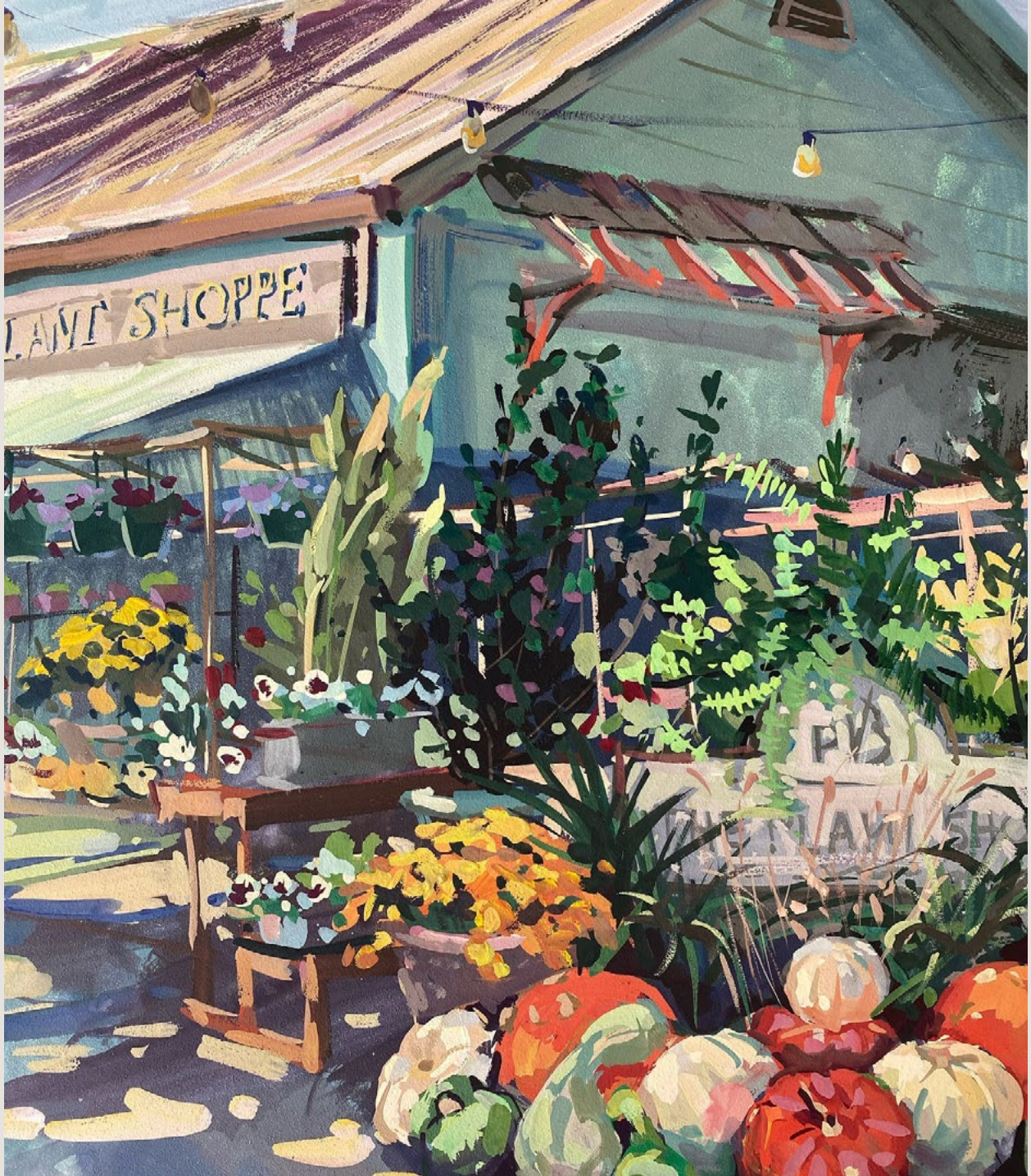




EASTERN SHORE ART CENTER

ART CHANGING LIVES



**Annual Report
2024-2025**

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*Cover Artwork by 2024 Plein Air Fairhope Artist Natalia Andreeva

MISSION

The mission of the Eastern Shore Art Center is to connect people of all ages and abilities with the arts through education, exhibitions and outreach activities.

