



# PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

May 2026 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 67 / Issue 5

BLFA has been serving the needs of the Greater Brandon, Florida area art community since 1959.

*The May meeting location is a one-time change.  
The June meeting will return to St. Andrews in Brandon.*

The members' meeting will move from our usual third Monday of the month to Friday, May 22, 6 pm at Center Place, 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon, FL 33511. Join us to celebrate the BLFA "Symphony of Color" Spring Art Exhibit Awards ceremony and reception.

## May Membership Meeting

to be held at

**Center Place**

on

**Friday, May 22, 2026**

6 to 9 pm



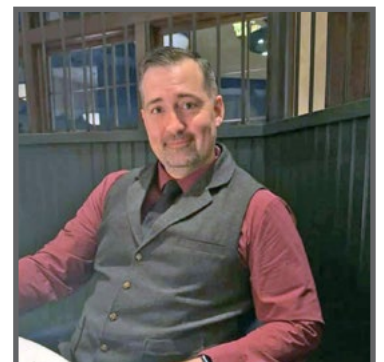
We thank our "Symphony of Color" sponsor, Music Showcase, located in the heart of Brandon since 1996, which offers a wide array of top line instruments and products for band, orchestra, combo (guitars, amps, keyboards, drums, and pro audio) accessories and printed music.

Their experienced staff includes 50 qualified teachers on all instruments, providing support and expert guidance for the beginning student to the seasoned professional musician. Also at Music Showcase, the Florida Academy of Performing Arts offers an exciting array of constantly expanding programs. Enjoy musical theatre, show choirs, group guitar, general music programs, orchestra, group violin, jazz band, rock band, drum line, open mic, and more.

Truly a pillar of our local community, Music Showcase's involvement with public education includes the hard work of their representatives who regularly visit local middle and high schools, helping teachers and educators with supplies, rental information, repair pickups and community news.

## Christopher W. Weeks

Meet our "Symphony of Color" judge, Christopher W. Weeks, Assistant Professor of Art, Department of Visual Art & Design, Hillsborough Community College. Professor Weeks earned his MFA in Photography and Graphic Design from New Mexico State University in 1996. Since that time, his illustrations and photography have been exhibited in numerous group and solo exhibitions over the past 25 years. His work has been reviewed in the *NY Times' In These Times Magazine*, and Boston's *artsMEDIA Magazine* amongst other periodicals.





## Center Place

We thank our Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association host, Betty Jo Tompkins, who has offered BLFA the most beautiful venue for "Symphony of Color" exhibit this month.

Center Place was created by the community, for the community to engage the community at all levels, promoting the arts in Eastern Hillsborough County since 1974.

Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the fine arts and civic involvement in Brandon, Florida. Serving the community for nearly five decades, Center Place offers a variety of cultural enrichment opportunities in collaboration with local organizations to provide programs such as children's theater and art therapy, fostering creativity and engagement.

## Letter from the President

**W**hen is an artwork "finished"?

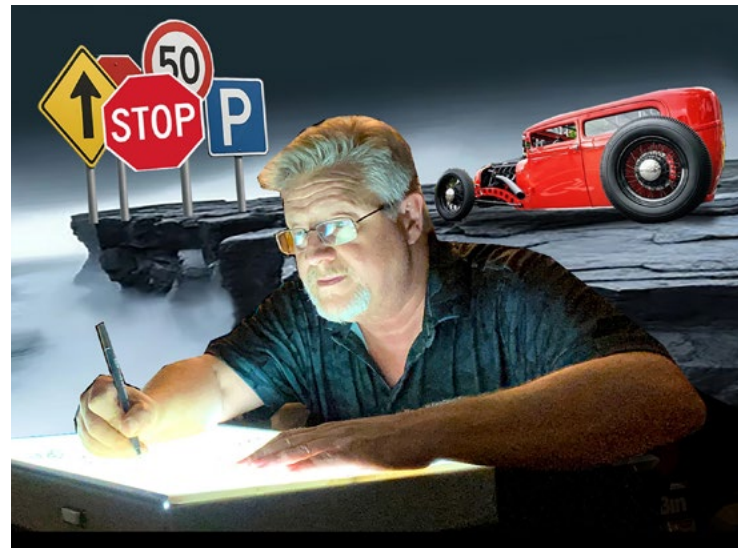
It's been said by some that it is never really complete, no matter what.

