



PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

August 2025 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 66 / Issue 8

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

August MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Guests are always welcome!

Join us on **August 18, 2025, 6:30 pm**

Creative Junk Therapy • 776 W. Lumsden Road



Join us for a reception to congratulate the artists and enjoy the awards ceremony at our BLFA general meeting!

Letter from the President

Sometimes we find a scene where we may be all worked up and excited about something, a thing that appears to be the situation that will lift us up to the next level of achievement.

As many things in life, occasionally (and sometimes often), the initial anticipation is not what occurs... a commission that falls through... a project you're pursuing that no one is equally feverish to see happen... that perceived "moment of a lifetime" that sputters out into oblivion.

I often put things into view as a story being told, like—"Okay, what would some lead in a movie do?" Sounds silly, but it seems to work for me. Back in my less than adult thinking days, when those initial disappointments would just slightly rear their head, I would turn and walk away. If something even partially appeared like it wasn't going the way I envisioned it to go, I ran. Kind of like saying I LOVE the beach... except for all that sand, and salty water, and those crazy seagulls! After years, and realizing this is part of the whole experience, a change occurred and I gave things a go anyway.

(Lead role in movie vision)... the stagecoach you're in starts rolling toward a steep embankment... you notice



the driver slumped over unconscious... horses out of control...

As a youth I would have just jumped out.

Today I would likely climb up, grab the reins and try my best to get it all back on track.

If these disillusionings haunt you from time to time, don't jump out... grab the reins and get that coach back on the road. This is your movie... and you have the lead role.

David Bodo, President

Brandon League of Fine Arts

bodoartworks@gmail.com



BRANDON LEAGUE OF FINE ARTS

Current Board Members & Chairs

Directors

David Bodo	President
Guy Learn	Vice President
Karen Koseck	Treasurer
Carol Stebbins	Secretary

Key Chairpersons

Photographer.....	Guy Learn
Membership	Carol Stebbins
Community Outreach.....	Jennifer Milone
Paint Outs	Michele Young
Website/Newsletter.....	David Bahm
Refreshments.....	Carol Stebbins
BLFA Shows	Guy Learn
Revolving Exhibits.....	Roxanne Tobaison
	Marsha Nelson, back up

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

Love talking to people? We need more **Community Outreach** volunteers to join Jennifer for regular advertising on social media, website and in-person promotions. Also need a **Munchie Manager** – someone to coordinate the refreshments we all enjoy each meeting.

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

Please contact the board members for info.
BLFABrandon@gmail.com!

WHAT'S COMING UP?

SHOW AND TELL

September's contributor will be BLFA member Michele Young, who is facilitating the plein air paint-out destination events. Michele will share her expertise on how to pack for a plein air destination, including supplies and tips. She has already announced the upcoming planned event for Saturday, August 16 at 10:00 am. Participants please meet up at the Tampa Armature Works, 1910 North Ola Avenue, Tampa 33602.

Thank you in advance for bringing refreshments to the August 18th general meeting! BLFA members are the most generous with delicious contributions, which make each meeting a party.



Plant City Main Street Art in the Park

is set to blossom with creativity on
November 22nd, 2025.
Hours will be 10 am to 7 pm.

Participants need to sign up to reserve a booth.
They sell out fast, so reserve yours!

For more information:
www.plantcitymainstreet.org/art-in-the-park

Artist Christopher Klein

By Guy Learn

I believe Chris Klein is in a minority in our league. While some do have formal art training, Chris has actually spent his life with his occupation being that of an artist. So, it probably comes as no surprise that his art ventures started long before he entered the workforce.

Chris's mother was an artist, and as such, he was Influenced by her talent, and at a very young age, he began what would be a lifelong journey in art. His mother taught him some of the basics. Then, in a very practical approach, he would read through his mother's many books and put into practice what he could by gathering her discarded paints and brushes to do his own paintings. He used the basement as his studio which may have been the only place to work undisturbed since he comes from a family of twelve children.



Eventually he added formal training to complement his practical knowledge. Initially, he attended Nassau Community College as an Art Studio Major, then transferred to Oneonta State University in New York to broaden his knowledge with a minor in Art History. Other schooling included a semester with the Masters Print Making program at Adelphia College in New York and weekend classes at the School of Visual Arts also in New York. While attending the latter, they had a show to display his work. Due to its popularity, at the show's conclusion pieces were moved to the teachers' lounge.

Although he grew up on Long Island, his first job after completing school was a three-year stint in California. But due to a painful divorce, he found it best to leave that job and head back east. Fortunately, there was a huge silver lining a couple

years after that storm, as he met his soulmate, Gail, who faithfully supports him to this day.

Anyway, back in New York, as in California, he ended up spending many years as a three-dimensional engraver, working sculpturally in steel dies and molds. But then, as if making a living as an artist wasn't difficult enough, he was a victim of jobs being sent overseas, with his being sent off to China. This, in turn, had Chris going back to school. The specialty that he chose to further his education with was Graphic Art. This enabled him to take a job as, yes, a Graphic



Artist, at a high-end sign shop where he would work for ten more years, taking him up to retirement.

If you've been fortunate enough to see a variety of his work, it should come as no surprise that he really enjoys still life. It's a matter of intimacy as it allows him to symbolically express his psychological and spiritual story. Wildlife also often finds its way onto his canvas as he truly loves God and all his creations. This would explain another of his passions which is gardening.