The Association was founded over 70 years ago by art patrons who recognized the importance of art to a community. The ESAA received its 501-(C)3 non-profit status in 1958. The Art Center is owned by the Eastern Shore Art Association and is overseen by its Board of Directors.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2024/25 Season was one of exploration, experimentation and a recommitment to our mission. What has been accomplished in the Academy is truly amazing. We have worked to provide our community with classes, filling almost every hour of the waking day. This has increased our capacity tremendously. The Exhibits provided this year have been really impressive. We have filled the walls of the Art Center with work from our members and artists from all around the region and country. This work was exhibited to record breaking numbers of attendees for our monthly First Friday Art Walks.

Of special note is our addition of a new Director of Outreach who has given wings to our efforts in that mission area. We embarked on a Rural Outreach Initiative which took us to Elberta, Malbis, Bay Minette and Atmore/Brewton collaborating with multiple organizations and non-profits. It has been a most rewarding experience. Additionally, we have provided multiple programs along the Eastern Shore and partnered with USA Health Children's and Women's Hospital to provide art experiences to the long term patients and those needing infusion.

We have expanded our offerings along the Eastern Shore and added two very successful fundraisers this year – Corks, Casks and Canvas and the Spring Homes Tour. We were excited by all the new people we met and the new friends we made through these novel activities. We have ended this year with a small surplus and are embarking on a major renovation to the lobby and gift shop over the summer.

The 24/25 year was a very successful one and we are expecting to top it in 25/26 with more great art, lifechanging art instruction and impactful interactions with people throughout the region.

Pelham Pearce

ESAC Executive Director



LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As we enter our 73rd year, I am delighted to reflect on an extraordinary year of achievement, community engagement, and growth at the Eastern Shore Art Center.

This past year, our community engagement and fundraising broadened support for our programming with new, impactful fundraisers that not only energized our members and reached new audiences.

Our inaugural bourbon, wine, and art tasting event, Corks, Casks & Canvas, was a creative new way to blend appreciation of both fine art and fine spirits. The Spring Homes Tour welcomed guests and highlighted six charming Fairhope homes, and raised important funds for the center's programming. project funds.

The Academy, our educational arm, experienced a record-breaking year, with classes and programs operating near full capacity, underscoring both demand for our services and our team's excellence in programming.

We are also deeply appreciative of the support received through grants. In May 2025, ESAC was awarded a \$50,000 Creative Places Arts Facilities Grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, enabling much-needed improvements to our first-floor restrooms and expanding our gift shop. Additionally, the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation provided further funding to support these enhancements.

One of the most successful art shows and exhibitions of the year was Plein Air Fairhope, held October 28 – November 2, 2024. Over 60 artists painted throughout Fairhope from the downtown streets to the bay front pier, and more than 200 of the resulting works were displayed at ESAC through December 21, 2024.

Through our Rural Outreach Initiative, we partnered with Baldwin EMC Charitable Foundation, Community Foundation of South Alabama, the Craft Family Foundation, the Daniel Foundation of Alabama, and the J. L. Bedsole Foundation to support exhibitions and broaden access to the arts.

As we look to the future, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated board members, director, staff, artists, donors, sponsors, and community volunteers. Your support is nurturing creativity, enhancing accessibility, and forging meaningful experiences throughout the Eastern Shore community. I'm confident and enthusiastic as we continue building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Jennifer Jenkins

ESAC Board President 2024-2025

FACILITY



ESAC was awarded a Creative Places grant by Alabama State Arts Council to use in the following FY25/26. This combined with funding from the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, will enhance the Gift Shop and add ADA compliance to the upstairs bathrooms. The Art Center has undergone an HVAC replacement totalling \$14,750 with forthcoming updates to a separate unit.

