



PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

September 2026 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 67 / Issue 9

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

Spread the Art Bookmark Project

We are doing a bookmark project to give away at local libraries and shops. Members can design some art for the front of the bookmark and credit to the artist will be given on the back.

If you'd like to design with others, come to our September Monthly Meeting OR you can create your design beforehand, and we'll take a photo of it at the meeting.

Monday, September 21, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm

St. Andrews Methodist Church, 3315 S. Bryan Rd, Brandon, FL 33511
brandonleaguefinearts.com

September Membership Meeting

*Guests of all abilities are
always welcome!*

Join us on
**Monday,
September 21, 2026
6:30 pm**

St. Andrews United Methodist
Church, Room 304
3315 South Bryan Road
in Brandon

President's Corner

Everyone Needs a Some Art in Their Lives

As artists, we know how vital creativity is to our personal well-being. Most of us can't even imagine a life without making art! But this truth extends far beyond our studio walls...it applies to non-artists and to society as a whole.

I spend a lot of time reading about creativity and wellness. When I began drafting this message, I did a quick search on the broader impact of art on society. The results were overwhelming! I won't bore you with endless citations, but the sheer volume of research confirms what we feel in our hearts: exposure to art is essential for human connection.

As you see every time you attend a BLFA meeting or outing, art fosters community. When we create and share together, we build bridges across ages, backgrounds, and perspectives. Art gives us a shared language and a common bond.

We have the opportunity to bring that exact same energy into the wider community. That was the inspiration behind our Spread the Art Bookmark Project. While it's a wonderful way to shine a light on BLFA, it's also about sharing the simple joy of art. Experiencing visual art brings people closer...not just to our league, but to one another.



By now, you've likely heard me talk about this project at a meeting or seen the emails. For our upcoming monthly meeting, we'll be creating bookmarks together! You don't have to make yours that night...you can create it ahead of time or use existing work. However you choose to contribute, please join in and help our local communities connect through our art.

See you soon!

Charlotte DeMolay | BLFA President



BRANDON LEAGUE OF FINE ARTS

Current Board Members & Chairs

Directors

Charlotte DeMolay..... President
 Carol Stebbins..... Secretary
 Michele Young..... Treasurer

Key Chairpersons

Photography..... Guy Learn
 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

The BLFA October Art Outing will be at **Keel Farms**, located at **5202 Thonotosassa Road in Plant City** on **Saturday, October 3 at 10 am**. We'll be attending their Harvest Festival, where there will be plenty of things to draw, local vendors and food trucks, seasonal wines and ciders and family friendly activities. Admission is free, but parking is \$10. If you'd like to save on parking, you can consider carpooling and splitting the cost. Handicapped parking is also available. We'll meet at the farm entrance. Be on the lookout for BLFA T-Shirts which are easy to spot. Hope to see you there!

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

November - A local park TBD

December - Manatee Viewing Station in Apollo Beach

All locations subject to change.

Please contact Michele Young at
micheleyoungart@gmail.com
 if you have any questions.

Member Showcase: Fresh Off the Easel

*Have a new piece you've recently finished?
 Bring it to our next meeting!*

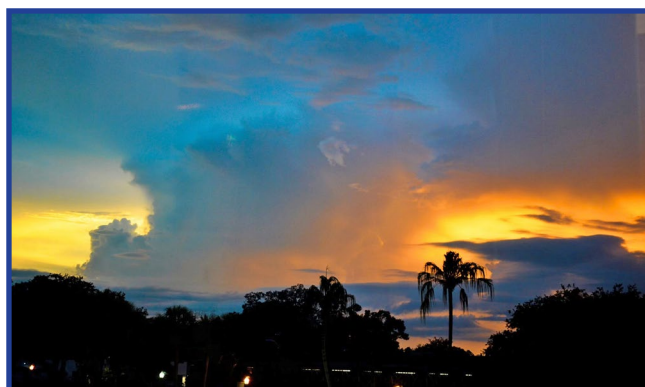
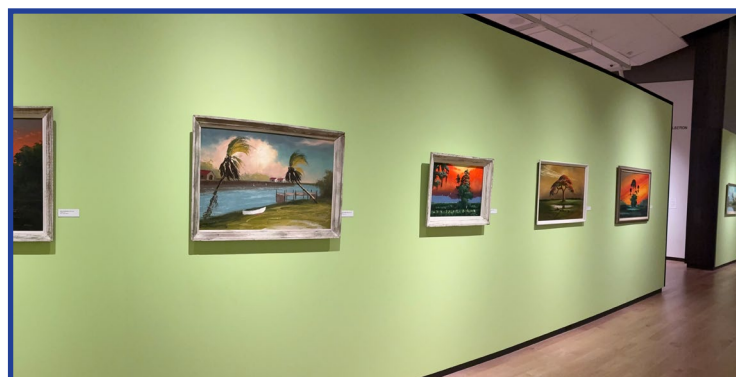
Beginning next month, we'll feature recent works right at the start of our program. All mediums are welcome. You don't need to give a presentation; we are happy to display your work at the front of the room for the evening. If you'd like to say a quick word about what inspired it, the floor is yours. Bring your latest creation and let us celebrate your work!

