



July 2022 Director's Report

We are starting our second half of our year this July. The monthlong Celebrating Artists of Color/Juneteenth celebration has come to a conclusion after many successful events. Board member Angela Young did a great job coordinating the events along with the NAACP chair Adrienne D'Sousa. It took many meetings and lots of coordinating efforts to bring things together. We had activities for kids, such as the Hip Hop competition, vendors set up in the Pump House selling their wares, food trucks, and a large tent set up to feature our showcased activities and speakers. Very successful!

Our July show's opening, The Art of Gerry Enrico, went well, but was limited in that the first Thursday of the month also is the Date of the Rotary project downtown that featured a wing fest, a beer truck, and live music. We still had over 50 people show up for our event. Our sponsor was the Bryant "Beans" Butt Memorial Fund. Gerry also showed up early that day and held a workshop. This was organized by our volunteer Bev Reilly. We had 10 participants and the workshop was held from 10-3. Gerry indicated he was willing to come back and do another!

At present, we have ongoing a class for Carver Community Center students. Our instructor for this is Cheri Noel, another board member and volunteer. She had 18 students in her first class! The class is funded by a grant written by Vicki Pritchard, another board member. It is designed to serve underprivileged children and introduce them to art. Cheri is a retired art teacher and is perfect for the job.

Board member and volunteer Alice Reynolds has just submitted a grant to the Ohio Arts Council to fund all of our show for next year. It will also get us on rotation to receive additional monies in the future. If we are funded for three years in a row, we can then ask for monies to help us with our operating expenses and future payroll needs.

Volunteer Bev Reilly, our program coordinator, has completed our calendar for 2023 and is working on 2024 at present. Our goal is to continue to bring exciting art shows to the area and offer southern Ohio a venue to enjoy art from local artists, part of our mission. Gary Bucy is our artist for August. He creates LEGO art that hangs on the wall as well as some beautifully created local buildings that sit on tables, such as the Ross County Court House and our own Pump House.

Our exterior painting will finish up hopefully in July, weather cooperating of course. Rain has been a problem. This is being paid for from the Schaefer Foundation grant for \$10,000. All of the gutter trim, doors, and windows have been painted. There is still some work to do on the copula and the tower to complete and then we are done!

I am very proud of the work our board is doing along with our volunteers. Every one stays busy and keeps the Pump House vibrant and meaningful.