Like the artist of any kind, you rarely actually retire... that creative energy pours out until that last paint stroke, the final note on an instrument.

I'd like to offer that a work reaches that phase of "Ready For Mental Consumption," and may display its full impact or purpose, though the creator can see more to be applied.

Do the clouds get to a certain position in the sky and just stop? Does a forest just quit growing? Will Gilligan's Island reruns disappear from view? To all of those, not likely.

So I figure the only true test of an artwork's completion is when every last human that ever lived has seen it.



Get started now!

Thank you,

**David Bodo, President**

Brandon League of Fine Arts  
[bodoartworks@gmail.com](mailto:bodoartworks@gmail.com)



## BRANDON LEAGUE OF FINE ARTS

### Current Board Members & Chairs

#### Directors

- David Bodo..... President
- Charlotte DeMolay..... Vice President
- Carol Stebbins..... Secretary
- Michele Young..... Treasurer

#### Key Chairpersons

- Photography..... Open
- Membership..... Charlotte DeMolay
- Community Outreach and Art Outings..... Michele Young
- Website and Newsletter ..... David Bahm
- Refreshments..... Carol Stebbins
- BLFA Shows..... Carol Stebbins
- Historian..... Roxanne Tobaison

**A call to any members for your magical talents in helping the League!**

Love talking to people? We need **Community Outreach** volunteers for regular advertising on social media, website and in-person promotions.

Have ideas and want to help BLFA grow? We need your help!

Please contact the board members for info. [BLFABrandon@gmail.com!](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING ART OUTINGS

Our June Art Outing will be a little different than past outings. We will meet for lunch at noon on **June 6th** at **La Septima** in the **LaViva Plaza** before our outing. From there we will go to the **USF Contemporary Art Museum**, located at 3821 USF Holly Drive, Tampa, FL 33620, because the museum doesn't open until 1 pm. The museum is free, air conditioned and fully accessible, but you must pay to park\*. Whoever wants to carpool can leave their car at LaViva Plaza.

The museum features their permanent collection, which currently holds over 5,000 objects of contemporary graphics, works on paper, sculpture and photography as well as a special exhibition featuring a curated selection of photographs. We hope to see you there!

**\*Parking Information:** Visitor parking in lot 3B. USF parking permits required, and available at the pay station in the CAM parking lot. Payment is via the ParkMobile app (use zone 9302), or by Visa, MasterCard or Discover.

### Looking ahead... Most outings are on the 1st Saturday of the month:

- July** - Tampa Museum of Art - Art on the House (Free on Thursday evening)
- August** - Citrus Park Town Center
- September** - Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art in Lakeland (Free)

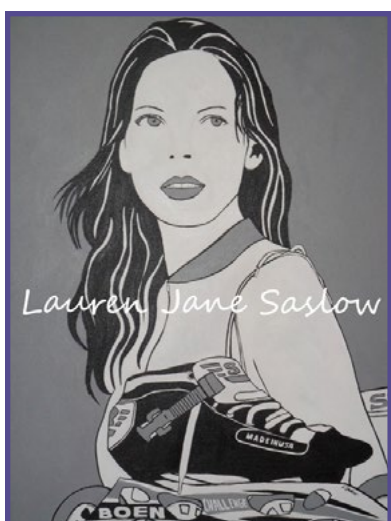
*All locations subject to change.*

Please contact Michele Young at [micheleyoungart@gmail.com](mailto:micheleyoungart@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Artist Lauren Saslow

By Guy Learn

Some artists had their start at a very young age with what you might call a passion to create, whereas Lauren's journey to becoming an artist, in the traditional sense, was a more gradual process. She was well exposed to art while growing up, enjoying art classes throughout her school years and even had an artist in the family as her grandfather, Herbert Saslow, was a mid-century professional artist whose prints adorned her childhood home. But, when you see the list of her favorite activities today, you can see where the artist within her has to share time with other worthwhile interests.



This exposure continued in her college years, but art had to work its way in while she was involved in other art forms. She studied theater performance and dance at the University of Florida. Her major may not have been in fine arts, but she did take a design course as part of the theater requirement and spent a great deal of time working in technical theater (props, costume construction, and set construction). As you can imagine there is a significant amount of sculpture and painting required in props and she excelled in this area, eventually completing an internship in props at the Hippodrome State Theater in Gainesville.