September Art Outing Photos

Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art (The AGB)

Join us for the fun!

See page 2



August Meeting Photos & Minutes



August 17, 2026

Charlotte DeMolay (CD) opened the meeting at 6:38 PM, announced that the League now has a 501c3 status, a new EIN, and is a new entity due to the League's lapse in maintaining the required documentation with the State of Florida and IRS. She emphasized this is not a reinstatement of the previous BLFA group.

CD advised there were questions from members about the proposed Bylaws and establishing a quorum. CD explained that the proposed Bylaws did not specifically state a percentage of membership to achieve a quorum because our meetings' attendance is not predictable enough to name a percentage. Instead, members will be notified in advance that in-person attendance is required to vote. CD further explained that the Bylaws are deliberately generic to avoid multiple revisions, and to allow the Board latitude in administering League business. The Standing Rules will be issued with more specific guidelines, an operating procedure for the League. CD announced that the Board meetings will be held one week before the general meeting to allow time for planning, etc.

Lauren Saslow (LS) asked if a member would like to vote but is unable to attend the meeting in person, could a proxy be designated to vote? CD advised this will be considered when the Standing Rules are composed.

CD announced Center Place (CP) has asked BLFA members to provide their winter themed art work for display during the upcoming holiday season. This display is not a judged exhibit with prizes, instead the art works will enhance CP's event space for the season to be viewed by the those in attendance of parties, meetings and special occasions. CD confirmed the art works can be listed for sale. Carlene Earl (CE) asked what the duration of the holiday exhibit would be? CD advised the display would be at least a month; more details will be forthcoming.

CD advised new Bylaws are required, offered a copy of the proposed Bylaws if anyone had not reviewed them in the email sent out with the announcement of member vote. CD asked for show of hands from the members present to accept the proposed Bylaws; the majority of members voted to accept same. CD announced at the next general meeting (September 21, 6:30 PM, St. Andrews Methodist Church, Brandon, FL) the Standing Rules will be voted on.

Michele Young (MY) gave members her 'Show and Tell' discovery, introduced two fun games to assist in choosing a new art project—Art Dice, a handful of dice is thrown, suggestions for the project's subject, colors, mood, and other choices display. A second fun game is with playing cards; draw a playing card then search a printed list for suggestions.

Carol Stebbins (CS) offered the members a chance to share their inspirations, projects and other items of interest during their 'Show and Tell' fifteen-minute presentation. To schedule, email BLFABrandon@gmail.com to secure a spot in the January 18, February 15, or March 15, 2027 'Show and Tell' opportunity.

CD explained the bookmark 'Spread the Art' project, displayed a sample of a finished bookmark she used from one of her earlier paintings. CD advised members can submit a painting image but it will be edited to fit the bookmark size which will be 8.5" x 2.2". These bookmarks will be professionally printed and distributed in local libraries' community areas for outreach and to raise awareness and interest in BLFA.

Instructions to members were to bring one completed bookmark to next month's meeting, or email a high-resolution image to BLFABrandon@gmail.com. The artist will be listed on the bookmark; the other side will have BLFA website link via QR code and contact information.

Members then began the evening's workshop on existing projects or designing their bookmarks. Throughout the workshop, members circulated in the room to view the works in progress, to exchange ideas and critiques, and to enjoy the generous and tasty snacks donated by members.

CD reminded members that her survey was sent out to elicit information from members about their interests for future meetings. CD asks if a member has responded to the survey and offered assistance, please again email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with their offer of assistance.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm.

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Book Corner Tampa Bay



Elite Occasions

Thank you
to our
generous
sponsors!

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

Your Donations Support BLFA!

Please email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with your support - (suggested donation \$20) to receive a thank-you T-shirt that our members and friends of BLFA wear to meetings and events! You can pay via Zelle to BLFABrandon@gmail.com (put T-shirt SIZE: S, M, L in memo) or send a check payable to BLFA to Brandon League of Fine Arts, 504 S Kings Ave. #1115, Brandon, FL 33511.

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

Colored Pencils, Pastels and More

Colored Pencil Basics
or Open Studio

4th Saturday 10:30 - 1:00

\$20 Beginner includes supplies OR

\$12 Open Studio BYO Supplies

Instructed by Michele Young



© Creative Junk Therapy

Drawing Beginners and Beyond

1st & 3rd Saturday 1:30 - 3:30pm

\$25 per session or 4 for \$80

Explore different drawing
mediums with new
subjects each class

Hosted by Chris Klein



© Creative Junk Therapy

Watercolors

Instructed by Roxanne Tobason



@ Creative Junk Therapy

\$25 per person BYO Supplies
+ \$5 supplies included

Hands on instruction, new project each month.



Oil Painting Open Studio

Wednesdays 10:30am - 1:00pm

\$15 per session or \$56 for 4

Learn, share and develop
oil painting techniques

Instructed by Chris Klein



© Creative Junk Therapy

Kids Drawing Develop Your Vision

1st & 3rd Wednesday 5-6pm
\$10 per session or 4 for \$35

Kids learn basic drawing
techniques and develop
their skill and style

Hosted by Chris Klein



Ages 9-14



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