



PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

December 2025 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 66 / Issue 12

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

December MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Guests are always welcome!

Join us on

Monday, December 8, 2025, 6:30 pm

Creative Junk Therapy • 772 W. Lumsden Road



The Holiday Party is on Monday, December 8, 6:30 pm at Creative Junk Therapy. This will be our only member get together in December. There is no third Monday meeting.

Please contribute treats and snacks to share with the group. The BLFA traditional gift 'exchange' is a crowd pleaser, and lots of laughs. Each participant brings a wrapped gift, something you would enjoy receiving. No gag gifts. A gift value guideline is \$15 - \$20. Get ready for the swapping to begin!

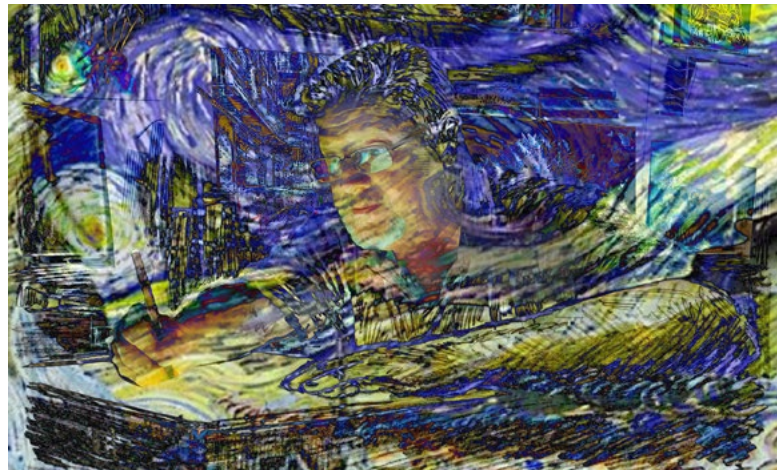


Letter from the President

I've been reading about an artist from some time ago. He was passionate, but his art just would not garner attention. He sent some to his more business-minded brother, who attempted but could not get anyone interested. Sadly, the artist passed away and soon after the brother also died.

So then the story, while tragic, gets very amazing. The brother's widow took a liking to the art and also the letters the artist had sent to her husband. Within the pages she found moments of hope, fear, and apprehension. The letters included moments of deep thoughts on the art he was creating and what was going through his mind as these works came to life.

She published the letters revealing the thought process and emotions that poured out of this unknown talent, with all the raw feelings as he tried desperately to convey what was going through his tormented mind. The publication drew great curiosity, and the public clamored to see the visual incarnation of this man's grief and expectation.



The rest is history ... you may have seen a few of his works. His name was Vincent Van Gogh... Though his works are estimated to be worth about \$10 billion today, the great stories behind them all kept his vision from disappearing into history in some lonely dark attic.

Tell us a story about yours, the world wants to know.

David Bodo, President

Brandon League of Fine Arts

bodoartworks@gmail.com

UPCOMING ART OUTINGS

The BLFA January Art Outing will be at Oxford Exchange on Saturday, January 3rd at 10:00 am. We will meet inside the shop located at 420 W. Kennedy Blvd. in Tampa. There are places to park on the street, but usually with a fee. Oxford Exchange is a restaurant, bookstore, lifestyle gift store, co-working space, design studio and event venue. It has cozy places to sit, (and restrooms) and you can get a warm beverage while you draw or sketch. Join us to celebrate the new year!

If you have any questions, please email Michele Young at MicheleYoungArt@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead... 1st Saturday of the month:

February - Tampa Museum of Art - Art on the House (Thursday evening - TBA)

March - Tampa Thai Palm River Temple grounds only (Possible Thai brunch)

April - Cypress Point Park/Beach Tampa
**All locations subject to change*

CJT has our **Parade of Lights** on **December 13** at **5:30 pm** if anyone would like to attend or participate. We are creating a 25' trailer into a Gingerbread house and candy land. We need help building and would like people to ride and create. Contact Karen at Creativejunktherapy@outlook.com for details.

The Florida State Fair is coming February 5-16, 2026. Website for entry:

<https://floridastatefair.com/competitions/>

- **Entry Form Deadline:** Dec. 5, 2025
- **Late Entry Form Deadline:** Dec. 6-12, 2025 (extra charges apply)
- **Deliver Your Entry to the Fair:** Jan. 7-8, 2026 (11am-3pm), Jan. 9, 2026 (11 am to 6 pm) or Jan. 10, 2026 (10 am to 4 pm)
- **Pick Up your Entry at the Fair:** Feb. 17-20, 2026 (11 am to 3 pm) or Feb. 21, 2026 (10 am to 2 pm)
- **Categories:** Painting (Oil & Water Media), Drawing, Pen & Ink & Pastel, Digital Art, 2D & 3D Mixed Media, & Sculpture

Strawberry Festival is Feb. 26-March 8, 2026

<https://flstrawberryfestival.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2021-Art-Show-RULES-ENTRY.pdf>

Gasparilla Feb. 28-March 1 <https://gasparillaarts.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

Photography Guy Learn
Membership Carol Stebbins
Community Outreach Jennifer Milone
Art Outings /
Sponsorship Chair 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!

GOLD SPONSORS



Thank you
to our
generous
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

November Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2025

David Bodo (DB) opened the meeting at 6:33 and welcomed guests and visitors. DB solicited member purchases for T-shirts to sponsor BLFA projects can be ordered in all sizes. Jennifer Milone (JM) displayed the front and back panels of her BLFA T-shirt for the group.

DB reviewed the upcoming BLFA exhibit in December, mentioned local Bloomingdale High school art students will be competing in their own category. Exhibit Chairperson Guy Learn (GL) provided additional details, mentioned if an artist would like to make special arrangements to submit their work, contact GL at BLFABrandon@gmail.com.

Carol Stebbins (CS) advised members of monthly opportunities for Show and Tell in 2026, asked anyone interested to email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with preferred month. Two members at each meeting can present. If time is available, Word Play art works, including a brief description of the word inspiration are eligible. The 50/50 raffle was won by the evening's special guest presenter, Daniel Disgdierтт (DG,) who donated his winnings to the League. (Thank you for your donation, DG!)

DB conducted the annual BLFA election of the Board of Directors, introduced each position and incumbent, DB, President, GL, Vice President, Karen Koseck (KK) Treasurer, Carol Stebbins (CS) Secretary. All current Board members were re-elected by a show of hands to the 2026 Board.

DB introduced the evening's main event, speaker DG, artist. DG displayed three original paintings plus additional art works on the flat screen TV. Each painting was accompanied by DG's personal remembrances and history of his upbringing on Key West to the appreciation of the members, who applauded with enthusiasm.

Beverages and the many snacks generously contributed by members were appreciated by all.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 PM



November Meeting Presentation

Daniel Disgdierтт displayed some of his relief wood carvings. He shared stories and how he goes about creating his art.



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





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 Bado and Carolyn Siebert

FREE

4th Friday Monthly 5-7pm

Storyteller meetup collaborating resources, ideas, stories and images

