



PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

April 2026 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 67 / Issue 4

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

During this month's meeting:

The activity for BLFA's April meeting on the 20th will be "Draw and Pass." We will supply sketch pads and pencils (or other) and present a beautiful photo projected on the wall.

Members, you are invited to bring your medium of choice (not requiring a drying time, please!) to work on the drawings.

Each artist will draw something from the photo for 2 minutes. Then each person will pass the art/sketchbook on to the person to the left of them, receiving the person on their right's art and add to it for 2 minutes, and so on (for about 30 minutes). Each artwork in each sketchbook will be a combination of all the artists' work and all will sign each drawing.

April Membership Meeting

Guests are always welcome!

Join us on

Monday, April 20, 2025, 6:30 pm

St. Andrews United Methodist Church
in the Family Life Center, Room 304
3325 South Bryan Road in Brandon



Members, we are getting familiar with the St. Andrews Methodist Church grounds parking lots and Family Center after our first meeting at this location. The grounds and Family Center facility meeting room is equipped with folding tables and chairs, and conveniently located restrooms.

To assist you in finding adjacent parking, please use the Bryan Road entrance to park close to the **Family Center front door (up the steps)** which will be the **only unlocked door to access our meeting room.**

To use the ramp, which leads to the front door, there is another parking lot on the opposite (east) side of the Family Center which allows you to park close to ramp access. If you need assistance please let us know by calling or texting (813) 390-4551. We have been notified the church maintains security by automatically locking the front door after allowing time for everyone to show up. **Running a bit late? Text or call (813) 390-4551 to gain quick access. There will be a sign on the door with this information at every meeting.**



Hyde Park Village

UPCOMING ART OUTINGS

Join us for a fun and relaxed in-person meetup as we sketch on location at **Hyde Park Village on Saturday, May 2nd at 10 am** located at 1602 W. Swann Ave. in Tampa. Hyde Park Village, in Tampa's historic district, offers a mix of architecture, retail and dining. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist, this is the perfect chance to get creative and spend some time outdoors with others who enjoy art.

Bring your sketchbook and favorite art supplies or a camera, and meet us at the fountain, a central landmark for the area located in the center square (or Village Circle) of the shopping district, surrounded by outdoor seating and shops. All ages and abilities are welcome. Be on the lookout for people with Brandon League of Fine Arts T-Shirts, which are easy to spot. Hope to see you there!

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

June - USF Contemporary Art Museum (Free)

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 if you have any questions.

Letter from the President

Looking for a good subject for your next artwork? Here are what some call "The Big 8" and why they matter...

Nature: Trees, leaves and organic patterns are perfect for ink, watercolor or digital.

Human Form: The possibilities are endless using faces, hands and the human figure.

Animals: Go from naturally accurate to stylized and fantasy oriented. Feel the energy of a family pet or a mythical beast.

Everyday Objects: Work out perspective and spatial reasoning while elevating a simple object to something thought provoking.

Architecture: Lofty cityscapes and quiet corners of a space can offer a story, no matter how epic or mundane.

Fantasy: Blend the real with imagined... personal, cultural and allegory show the ultimate in things being symbolic.

Abstract: No rules, just emotions and ideas. Develop a visual language and spark of reflection.



Still Life: A plate of fruit, a collection of odds and ends make for great color theory and a cool or warm mood.

There you go... now let's begin!

Thank you,

David Bodo, President
Brandon League of Fine Arts
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)



Symphony of Color

The Brandon League of Fine Arts (BLFA) invites Florida artists to submit work for our judged exhibition at Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association. Sponsored by Music Showcase, Brandon's full-line music store offering instrument sales, rentals and a comprehensive music school. This exhibit celebrates the composition and rhythm of visual media.

The exhibition runs for two weeks at Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association. Please note the public viewing schedule:

Public Viewing: May 21-23. The first three days of the exhibit are open to the general public.

Private Viewing: May 24-June 2. For the remainder of the two-week duration, the gallery will be available exclusively to guests attending private events at Center Place.

Virtual Show: June 3-30. Following the physical exhibit, artists may opt-in to have their work showcased in our virtual gallery on the BLFA website through the end of June.

Continued on page 4.

Symphony of Color

Continued from page 3.

