



EASTERN SHORE ART CENTER

ART CHANGING LIVES



**Annual Report
2025-2026**

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*Cover Artwork: NEW Gift Shop Renovation!

MISSION

The mission of the Eastern Shore Art Center is to connect people of all ages and abilities with the arts through education, exhibitions and outreach activities.

The Association was founded over 70 years ago by art patrons who recognized the importance of art to a community. The ESAA received its 501-(C)3 non-profit status in 1958. The Art Center is owned by the Eastern Shore Art Association and is overseen by its Board of Directors.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2025/26 season was an exciting year of new beginnings with our closure and reopening of the galleries after doing some extensive remodeling to improve the experience for people with physical disabilities. As part of this work, we were also able to reconfigure our gift shop to be more accessible to everyone. We are thankful to our project underwriters – The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Hearin-Chandler Foundation as well as our designers, Walcott, Adams,

Vernueille Architects and construction managers – Klarman & Day. We are very happy with the results.

We continue to expand and stretch our facility to accommodate more classes and students in our Academy program. It has been highly successful and continues to be a role model in both the amount and type of classes offered. We are very proud of this program. The Exhibits that we were able to get in around the construction were very well received and attended. Much of the work we show reflects the beauty that surrounds us here on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.

We have continued to be excited by the response to the myriad of programs we have provided all over southwestern Alabama. From Atmore/Brewton south through Bay Minette and Mobile, we have covered a lot of the area. Our continuing relationship with USA Children's and Women's Hospital has been a special source of pride for us. We are happy to be able to bring some art, color and light to people dealing with some of the darkest times of their lives. We consider it a privilege.

We are proud of our collaborations with the Fairhope Public Library to offer art classes there and with FEEF, City of Fairhope, Fairhope High School and Pelican's Nest Science Lab to create the Storm Drain Project – 5 storm drain murals created by Fairhope High School students.

Our fundraisers, Corks, Casks and Canvas and the Spring Homes Tour continue to be wonderful, fun and exciting events for the Eastern Shore. Additionally, our Outdoor Art Show and Plein Air Fairhope have been extremely successful and well attended. Since our reopening, our First Friday celebrations have averaged well over 500 people with the initial reopening hosting just shy of 900. We are proud of all these events that more closely connect us to the community.

We continue to be gratified by our impact on the Eastern Shore and throughout southwestern Alabama. We are looking forward to our newest collaboration coming next year with the Monroe County Hospital, Old Courthouse Museum and multiple civic groups in Monroeville. We appreciate all the support we have received for all our mission driven efforts. Our donors and members help make much of our work possible.

Pelham Pearce

ESAC Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As we complete our 74th year and stand on the doorstep of our 75th anniversary, I am honored to reflect on a year of remarkable momentum, generosity, and creativity at the Eastern Shore Art Center.

This past year, our signature fundraisers returned stronger than ever, deepening community support for our programming while welcoming new friends to the Art Center. Our second annual Corks, Casks & Canvas, held October 25, 2025, once again paired fine art with fine wine, bourbon, and premium cigars, with lively silent and live auctions benefiting ESAC programming. In April, our second Spring Homes Tour opened with an unforgettable Cocktail Party at Anne-Clinton and Garriff Roberts' beautiful Barn on April 10, followed the next day by a tour of five stunning Fairhope homes, each with its own story to tell in design, art, and beauty. We are deeply grateful to our chairs, sponsors, and the gracious homeowners who made these events possible.

The Academy continued its extraordinary trajectory, with classes, camps, and workshops in painting, pottery, sculpture, and digital arts operating at or near capacity throughout the year — a testament to both the demand for arts education in our community and the excellence of our instructors and phenomenal staff who orchestrate it all.

We are also profoundly thankful for the grant support received this year. In December 2025, ESAC was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to support our Exhibit, Outreach, and Academy programs, helping us keep the arts accessible across Baldwin and Mobile counties. In April 2026, the Council awarded us an additional \$14,000 Creative Places Arts Facilities Grant, which — joined by a generous gift from the Hearin/Chandler Foundation and a match from the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation — will enhance ADA compliance and update our studio lighting. We also received welcome support from the Community Foundation of South Alabama for our outreach efforts, and we celebrated the completion of our renovated lobby and expanded Gift Shop, which greeted visitors with a fresh face this season.

One of the true highlights of the year was the 7th Annual Plein Air Fairhope, held November 3–8, 2025. All 60 artist spots sold out within days of registration opening, and painters from across the Southeast set up their easels from the downtown streets to the bay front pier. The resulting works were displayed and sold at ESAC through December 20, 2025, anchoring one of our most successful exhibits of the year.

And in March, the 54th Annual Outdoor Art Show, held in conjunction with the Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival on March 20–22, 2026, once again drew artists and hundreds of thousands of visitors from across the country to our corner of the Eastern Shore. And this year we were blessed with wonderful weather.