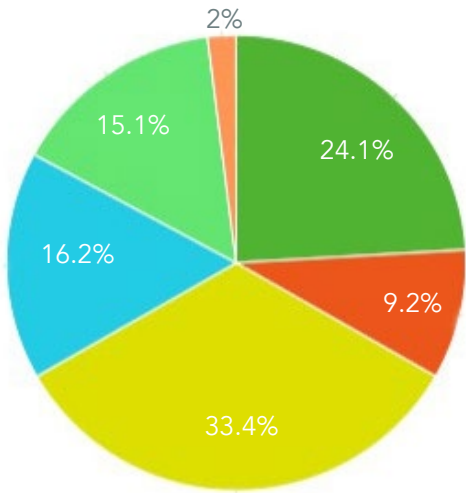
SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES THAT PARTNER WITH ESAC: Harold Lawn & Landscape, Mallard Heating & Air, TLT Plumbing, Fairhope Utilities, Arrow Exterminators, and Jani King.

MEMBERSHIP

Our 600 + members are the heart of the Art Center. Membership dues were increased in 2023 and the option to auto renew online was instated in 2024.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual	\$45
Family	\$75
Artist	\$85 per family
Supporter	\$100
Business	\$150
Partner	\$200/above



VOLUNTEERS AT ESAC



Volunteers are integral to the success of the Art Center and demonstrate its community support. Volunteers staff the front desk, help with classes and field trips, assist with special fundraising events and serve on the Center’s many committees.

20 Front Desk Volunteers this fiscal year
80 Special Event Volunteers

- First Fridays, Outdoor Art Show, Spring Homes Tour, etc.

Shout out to Nancy Myrick for serving at our Front Desk for 132 hours in our FY 24/25!

Pictured left: Jo Owen won the Membership Drive Competition by referring the most new members in October 2024!

MARKETING



The Art Center continually focuses on improving communication vehicles to create a greater top-of-mind awareness of all its initiatives and activities to the general public, stakeholders, members and media. Special thanks to Fox10 News for allowing ESAC staff to discuss events each month on air!

Tech at ESAC continues to change with updates to our Square Point of Sale system that was implemented two years ago - making communications between the front desk and Academy function more efficiently and bookkeeping accurately.



RENTALS



Facility rentals mainly occur after hours in the galleries and studios, including rehearsal dinners, wedding receptions, holiday parties, corporate meetings, etc. Additional fees pertain to requested gallery closures. ESAC does provide assistance to non-profit organizations in our community for a nominal fee. Pricing was increased to \$1,650 for a 5 hour minimum rental and can be rented by the gallery.

Rental options:

- Wilson and Woolley Combo: \$950
- Whiting Gallery Only: \$1,050
- Whiting and Courtyard Combo: \$1,150
- Upper Gallery Rental: \$1,350
- Full Center Rental: \$1650

Hosted 21 private events, raising \$23,315 total in FY 24/25!

Local organizations and businesses hosted:

- Baldwin County Trailblazers
- Eastern Shore Camera Club
- Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival
- Fairhope Film Festival
- Junior Auxiliary of the Eastern Shore
- Merrill Lynch
- Mobile Opera
- River Bank and Trust
- South Alabama Land Trust
- Thomas Hospital
- Why Not Knights Mardi Gras Association
- Wisteria Garden Club

ACADEMY

200

Total Classes

200

Total Classes

1223

Total Adult Students

476

Total Child Students



Last year, ESAC offered educational programming to 1,699 students of all ages. Students expressed their creativity through various art mediums that spoke to their inner spirit. Art Camps surpassed expectations and was the largest turn-out to date with 32 SOLD OUT CAMPS!

NEW classes that were added to our curriculum and have continued to grow: DIGITAL ARTS & ANIMATION and SCREENWRITING.

\$268,133

Total Tuition

\$125,000

Instructor Payout



OUTREACH

The Community Outreach Program is overseen by its NEW Director Lindsey Lawrence and strives to make art accessible to everyone regardless of ability or disability, providing students of all ages with opportunities for meaningful art experiences. Programs in the past year featured site visits, field trips, performances, expos, and more.

