county, many support other nonprofits, encourage community participation in the arts while offering local outlets for accomplished artists to exhibit and sell their work. These programs include our annual Fine Arts Festival featuring the work of about 100 artists that draws 5,000-10,000 to the two-day festival.

We are active in Bradenton Kiwanis (where we volunteer for youth-serving programs), the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, Bradenton Golden Herald Awards, Service Club of Manatee County, the Public Art Board, and Manatee Community Foundation.

We launched an online store for our artisan gift shop: LiveArtfully.org. This supports our mission to provide a platform for artists to create, market and sell their work, allowing us to expand the number of artists we represent, expand the market for their work and increase their sales while creating a new revenue stream for the ArtCenter. This will allow us to remain competitive and to further offset the cost of classes.

ArtCenter Manatee has a FT staff of 5 and one part-time contract worker. We each wear multiple hats and have a passion for what we do, the ArtCenter and our community. We also employ 40-47 contract instructors. All contribute to our local economy, our effectiveness as an exhibiting and teaching center & to the richness of our offerings.

We are dependent on our volunteers to assist in everything from answering phones, to receiving, hanging and lighting our shows, and providing hospitality for our receptions. Volunteers help us manage our major events and assist in keeping us running day-to-day. Last year, our regular volunteers logged over 2,000 hours.

While our financial impact in the community is significant, we count the impact on the lives of our members, friends and visitors to be even more so. The arts have been repeatedly shown to enhance the lives of all people of all ages, and to drive tourism and economic development.

ArtCenter Manatee was founded in 1937. We work hard to remain relevant to the community we serve and to make art accessible to all. We are proud of the contributions we make to our community and in the lives of the people who live and visit here. We know our work is never done.