There's really not enough room in this article to list all of his accomplishments, but here are some of the highlights: Awards at shows back in New York, then in Florida, awards at the State Fair, Strawberry Festival, and of course in our League. And with regards to our League, he's served as President for seven years, crediting Roxanne Tobaison and Doreen Donovan's mentoring for his success in that effort. Speaking of serving, did you know that back in the mid 60s, Chris served a tour with the Air Force as a medic in Anchorage, Alaska?

But back to art, Chris has worked in numerous mediums including those of a sculptural nature, but his favorite is oils. There, he has a true appreciation for the science and techniques involved. I asked what piece he might be most proud of, but he said that the creation process is so saturated with experimentation, lessons learned, etc., that pride just doesn't fit into the agenda. He says it's all about the journey and there is always something to learn.

Chris does commission work and has yet to turn anything down. And since creating for others instead of himself can, to a degree, keep him from settling into a comfort zone, it further emphasizes his concept of art being a perpetual journey of learning. It will be interesting to see what creation he produces next as his journey continues.



Bay Area Cardiology Art Changeover

Open to all BLFA members!

Brandon Location: 635 Eichenfeld Drive, Brandon, FL 33511 – around the corner from Center Place and Brandon Hospital.

Friday, August 29th

Noon to 1:00 pm – NEW TIME

MUST PRE-REGISTER BY August 28th

email Roxanne: roxtob@verizon.net

TAKEOUTS – Any artists currently exhibiting: Roxanne needs to know if you plan to remove or replace your art in order to have an accurate inventory.

PLEASE EMAIL roxtob@verizon.net with:

The title of your piece(s), selling price, your name and contact phone. **DO THIS BY THURSDAY, August 28th!**

ALSO, please provide plain white business card size piece of paper for each piece with:

- Your Name
- Title of the art
- Price
(to place on your art)

SIZE – prefer medium size:

Minimum 11" x 14" to Maximum 20" x 24"

NOTHING too heavy as they are placed over people's chairs in the reception area and the walls don't support heavy weight. It is a liability issue.

NO eyehooks or sawtooth for hanging! Use only strong wire with proper mounting.



The League recently lost one of our talented members. **Bobbi Ritter** joined earlier this year in time to submit a painting that garnered "Honorable Mention," and was able to attend two meetings before she passed on. Those who met her will remember a vibrant, enthusiastic and talented artist with a lifetime of creative works. Some of her art recently displayed at CJT posthumously.

We are grateful for the time she spent with the League.



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

July Meeting Photos

Secret Square

Each person was given a specially sized piece of paper and a portion of a photo. Participants used various mediums to create a rendition of the photo section. After all were finished, the pieces were placed together in special order to reveal the overall artwork!



July's Word Art entries

July Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025

Rescheduled from July 21, A/C problems at CJT

David Bodo (DB) opened the meeting at 6:45 PM, thanked members for attending the rescheduled meeting.

DB asked Karen Koseck (KK) to provide the bank balance for the League, \$4,275.03.

DB reviewed the recent Charlie Belcher (local news personality) live broadcast from CJT earlier that day, highlighting CJT community activities. Several BLFA artists, including DB and Roxanne Tobaison were present to participate. DB advises he wants the entire interview to be posted on the BLFA Facebook page, only a very brief version is available at this time.

DB announced that BLFA member Michele Young (MY) has volunteered to facilitate the monthly plein air paint-out destinations, KK thanked MY for continuing KK's event planning. MY distributed a printed list of possible destinations to survey member's interests, asked that the surveys be returned to her by the end of the meeting. MY announced the upcoming event will be on Saturday, August 16, 10:00 am at the Armature Works in Tampa. This is a popular indoor, multi-vendor shopping | restaurant | stroll and sightsee opportunity for artists to enjoy the scenery and create art. Paid parking is necessary.

Guy Learn (GL) reviewed the upcoming take-in for the BLFA August exhibit including specific instructions for voting and entry. The exhibit will be on display from August 1, to August 31, with voting to conclude prior to the August 18, general meeting. Awards and prize money will be announced at that meeting.

Thanks to Jennifer Bahm (JB) who conducted the 50/50 raffle!

BLFA member Beth Kaufman (BK) described her fused glass jewelry class, asked if members would be interested in paying for materials to participate in the class. Several members indicated interest. It is decided a date and time for the class would be announced.

DB and GL distributed materials for the evening's workshop, a 'Puzzle' exercise that provided each member with one or more partial images of a photograph. The members were encouraged to use their choice of media to complete their individual puzzle piece. At the end of the workshop, DB and GL reconstructed the completed photograph to reveal a fawn in a forest setting. The initials 'BLFA' were also seen superimposed over the photograph. Thanks to DB and GL for coming up with the idea and organizing the workshop!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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
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 Tobison



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 Tobison

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




Art and Soul Collage

\$35 - Supplies included

Tap into your creativity and create a unique dimensional multi layered, multi medium piece of art.



Instructed by Lois Miller



Storytellers Unite
Hosts David Bodo and Carolyn Seibert

FREE

4th Friday Monthly 5-7pm

Storyteller meetup collaborating resources, ideas, stories and images