Collaborators for FY 24/25:

Coastal AL Community College
(& Upward Bound Program)
South Alabama Land Trust
University of South Alabama
Womens & Childrens Hospital
Classical Conversations Fairhope
Homeschool Co-op
Girl Scouts of South Alabama
(Bay Minette Branch)
Girl Scouts Fairhope
City of Fairhope
Baldwin County Public Schools
Pelicans Nest Science Lab
Elberta Elementary School
Eastern Shore Repertory Theater

Eastern Shore Chamber Music
Huxford Elementary School
Mobile Ballet
Mobile Symphony
Baldwin County Trailblazers
Amp Up Arts
Fairhope Public Library

4776

Total Individuals Directly Impacted

New Programming:

Mess Makers Society. Seasonal Open Studio concept for teens and tweens. Fall, Winter, and Spring sessions acting as outreach programming for target age group of 10+.





Community Outreach made possible through these generous grants:

NEW to this year: Rural Outreach Initiative \$30,500

Daniel Foundation \$10,000

Community Foundation of South Alabama \$10,000

J. L. Bedsole Foundation \$5,000

Baldwin EMC Foundation \$3,000

Craft Family Foundation \$2,500

Additional funding from:

USA Women's & Children's - \$4621

SALT Birdfest - \$500 in kind sponsorship

March Field Trips - \$220

Girl Scout Field Trip April - \$80

Girl Scout Field Trip May - \$120

Coastal AL Community College Upward

Bound Field Trip - \$637

**Total additional funding
outside of grants: \$5701**



EXHIBITS

The Art Center has six galleries and our diverse exhibits change every two months, featuring local, regional and nationally recognized artists.

Exhibits:

Women's Art Collective

Watercolor & Graphic Arts Society of Mobile

ESAC Adult Student Shows x 2

John Armistead

Nancy Goodman

Bryant Whelan

Eastern Shore Camera Club

ArtSquared

Plein Air Fairhope

Members' Open Show

STEAMCamp for Kids

We Are Artists:

Black History Month Collective

Paulette Dove

Dr. Benjamin Titus, PhD

Members' Juried Show

Leigh Ann Edmonds

Jane Newman



\$5.2K

Total Raised from ArtSquared
Online Auction



\$15K

Total Sold in Artwork in Plein Air Fairhope

EXHIBITS

FEATURED GALLERY TALK

In recognition of Black History Month, ESAC partnered with guest curator Soynika Edwards-Bush to put on "We Are Artists." She invited African American artists from the Mobile area to participate in this impactful exhibit Jan-Feb 2025.

Pictured: Artist June Reddix-Stennis



From the Curator, Soynika Edwards-Bush:

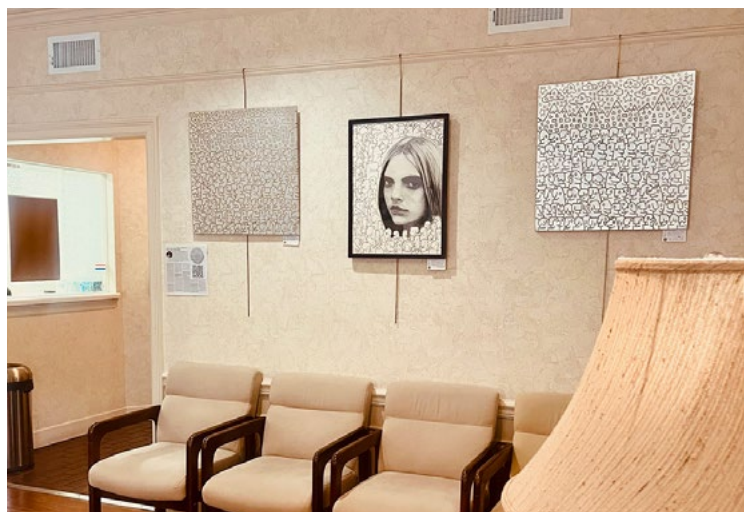
"Assembling these artists wasn't a hard task, knowing that we are all different creatives, but we are all connected by our passion our craft. We are artists and come from creatives who had to endure, and we celebrate those who came before us. This group shows different avenues, on how we express lived experiences, history, our environment, culture, and what we have deep within."

