



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!](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com)

— GOLD SPONSORS —



Thank you
to our
generous
sponsors!

— SILVER SPONSORS —



Jennifer's Studio



— BRONZE SPONSORS —

Book Corner Tampa Bay



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 Disgdiertt (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 Disgdiertt 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 Robinson

Book Corner Tampa Bay



Elite
Occurrences

BRONZE SPONSORS



PERSPECTIVES

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



Drawing Beginners and Beyond

4th Saturday 3-6pm
\$25 per session or 4 for \$80

Explore different drawing
mediums with new
subjects each class

Hosted by Chris Klein



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

Kids Drawing Develop Your Vision

3rd Wednesday 5-7pm
\$10 per session or 4 for \$35

Kids learn basic drawing
techniques and develop
their skill and style

Hosted by Chris Klein



Ages 9-14

Art and Soul Collage

\$35 - Supplies included

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



© Creative Junk Therapy

Instructed by Lois Miller

Watercolor Open Studio

\$25 BYO Supplies
\$5 supplies included

Learn watercolor
concepts, techniques
and develop your skills.

Instructed by Roxanne



© Creative Junk Therapy

Beyond Basic Watercolor

\$25 Per Person
BYO Supplies

Ongoing class for painters
who want to go beyond the
basics of watercolor.



Instructed by Roxanne Tobaison

© Creative Junk Therapy

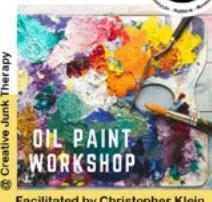
Oil Painting

\$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

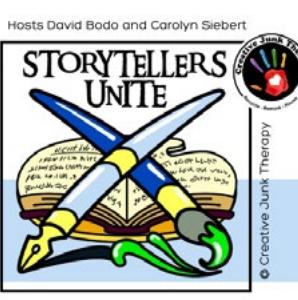
© Creative Junk Therapy

Beginner Watercolors



© Creative Junk Therapy
Facilitated by Roxanne Tobaison

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



© Creative Junk Therapy

Storytellers Unite

FREE

4th Friday Monthly 5-7pm

Storyteller meetup
collaborating resources,
ideas, stories and images