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For immediate release



***Bishop Parker Foundation continues its legacy of supporting the arts with  
a \$1 million gift to ArtCenter Manatee***

**BRADENTON, Fla.** May 25, 2022 – ArtCenter Manatee is pleased to announce a \$1 million gift to the Center’s building fund by the Bishop Parker Foundation. The Bishop Parker Foundation is committed to supporting organizations and nonprofits in Manatee County that are working to build a better community.

ArtCenter Manatee, founded in 1937, has received support from the Bishop and Parker Foundations for its children’s education programs for over 10 years and is most grateful for this lead gift that will advance the Center’s vision of building a new facility to serve the needs of the fast-growing community.

Edward E. and Lillian H. Bishop and Mary E. Parker dedicated their financial resources and love for the arts, education, science and animals for many years and their Foundation continues to carry out their mission.

“We share a strong commitment to improving the lives of our members and friends and building a stronger, more engaged community through the shared experience of art. This gift will help us further our mission of providing a platform for artists of all age and experience levels and making art accessible to all,” said Carla Nierman, Executive Director of the ArtCenter. “We are grateful for the generosity of the Bishop Parker Foundation and look forward to building a facility that will meet the growing need for visual arts classes, exhibits and other arts programming in our community.”

The arts are a powerful tool that help communities grow and individuals connect with each other across all boundaries. With this gift, and others, the ArtCenter plans to break ground in late 2022 on a new 28,000 SF facility which will be renamed the Herrig Center for the Arts.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Carla Nierman, Executive Director of the Center.

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**About ArtCenter Manatee**

Located at the intersection of arts and culture in downtown Bradenton, Florida, ArtCenter Manatee is the premier center for art, art education and unique gifts in Manatee County. The new Center will be 28,000 SF and will include a large gallery, nine classrooms, an artisan gift shop, office and storage space and an art library. Day, evening and weekend art classes for adults and children will be offered year-round in painting, drawing, pottery, jewelry, and more. Exhibitions change monthly and showcase local to international artists.