

Village Council



December 6, 2023



**CENTERS FOR THE ARTS
BONITA SPRINGS**



The Art League

1960

The Art League was founded with 15 members and one teacher

1996

- 9.3 acres became available at the intersection of Old 41 and Imperial Harbor Boulevard.
- The League purchased two commercial acres for \$280,000.
- Through the generosity of the property owners, two additional commercial acres and 4.8 acres of nature preserve valued at \$408,000 were gifted to the Art League



The Art League

1999

Art League Bonita Springs is officially founded as a non-profit organization with the mission of promoting the visual arts in the Bonita Springs community.

2000

Phase I Grand Opening Celebration, April 9, 2000

2002

Grand Opening Celebration in November for Phase II Buildings



2008

Art League Partners with Promenade to expand performance series

2009

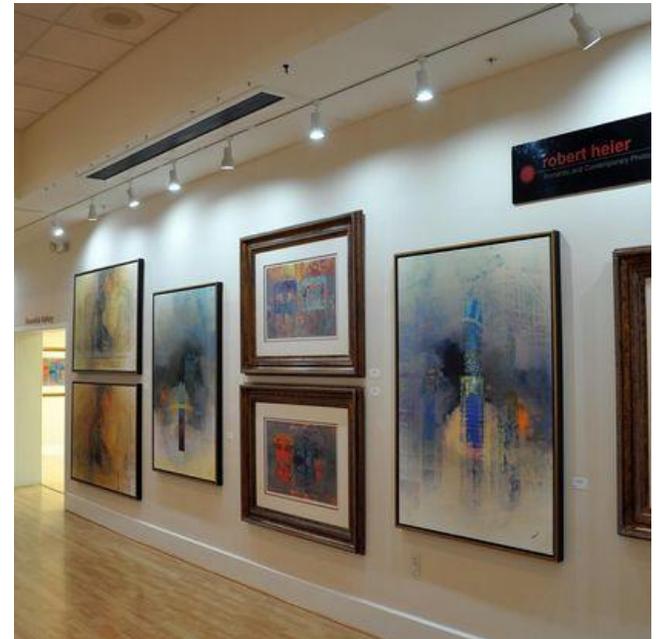
Art League of Bonita Springs Changes its name to Center for the Arts Bonita Springs

Visual Art Center

The Visual Arts Center, 26100 Old 41 Road

- 10-acre, four-building campus
- Multiple fine art galleries
- Fully equipped art studios
- Gift shop
- Beautiful sculpture garden
- Nature preserve

Over 600 classes are offered annually, including painting, drawing, clay, sculpture, glass, mixed media, and more. This center offers an ever-changing lineup of unique art exhibitions and other special events.



2014

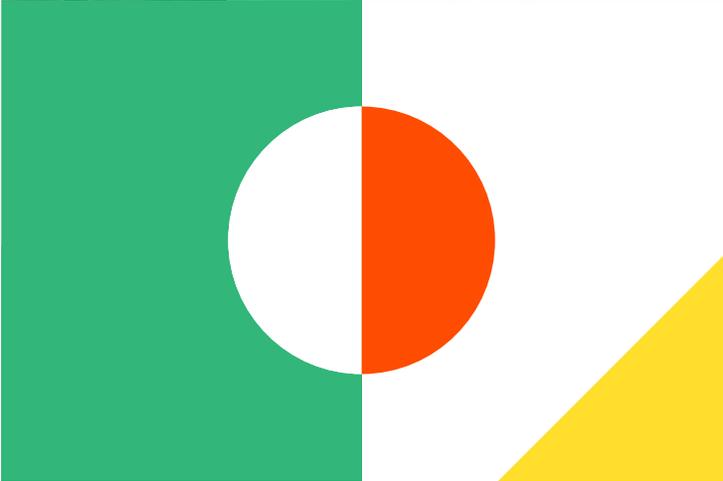


Center for the Arts Bonita Springs

- Center for the Arts finalizes purchase of Living WatersChurch.
- It begins programming on site, sharing the campus initially for eight months, then occupying all spaces at the newly named Bonita Springs Performing Arts Center campus.
- features the 400-seat Hinman Auditorium
- 200-seat Moe Auditorium and Film Center.
- Offers a diverse array of
 - live music
 - theatre
 - comedy
 - film
 - lectures
 - Open-Mic Bonita

National Arts Festivals

We hosts three fine arts and crafts festivals each year in January, February, and March, featuring over 200 artists, both national and global, to showcase their work in one of the top-rated USA Juried events.



2023



NATIONAL SEARCH

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN 24 YEARS

After an extensive executive search process led by a team of experts from Arts Consulting Group and a committee of board members, the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs announced that Alyona Ushe has been selected as the new executive director.

Ushe started her tenure on May 15, 2023

- Founded Classika-Synetic Theater in the Washington DC Metro area received over \$600,000 from US Department of Education for outreach programs which were praised on the Floor of House of Representatives.
- In South Florida, as President/CEO of Creative City Collaborative, she grew the organizational budget to over \$4 million, founded the critically acclaimed Arts Garage in Delray Beach, won a highly competitive bid in Pompano Beach to revitalize, program, and operate a 3,000-seat dormant amphitheater and to open a new \$20 million Cultural Center.
- She was also the executive director of the New Orleans Opera Association and St. Lucie Cultural Alliance.

