



PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

August 2026 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 67 / Issue 8

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



For our August meeting, bring a piece of artwork currently in progress (WIP) that you'd like to work on alongside other creatives, a completed (or nearly completed) artwork you would like constructive feedback on, or both. This is a great opportunity to create with fellow artists, share your process, and gain new perspectives in a relaxed environment. Everyone at all skill levels is welcome—We can't wait to see what you're creating!

August Membership Meeting

Guests of all abilities are always welcome!

Join us on
**Monday,
August 17, 2026
6:30 pm**

St. Andrews United
Methodist Church
Room 304

3315 South Bryan Road
in Brandon

President's Corner

This has been quite a year for the Brandon League of Fine Arts! It's been just over a year since I first joined BLFA, and in that time, we've embraced a lot of change, from finding new meeting spaces to refreshing our officers and show formats. Sorting through our old archives recently reminded me of this organization's rich history, and it gave me a strong sense of where we can go. What remains at the core of BLFA is a strong heart that wants to see our group flourish, and we are doing everything we can to make the absolute best of these transitions.

We already have so much working in our favor. Our monthly art outings continue to draw a steady, enthusiastic group. Whether people are drawing, photographing, or just enjoying the fellowship, wearing our BLFA t-shirts has attracted great attention and given us a chance to chat with the curious about our group. We also took a chance with our Spring Open Art Exhibit by trying online preregistration, streamlined prizes, and a new venue setup. It worked wonderfully...we saw higher participation and made great connections with the Lakeland art group!

Looking ahead, the board is hard at work on the areas where we want to grow. We want our monthly meetings to be a truly valuable part of the BLFA experience alongside the social connection. To help us with this and future planning, we have a very short survey we are hoping members will complete. We're also exploring new physical show locations, keeping our virtual exhibits going, and finding fresh ways to get our name out into Brandon and beyond.

We are small but mighty, and I'm so excited to keep building a thriving art community with all of you.

[Click here](https://forms.gle/ufXQWwErNJUdsacm9) for our 2026 Member Survey. (<https://forms.gle/ufXQWwErNJUdsacm9>)

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 September Art Outing will be at the **Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art (The AGB)**, formerly known as the **Polk Museum of Art**, on Thursday evening, **September 3 at 6:30 pm**. It is located at 800 East Palmetto St. in Lakeland, Florida, two blocks north of the Florida Southern College campus and across from the Lakeland Public Library on Lake Morton. The museum has a diverse collection from local, nationally and internationally known artists and is a Smithsonian affiliate.

We are meeting on Thursday evening because Labor Day weekend falls on the first weekend in September, and they are open until 8 pm on Thursdays. Admission and parking are free, and the museum is wheelchair accessible. Designated parking spots and wheelchair ramps are present in the Museum parking lot, and wall text is installed to be read at wheelchair height.

We'll meet at the museum 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:**

October - Keel & Curley Harvest Festival in Plant City

November - Cypress Point Park in Tampa or Bonnet Springs Park - TBD

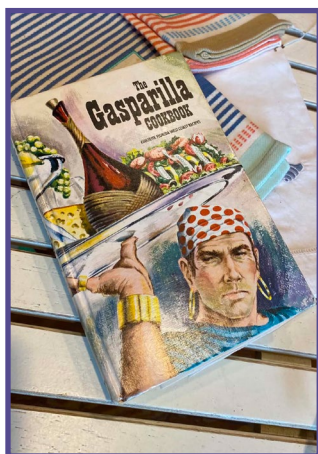
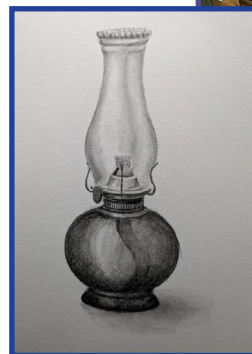
December - Manatee Viewing Station in Apollo Beach

All locations subject to change.

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

August Art Outing Photos • The Mercantile in Plant City

Join us for the fun!
See page 2



Inspiration Shares

Books



Materials



Ideas

Staycation Journal
Magazine Clippings Sketchbook
Water Soluble Materials for Location Sketching
Local Galleries

Websites

unsplash.com
saffronart.com
line-of-action.com
thelaurelmagazine.com

&
more

July Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026, 6:36 pm

Charlotte DeMolay (CD) opened the meeting and greeted members, welcomed newest member Manisha Rao.

CD reviewed the recent BLFA exhibit, advised members that there will likely not be another exhibit this year. Guy Learn (GL) asked about BettyJo Tompkins' (BJT) request for a Christmas themed exhibit. GL will send CD his Christmas art for review, CD agrees to provide more information after that discussion with BJT. If there is a Christmas display, there would be no judging, prizes or public viewing, only what Center Place activities schedule during the holidays.

MY provided mention that the May, 2026 exhibit did turn a profit, thanks to Music Showcase's sponsorship.

Judy Steinbarger (JS) asked about our long-standing BLFA member who was recently hospitalized. CD said there has not been any additional information but will inquire.

CD asked if any member sold art from the May exhibit? Lauren Saslow (LS) advises she sold a painting from the exhibit to a family member.

MY explained the August Art Outing change of location was due to the Brandon Mall's recent shooting, also construction at the mall removed the carousel, which would have made an interesting item to sketch and photograph. Instead, we will be meeting at The Mercantile in Plant City, 208 S. Collins Street, 10 am August 1. The September Art Outing will be held on a Thursday, since the first Saturday in September is Labor Day. Details will be sent out in the newsletter, Facebook and on the website.

CD then introduced the evening's workshop, a discussion of members' sources of inspiration from books, music, or any source that gives them ideas. Discussion went around the room, and members displayed books or magazine clippings, provided online links they found helpful:

<https://www.SAFFRONART.COM/>, <https://www.THELAURELMAGAZINE.COM>, <https://www.UNSPLASH.COM>, <https://LINE-OF-ACTION.COM>, were mentioned, Members also shared what inspirations they have gleaned from museums exhibits, other sources.

CD asked members what would they like to see in upcoming workshops? Doug Steinbarger (DS) would like to have a demonstration of a medium, the members could ask questions and also work on their artwork as the workshop progressed.

CD asked for help with meeting refreshments, CS advises CD's help bringing the ice has been a big help, thanked the members for their generous donation of snacks for each meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.

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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

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



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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

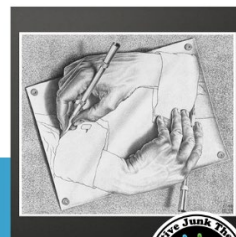
Drawing Beginners and Beyond

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



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Ages 9-14