Through our Community Outreach Program and Rural Outreach Initiative, we continued to bring meaningful art experiences to schools, libraries, hospitals, and community organizations throughout the region, making good on our promise to bring art to those who can't easily come to us.

As I pass the gavel, I do so with excitement and confidence for what lies ahead: next year, the Eastern Shore Art Center celebrates its 75th anniversary. Seventy-five years of art changing lives on the Eastern Shore is a milestone worthy of a true celebration, and I have every confidence that the coming year will be our most memorable yet.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Board President. To our dedicated board members, our director and staff, and the artists, donors, sponsors, members, and volunteers who make this institution what it is — thank you. Your generosity nurtures creativity, expands access, and forges meaningful experiences throughout our community and beyond. I look forward to celebrating our diamond anniversary alongside all of you.

Thomas C Myers MD
ESAC Board President 2025–2026

FACILITY



Special Thanks to the Fairhope Cycling Project and Pro Cycle Fairhope for our new Bike Racks!

In FY 25/26, ESAC continued to serve as a hub for creativity and inspiration. While the artists have provided the "vibe", ESAC and our league of partners continue to provide the following:

- Brand new Gift Shop with increased retail space and storage built by Klarman + Day
- Cool, breezy galleries thanks to two new HVAC systems and updates thanks to Mallard Air Conditioning
- Shelter from the rain and Alabama Sun thanks to roof patching and restoration via Thomas Roofing
- Termite Free Studios and Galleries thanks to Arrow Inspection
- Beautiful Landscaping and Irrigation thanks to Harold Lawn and Landscaping
- Clay Free pipes and high functioning grinder pumps thanks to On Time Services

GIFT SHOP



Thanks to grant funding from Alabama State Council on the Arts and matching funds from the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, we were able to completely renovate our Gift Shop AND create an additional ADA compliant bathroom on the top floor!

ESAC Galleries closed during the summer for renovations and when the doors reopened in early September, the Gift Shop had its grand opening on First Friday Art Walk, October 3.

20+ local artists, both new artists and veterans, helped fill our shelves with unique items from ceramics to soaps, paintings to homemade journals.

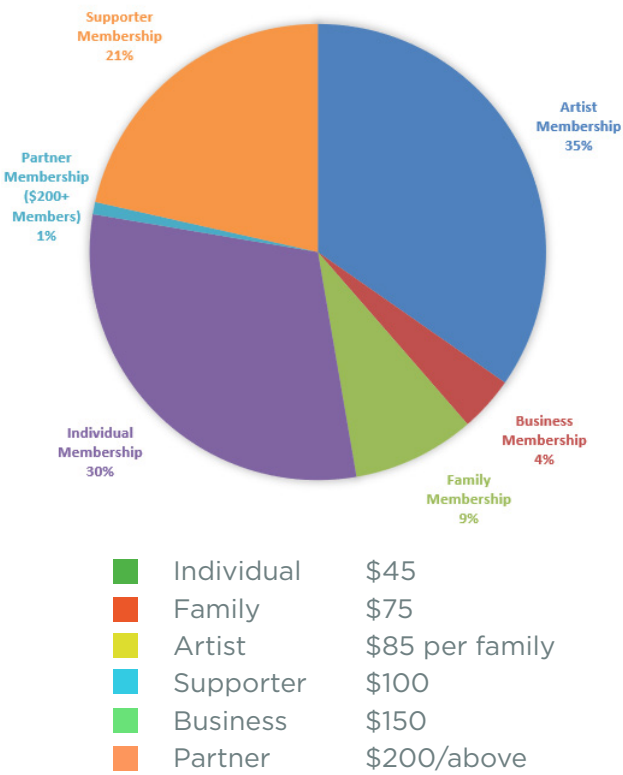
Our shop remains available for Artist-level members and higher to showcase their works for sale.



MEMBERSHIP

With the rising growth not only in the population of Baldwin County, but also within our member base, the Eastern Shore Art Center began searching for the perfect member and donor software that would help us navigate the surge of art patrons.

For fiscal year 2026/2027, we will launch our new member and donor software, Neon One. While it's exciting for staff because of its reporting and data-sorting capabilities, it will also let members be more involved in their footprint with the Eastern Shore Art Center. Members and Donors will be able to create their own logins and see their profile with us. This will show their current membership status and donation history and allow members to post profile pictures and update their contact information.



VOLUNTEERS AT ESAC



Volunteers are integral to the success of the Art Center and demonstrate its community support. Volunteers staff the front desk, help with classes and field trips, assist with special fundraising events and serve on the Center's many committees.

21 Front Desk Volunteers this fiscal year
81 Special Event Volunteers

- First Fridays, Outdoor Art Show, Spring Homes Tour, etc.

Volunteer Shoutout to Priscilla Royster! Thank you for making every Art Walk and OAS Judge's Lunch fabulous. We appreciate all of your support for ESAC, and our patrons' stomachs do too!