Important Dates

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Artwork Drop-off: Wednesday, May 20, 2-7 pm

Exhibition Dates: May 21 through June 2, 2026

Artists Reception and Awards Ceremony: Friday, May 22, 6-8 pm

Artwork Pick-up: Wednesday, June 3, 2-7 pm

All the information including Artist Entry Requirements can be found on our website: brandonleaguefinearts.com



**BLFA MEMBERS
NEEDING PHOTO
SUBMISSION HELP**

Guy Learn has offered his expertise to BLFA members needing technical assistance taking photos for their Symphony of Color Exhibit. For more information, e-mail Guy at archerguy@rocketmail.com

March Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2026

David Bodo (DB) opened the League's first meeting in the St. Andrews Methodist Church Family Center, Room 302 at 6:35 PM, welcomed guests and visitors. Beth Smedley (BS) attended the meeting, one of our former BLFA Presidents.

We welcomed a new member! Lauren Saslow joined after attending two previous Art Outing events. She is a welcome addition to our club!

DB reminded members of the upcoming May Exhibit "Symphony of Color" to be held at Center Place, Brandon, FL Public Viewing May 20, - May 23; with continued exhibit through the end of May. After a review of details for members, DB answered questions from members and guests.

DB offered to assist any member that needed help photographing their art work for exhibit entry.

Charlotte DeMolay (CD) added additional information, referencing the online entry form as well as a printable form which can be downloaded, printed and submitted to our mailbox or brought to a Member's Meeting. CD referenced the opportunity for artists work to be displayed on the BLFA website virtual gallery through the end of June as an incentive to join the League as a member.

During Bonnie Phillips' (BP) SHOW AND TELL event she spoke to members about her recent 'Junk Journal' project in which she compiled personal family history in a scrapbook format. She referenced her last year's SHOW AND TELL, where she displayed the scrapbook and spoke about her parents' careers in the circus. Member Mary Hadden (MH) recalled attending that meeting last year, advised she was intrigued enough to search online for more information.

CD conducted the evening's event, lectured members on her impressive thirty years of careers which always involved a creative element, and business ventures selling her art work. Giving members specific examples of improving an artist's online presence, as well as enhancing exhibited works to engage the art patron's interest, she will provide BLFA members with a copy of her presentation.

Carol Stebbins (CS) mentioned CD's detailed presentation last year of Print On Demand (POD) which processes online purchases of artists' works, handles sales tax and other business services. CD confirmed this information can be sent out upon request.

CS mentioned next month's meeting workshop will engage the group in timed drawings of the same image, passing their sketch pad to their neighbor, then continuing their drawing on the sketch pad passed to them, adding to the previous member's sketch. At the end of the exercise, all who participated will sign all the drawings. BLFA will provide the sketch pads, members are asked to bring their preferred media to work on the drawing.

Guy Learn (GL) brought his Word Play painting to pass around, which was of a frog on a lily pad. Members admired the work, which was painted on wood in vivid colors. DB and Roxanne Tobaison (RT) mentioned they both forgot to bring their Word Play drawings. It was agreed the Word Play exercise will be part of upcoming meetings.

CS asked members if they had suggestions for improving the new meeting space. RT suggested the tables should be moved apart for the next meeting. Another suggestion was to bring a fan to improve circulation in the room, and a small table to hold the refreshments.

Members enjoyed refreshments during the presentation, thanks to Judy and Doug Steinbarger for bringing fresh strawberries and a dip.

DB adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

May Membership Meeting

to be held at

Center Place

on

Friday, May 22, 2026

6 to 9 pm

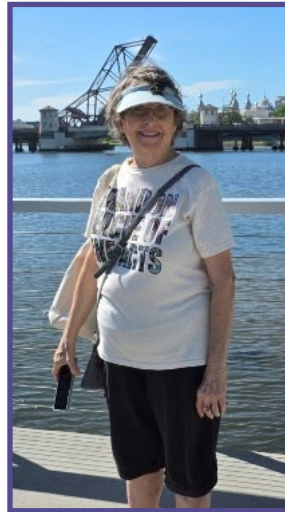
This is one-time change. The June 15 Membership Meeting will return to St. Andrews in Brandon.

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 when we announce the winners, award prizes of \$200 first place, \$125 second place, \$75 third place, honorable mention; and applaud the winner of the Music Showplace Sponsor Award.



April Art Outing Photos • Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park *Join us for the fun!*

See page 2



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

Order Your BLFA Fundraiser Tee!

Please contact David Bodo (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

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