Following graduation, she worked in professional theater, but as more of a traditional artist as opposed to a performing artist. There, she used her talent creating large props such as a life size replica of a Coney Island Carousel Horse, Spanish Cartouches on furniture, and even painting carved foam to resemble food. Even so, the performance portion of her education did get a chance to

shine in her capacity as secondary theater educator where she produced shows for her students. There, in addition to what had become her specialty (designing and painting set backdrops and costumes) she was able to mentor students to where they were fully immersed throughout the entire process.

Given her background and journey into art, it should come as no surprise that she finds commission work easy. She grew quite accustomed to taking someone's idea and bringing it to life. She continues to do commission work when the opportunity arises and if the subject appeals to her.

Now, when asked what a more challenging aspect of her art might be, she said that she sometimes struggles with inspiration, and this might





make sense since her transition into the art world was a pattern of working requirement-based projects, producing what the theater demanded. But she did say that participating in the BLFA outings has helped in respect to inspired art. Another challenge she faces when creating her art is managing her osteoarthritis affecting her hands. One solution she has found is to paint, as opposed to draw, since drawing for long periods can be painful. And being the perfectionist that she is, she does tend to work for long periods. Oh, and she seems to see that “perfectionist” trait as a hindrance as well as it can often spawn discouragement. But with her determination, I’m guessing she’ll find a way to use that trait as an asset.

Lauren works primarily in acrylic and watercolor, with acrylic being her favorite. But she is open to other media. In fact, at a recent BLFA outing she completed her first drawing with a newly purchased set of watercolor pencils. She has also experimented with watercolor ink in the past and enjoyed that. At one point she had taken lessons in stained glass but found it to be a less-than-ideal way to express herself.



Lauren has produced numerous figure paintings and drawings, but her preferred subject matter gravitates towards nature scenes. Being that she grew up in a forest in Lutz she says she feels calm and most grounded in nature. Of course, she hardly limits her landscapes to that area. In fact, one of her favorite pieces and one she is proudest of is a painting of an old miner’s shack in Aspen. Her parents must feel the same as it has hung on the wall over their bed for 25 years.

It will be interesting to see what Lauren creates next, but don’t get too anxious. She’s much more than an artist and enjoys playing the piano, sewing, inline skating, road cycling, yoga, and DIY home projects. So, artwork sometimes must wait its turn.



## Thank You, Gunni

A special thank you to Gunni Price, our long-time BLFA member, prolific artist and supporter of BLFA, whose contributions of delicious snacks for the meetings recently included a donation of three new canvases that have produced a sale, with proceeds going to BLFA. Only one left, (still wrapped in its original protective plastic) an impressive 46” round canvas made for a master work requiring size and sturdy construction.

For inquiries to purchase, or if you would like to donate goods and items to be sold for the benefit of BLFA, email [BLFABrandon@gmail.com](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com).

## Show and Tell

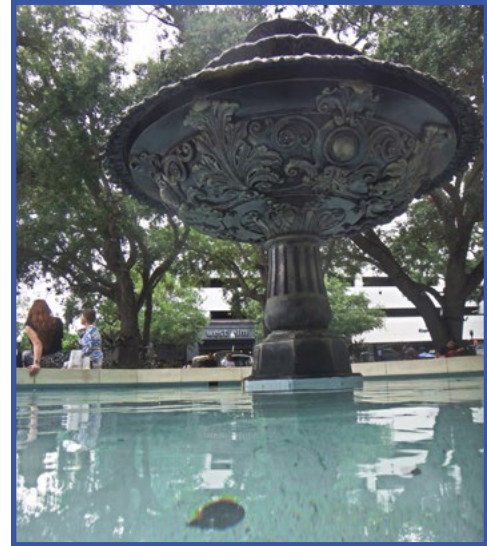
Every membership meeting has room for your Show and Tell moment, a 10-15 minute share of your inspirations, accomplishments and insights.

To sign up, please email [BLFABrandon@gmail.com!](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com)

# May Art Outing Photos • Hyde Park Village

*Join us for the fun!*

See page 3



## April Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2026

David Bodo (DB) opened the meeting at 6:45 PM, welcomed guests and visitors, introduced Charlotte DeMolay (CD) who reviewed instructions to fill out an application for entering their art work in the upcoming Symphony of Color (SoC) exhibit. Guy Learn (GL) asked if the artists' photos of art work to be entered online in the virtual exhibit could show the frame. CD advised the art work will not have frames shown, she advises the frames on art work displayed online do not look very good. Michele Young (MY) advised the judge for the exhibit will be the art department head at HCC.