Arts Bonita

ESTABLISHING A VIBRANT AND DISTINCT CULTURAL DESTINATION NESTLED BETWEEN NAPLES AND FT. MYERS.



- **More than just two campuses**
- **Cultural & Community:** Fostering community, social interaction, and a sense of belonging
- **Building bridges** and collaboration with municipalities and civic, social, and educational organizations
- **Fostering a Cultural Renaissance** for the development of a distinct creative identity

1



Supporting our regional artists through Arts Bonita Residency Program

- Crazy talented artist in SWFL
- Incubate: provide space and marketing support
- Not just "anywhere USA," but an authentic, genuine, and uniquely crafted destination of our own
- Current Resident Artists from Estero include Gulfshore Opera

2



Art Walks

- Community Gathering
- Economic Impact
- Cultural Vibrancy
- Activation of Public Spaces
- Civic Pride
- Quality of Life

3



Festival

- Local Talent
- Jazz / FGCU
- Blues
- Country
- Art Festivals
- Art of Mindfulness

4



Education

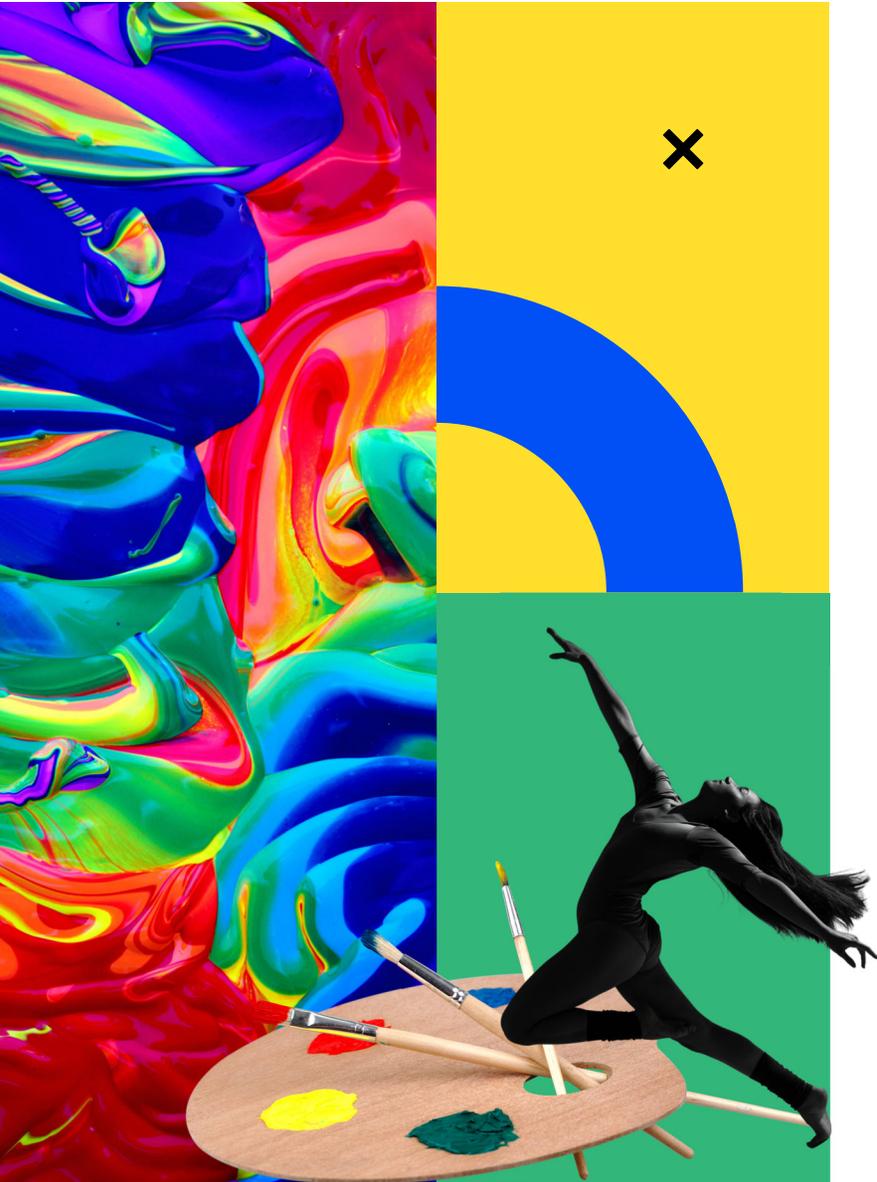
- Creativity and Innovation
- Cognitive Development
- Self-Expression
- Confidence Building
- Emotional Intelligence
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- Academic Performance
- Conservation Through Arts

Bonita

Estero

**Arts
Music
Theatre
Creative
A Cultural Destination**





Thank you!

**ARTS
bonita**

artsbonnita.org
239-495-8989