"This exhibit celebrates the beauty of where we come from, exploring the deep history and cultural significance of a land that remains a source of strength and resilience. It is a love letter to my father's land, honoring its enduring beauty and the roots that have shaped who we are."

ART & ABOUT PROGRAM The Art Center offers opportunities for our emerging and established artist members to exhibit their work; our on-site Members' Gallery and the Art and About program, where art is exhibited in 6 participating businesses for residents and visitors on the Eastern Shore to enjoy.

ART & ABOUT VENUES

Baldwin County Courthouse
Bay Shore Dermatology
Fairhope Family Medicine
Fairhope Physical Therapy
Merrill Lynch
Seabrook Pointe Assisted Living





Monthly First Friday Art Walks:

On the first Friday of each month the Art Center welcomes about 500-600 visitors free of charge for the exhibit openings. Visitors are treated to refreshments, art and live music made possible by generous sponsorships from local businesses. **NEW to this year:** Night Art Mart geared to young emerging artists with extended hours!



ESAC Outdoor Art Show:

The 53rd Annual Outdoor Art Show, in conjunction with the Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival, wowed over 250,000 visitors. Held on the third weekend in March, the show has included prestigious, international and regional fine art artists.



Corks, Casks, and Canvas

This inaugural fundraiser held November 2024 was led by Chairs Jack and Patti Burrell. The Bourbon and Wine Tasting event raised \$40,000 for ESAC programming through ticket sales and art auctions.



Plein Air Fairhope

In its 7th year, artists from around the Southeast region are clamoring for 60 spots in this outdoor painting event and exhibit. All spaces were sold within one week and it has been ESAC's highest grossing exhibit.

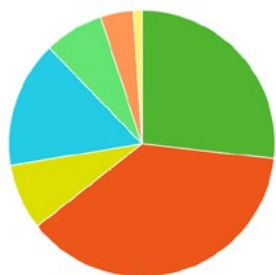


ESAC Spring Homes Tour

Chairs Linda Lou Parsons and Sharon Dearing provided leadership in this inaugural event to replace White Linen Night. Thank you to the Pilot Family for sponsoring the Kickoff Cocktail Party and all our homeowners who provided access to their beautiful properties. A total of \$27,000 was fundraised!

GROSS REVENUES/EXPENSES 2024-2025

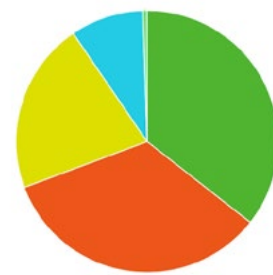
INCOME



Contributions	\$208,275	26.7%
Tuition	\$293,135	37.5%
Special Events	\$63,747	8%
Exhibits	\$120,051	15.3%
Membership	\$56,814	7.2%
Retail Sales/Rentals	\$34,251	4%
Interest	\$8,179	1%

TOTAL INCOME \$784,452

EXPENSES



Admin	\$273,059	35.5%
Academy	\$258,180	33.6%
Exhibits	\$162,353	21.1%
Outreach	\$72,659	9%
Misc.	\$2,927	.05%

TOTAL EXPENSE \$769,178

GRANTS & SUPPORTERS

\$100,000 +

Fairhope Single Tax Corporation

\$50,000 +

Alabama State Council on the Arts

\$20,000 +

City of Fairhope

Gaye P. Lindsey

\$10,000+

Community Foundation of South Alabama

Daniel Foundation of Alabama

\$5,000 +

J. L. Bedsole Foundation

Dawson Family Foundation

Tom and Becky Myers

RJJB Family Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

ALLIANZ

Baldwin EMC Foundation

Jack and Patti Burrell

R. C. Craft Family Foundation

Jetmundsen Foundation

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Jim and Pam Prestwood

Shamburger 2021 Charitable Foundation

68 Ventures LLC

Tamara's Downtown

Trustmark

Continued on next page >>>

The Eastern Shore Art Association received its tax-exempt status under IRS section 501-(c)(3) in 1958. Since that time it has never been revoked or modified. All gifts and grants are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

GRANTS & SUPPORTERS (Continued...)

