



PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

July 2026 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 67 / Issue 7

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



Join us for our July Meeting - Ideas and Inspiration. Bring and share what fuels your creativity and inspires your artwork - a book, an artist, a medium, a website, a person, place, thing or an idea...the sky's the limit! Or just come to learn some new creative ideas if you don't want to share.

July Membership Meeting

Guests of all abilities are always welcome!

Join us on
Monday, July 20, 2026
6:30 pm

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

Letter from the President

Being an artist can be lonely. Usually you are creating alone, and gallery walls or website pages aren't great company. Even if you are an introvert, art requires feedback. While selling or entering shows gives you a measure of validation, it doesn't replace real conversations. Or maybe you are just starting your art adventure, where shows feel intimidating and classes only offer limited feedback. How do you know how you are progressing?

This loneliness is why I've always sought out art groups. Over the years, I've been in a variety of clubs and leagues of all sizes. I need it. I need to talk about art and do creative things with people who love being creative as much as I do. This is exactly why I sought out the Brandon League of Fine Arts last year.

I've never looked at fellow artists as competitors. Yes, we all want to sell or win prizes, but what each of us creates is too unique to be compared. A judge or customer might look at technical expertise, but everything else is about emotion, story, and connection. Sometimes...usually with a customer and hopefully not a judge!...it's simply about the relationship with the artist.

I firmly believe the saying, "A rising tide lifts all boats." As I step into the role of BLFA President, I'm here for the relationships, the learning, and to support my fellow artists. We need each other, and our community needs our art. Let's ride this tide together!

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!



UPCOMING ART OUTINGS

The BLFA August Art Outing will be at the **Brandon Exchange** (Formerly known as Brandon Town Center, Westfield Shoppingtown) at **10 AM on Saturday, August 1st**. The mall is located at 459 Brandon Town Center Dr., Brandon, FL 33511. Join us for a cool spot to sketch the carousel, storefronts or people. There are restrooms, accessible parking, and plenty of restaurants if you'd like to stay for lunch. We'll meet at the parking lot entrance of Books-A-Million. Be on the lookout for people with Brandon League of Fine Arts T-Shirts, which are easy to spot. Hope to see you there! **Please note, various parts of the mall are currently under construction.**

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

September - Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art in Lakeland (Free) - Thursday evening 9/3/26

October - Keel & Curley Harvest Festival in Plant City

November - Cypress Point Park in Tampa

December - Manatee Viewing Station in Apollo Beach

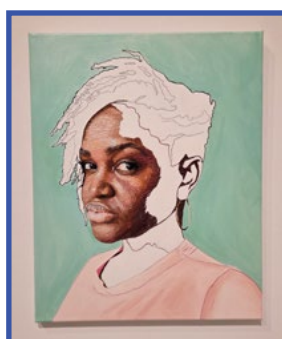
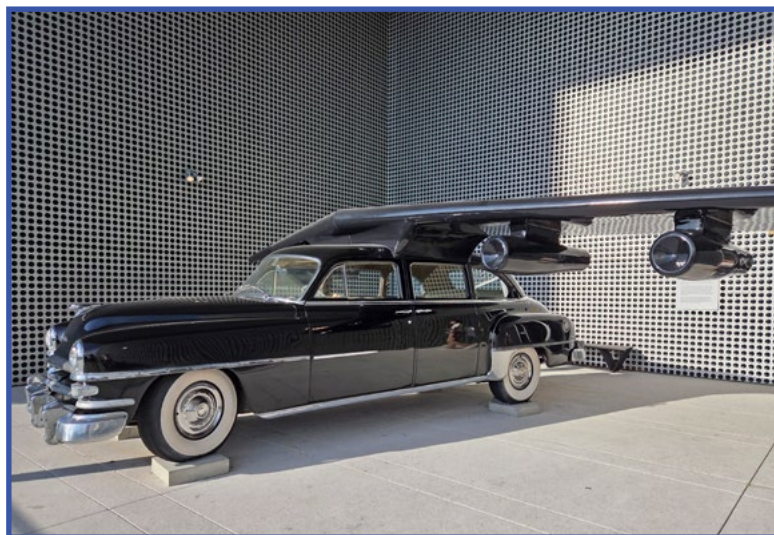
All locations subject to change.

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

July Art Outing Photos • Tampa Museum of Art

Join us for the fun!

See page 2



STUFF TO DO AT CJT THIS SUMMER

Summer activities include art lessons and a variety of interesting classes offered at **Creative Junk Therapy, 772 West Lumsden Rd., Brandon 33511**. For dates, times, and class costs take a look at their current course offering: <https://www.creativejunktherapy.org/our-events>.

Creative Junk Therapy continues to be a valued member and contributor to BLFA. We thank Karen Koseck for her support! For questions contact CJT at (813) 324-9777 during business hours Tuesday through Sunday.

SYMPHONY OF COLOR SHOW WRAP-UP

Total expenses for prizes, judge, refreshments, printer costs and other: \$732.54

Total income from sponsor money and entry fees: \$1,155.00

Total profit: \$422.46



June Meeting Photos



June Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2026

Michele Young (MY) opened the meeting at 6:45 pm, welcomed members and guests. She reviewed the League's "Symphony of Color" successful exhibit and reported the League took in \$785 in fees, which is before expenses, not the net profit. MY reported Center Place did not charge the League for holding the exhibit in their Phillip K. Mook Gallery. Per MY, the League did make money on this exhibit.

The BLFA account balance is \$4,568.87.

Recently reported in the June newsletter, MY mentioned that David Bodo (DB) has stepped down from League President due to his increased work load. MY introduced the current Board of Directors – Charlotte DeMolay (CD) former Vice President, now League President, herself as Treasurer and Carol Stebbins (CS) Secretary.

MY explained the July Art Outing plan to meet at the Tampa Art Museum on Thursday, July 2, no later than 6:30 pm. The museum will be open until 8 pm, a donation request instead of their usual \$25 entry fee is requested. Parking information can be found on the museum website <https://TampaMuseum.org>.

CS introduced the evening's guest visitor Manisha Rao (MR), who visited Center Place during the exhibit and expressed interest in receiving the newsletter and attending a meeting. CS advised MR shared photos of her art works, which includes paintings, sculpture. MR advised her preferred paint medium is acrylic, among other choices.

MY then introduced CD, who will conduct the evening's print-making workshop. CD provided an overview of print making history and artists over centuries, and explained the three printing styles she has provided all materials for, including ink and paper, brayers and drawing implements.

Members enjoyed refreshments and fresh watermelon provided by Judy and Doug Steinburg while they experimented with the printing styles. After the workshop, members assisted with clean-up and replacing tables and chairs in the meeting room, in compliance with St. Andrews' room rental agreement.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm.

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Jennifer's Studio



BRONZE SPONSORS

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

Order Your BLFA Fundraiser Tee!

Please email BLFABrandon@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

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YOUTH L

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ADULT S

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ADULT M

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ADULT L

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ADULT XL

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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
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

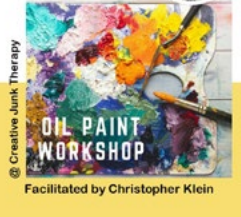
\$15 per session or
\$56 for 4 sessions

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 Bodo and Carolyn Siebert