DB collected for the 50/50 raffle, the pot was \$20, CD won \$10.

MY set up her projector to display the photo for Draw and Pass, the evening's workshop. Sketch books were distributed, and the five-minute timed sessions began, with members passing their art work to the next person at the end of each interval, then continued to add to the passed drawing. Several intervals later, the members signed the sketches they worked on.

DB distributed paper for the June 15, general meeting's Word Play. Members picked from a hat their word 'inspiration' for creating art, for display at June's general meeting.

DB thanked the members who brought snacks for the meeting. Carol Stebbins (CS) reminded members the May meeting is moved to Center Place on Friday, May 22, 6 PM for the SoC Exhibit awards and reception. Our June meeting will resume the third Monday of each month schedule, June 15, 6:30 PM at St. Andrews.

GL assisted members with photos for submission to the SoC Exhibit.

The BLFA bank balance as of 04/17/2026 was \$4,166.87

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



Jennifer's Studio



## BRONZE SPONSORS

Book Corner Tampa Bay



Elite Occasions

## Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Medium(s): \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find BLFA? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:  Individual \$40  Family \$50

Cash or Check only please. Make checks payable to BLFA. Please contact BLFA if you would like information about volunteer opportunities. Email us at: [BLFABrandon@gmail.com](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com)

## Order Your BLFA Fundraiser Tee!

Please contact David Bodo ([bodoartworks@gmail.com](mailto:bodoartworks@gmail.com)) with your tee amounts and sizes today! Shirts are available to members and anyone interested for \$20. All after-cost proceeds go to BLFA.

### FRONT

AMOUNT & SIZES

YOUTH L

ADULT S

ADULT M

ADULT L

ADULT XL

ADULT XXL



### BACK



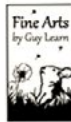
#### GOLD SPONSORS



#### SILVER SPONSORS



Jennifer's Studio



Watercolors by Roxanne Johnson

SouthState

#### BRONZE SPONSORS

Book Corner Tampa Bay



Elite Occasions



## Classes at Creative Junk Therapy

Each is led by a BLFA member!  
For dates and times, visit:  
[creativejunktherapy.org/our-events](http://creativejunktherapy.org/our-events)

**Colored Pencils, Pastels and More**  
Instructed by Michele Young  
Colored Pencil Basics or Open Studio  
4th Saturday 10:30 - 1:00  
\$20 Beginner includes supplies OR  
\$12 Open Studio BYO Supplies




**Watercolor Open Studio**  
Instructed by Roxanne  
\$25 BYO Supplies  
\$5 supplies included  
Learn watercolor concepts, techniques and develop your skills.




**Drawing Beginners and Beyond**  
Hosted by Chris Klein  
4th Saturday 3-6pm  
\$25 per session or 4 for \$80  
Explore different drawing mediums with new subjects each class




**Beyond Basic Watercolor**  
\$25 Per Person  
BYO Supplies  
Ongoing class for painters who want to go beyond the basics of watercolor.  
Instructed by Roxanne Tobiason




**Inspired Acrylic Painting**  
\$25 BYO supplies  
\$30 Supplies included  
Ongoing class for beginners or more experienced painters wanting to go beyond the basics in acrylic painting.  
Instructed by Karen Koseck




**Oil Painting**  
\$15 per session or \$56 for 4 sessions  
Wednesdays, 10:30-1:00  
Join other aspiring artists in this self directed group to paint, develop and share oil painting techniques and inspiration.  
\*supplies not included  
Facilitated by Christopher Klein




**Kids Drawing Develop Your Vision**  
Hosted by Chris Klein  
3rd Wednesday 5-7pm  
\$10 per session or 4 for \$35  
Kids learn basic drawing techniques and develop their skill and style  
Ages 9-14




**Beginner Watercolors**  
Facilitated by Roxanne Tobiason  
\$25 per person BYO supplies  
+ \$5 supplies included




**Storytellers Unite**  
FREE  
4th Friday Monthly 5-7pm  
Storyteller meetup collaborating resources, ideas, stories and images  
Hosts David Bado and Carolyn Siebert