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous
Alabama Power
Barkin Family Fund
Allison and Wyatt Beard
The Balcony/The Venue
Cardiology Associates
Century Bank
Citizen Bank
Cottages of Fairhope
Winky and Bill Dowdle
Garden Design Solutions
Fairhope Title Services
Hargrove Foundation
Hope Farm
Rick Kingrea

Little Bird Fairhope
Walt Massey Automotive Group
Merchant and Marine Bank
Michael and Margaret Neely
H. C. Pitman Inc.
Prestwood Law Firm
Johnny Prewitt
Corrine Ramming
Roberts Brothers
The Sybil and White Smith Foundation
Sun Coast Insurance Group
TCB Coastal Banking
Nancy Webb Memorial Fund
Westminster Village
Sherri and Randy Williams
Martha Green Young

\$500 - \$999

Alabama Beach Vacation Rentals
Alabama Credit Union
Barr Group
Julio Beaton
Belle Shain Kennels and Farm
Gene and Rena Bouchillon
Dr. Paul and Rebecca Canale
Fran Coet
Miles and Virginia Cook
BJ Hampton Cooper
First Mortgage
Gerry Garcia
Harper Technologies
Infirmary Health
Cheryl Kametz
Klarman and Day Contractors

Maloney Hospitality/ Jubilee Suites
Kevin McCarron
Elizabeth McGriff
McMurray Contracting
Morgan Stanley - The Radcliff Schatzman Group
Pelham Pearce
Thomas Peterson
The Reserve at Fairhope
Buddy and Mickie Russell
Sneed insurance
Termac Construction
Tonsmeire Charitable Foundation
Volkert Inc.
Walcott Adams Veneuille Architects
Lynn and Cori Yonge
Zaxby's

\$250 - \$499

Jennifer Achee
Terry Barkin
The Blind Tiger
Louis Braswell
Brian Douglas Cheshire
The Fairhope Inn
Timothy Houseman
Charles Mixon and Jane Tucker

Lili Marleen/MAUS
Jim Parnell
Susan Perrine
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Leonard Rich
Jim and Valery Smith
Mary Ellen Stewart

\$100 - \$249

Mary Cunningham
Jack and Kristie Daily
Jimmie J. Duet
Jayne and Dick Edge
Rodney L. Henderson
Lee and Caroline Herron
Barbara and Skip Jones
Katie Kaufman

Gene Kirchoff
Myra Koch
Robert Pritchard
Alan Rothfeder
David and Maria Spies
Stephen Savage
The Whelan Family
Bob and Evelyn Young

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EASTERN SHORE ART CENTER

ART CHANGING LIVES



BOARD OFFICERS

Jennifer Jenkins, President
Carson Baker, Vice-President
Gin Duncan, Secretary
Buddy Russell, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Dearing
Katie Sneed
Natalie Eileen Jones
Gia Wiggins
Joshua Rachal

Lenise Ligon
Lisette Normann
Thomas C. Myers, M.D.
Patti Burrell
Brent Barkin

STAFF

Pelham Pearce, *Executive Director*
Adrienne Clow, *Exhibits/Marketing Director*
Reanna Watson, *Academy Director*
Kayla Dean, *Admin Specialist*
Petra Dinardo, *Bookkeeper*
Lindsey Lawrence, *Community Outreach Director*
Charley Seibert, *Client Relations*



"Art is about expressing one's self; nobody is perfect, and that is what makes art perfect. Art promotes self efficacy for anyone willing to try it."

Amanda Gowers, Art Therapist , M.



EASTERN SHORE ART CENTER

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Fairhope, Alabama 36532

251.928.2228

<https://esartcenter.org>