Volunteer Shoutout to Sandy Lowe and Margaret Boynton! Thank you, ladies, for stepping up to the plate and helping the staff with all of our Member Exhibit drop-offs. We couldn't do this without the wonderful coordination you two bring!

This year we said happy retirement to two beloved volunteers of ESAC!

Ms. Betty Bowdoin, we love you and appreciate the years of serving the ESAC Gift Shop during Art Walks, and now it is time for you to take a Friday night off. (Pictured above with Margie Gewirtz)

Dee K. Donaldson, thank you for keeping the Art and About scene alive and thriving with new artists. You helped ESAC offer a new avenue for exhibition in our community!

MARKETING



The Art Center continually focuses on improving communication vehicles to create a greater top-of-mind awareness of all its initiatives and activities to the general public, stakeholders, members and media. Special thanks to Fox10 News for continuing to allow ESAC staff and Board Members on air to discuss events on a regular basis!

Towards the end of the fiscal year, the ESAC team began plans of implementing a new membership platform and connection to a new website!



RENTALS



Facility rentals mainly occur after hours in the galleries and studios, including rehearsal dinners, wedding receptions, holiday parties, corporate meetings, etc. Additional fees pertain to requested gallery closures. ESAC does provide assistance to non-profit organizations in our community for a nominal fee.

Rental options:

- Wilson and Woolley Combo: \$950
- Whiting Gallery Only: \$1,050
- Whiting and Courtyard Combo: \$1,150
- Upper Gallery Rental: \$1,350
- Full Center Rental: \$1650

Hosted 13 private events, raising \$7,642.50 total in FY 25/26!
This was lower than our previous year due to Gift Shop construction.

Local organizations and businesses hosted:

- Eastern Shore Chamber of Music
- Junior Auxiliary of the Eastern Shore
- Eastern Shore Camera Club
- Fairhope Film Festival
- Why Not Knights Mardi Gras Association
- Baldwin County Democrats

ACADEMY

102

Total
Classes

904

Total Class
Students

54

Total
Workshops

467

Total Workshop
Students

6 Weeks of Summer Art Camp
featuring 30 camps

372 Students!

TOTAL STUDENTS: 1743

Mediums featured in FY 25/26:

Screenwriting

Digital Illustration and Animation

Digital Photography

Watercolors

Pastels

Drawing

Oils

Acrylics

Gouache

Encaustics

Ceramics

Glassblowing

Bookbinding

Felting

Batik

Botanical Printmaking

Woodburning

Creative Writing

\$281,963

Total Tuition

\$119,862

Instructor Payout



OUTREACH

The Community Outreach Program is overseen by its Director Lindsey Lawrence and strives to make art accessible to everyone regardless of ability or disability, providing students of all ages with opportunities for meaningful art experiences. Programs in the past year featured site visits, field trips, performances, expos, and more.

Major Projects in FY 25/26:

USA Health Children's and Women's – Regular Class Act visits expanded to the Hope Infusion Unit
202 students impacted / Sponsored by USA Health and underwriting from 68 ventures

Fairhope Public Library Partnership - Free programming provided twice a week. Funding provided by the Library's Community Foundation of South Alabama Grant. Continuing an abridged version of this program into 2027!

Storm Drain Project - Funding provided by the Fairhope Educational Enrichment Foundation to bring the Storm Drain Project to life. 5 storm drain murals were created by Fairhope High School Students around the downtown area. Collaboration with: FEEF, City of Fairhope, Fairhope High School, Pelican's Nest Science Lab.

Looking Ahead: Project Planning for Monroeville County Hospital. Funding provided by the Smith Foundation.

New Programming:

Mess Makers Society has continued to grow in development and popularity – Now free of charge to students thanks to funding provided by Poarch Band of Creek Indians!





Community Outreach made possible through these generous grants:

*Community Foundation of South Alabama
Daniel Foundation of Alabama
M. W. Smith Jr. Foundation
Sybil & White Smith Foundation
J. L. Bedsole Foundation
MAPP Family Foundation
R. C. Craft Family Foundation
Poarch Band of Creek Indians*

\$60,000

Total in Outreach Grant Funding

Additional funding from Field Trips:

Students impacted – 321 / \$2,845
Fairhope West Elementary School
J Larry Newton Elementary School
Eastern Shore Homeschoolers
Altapointe
UMS- Wright
Belforest Elementary School

Professional Development for BCBE teachers
Impact – 15 teachers / \$1000

Girl Scout Workshops
Impact – 45 students / \$170

Total Funding: \$3,915



EXHIBITS

The Art Center has six galleries and our diverse exhibits change every two months, featuring local, regional and nationally recognized artists.

Exhibits:

Leigh Ann Edmonds

Jane Newman

ESAC Adult Student Show

Fairhope Signature Artists

Community Outreach Exhibit in collaboration
with USA Health

Eastern Shore Camera Club

Plein Air Fairhope

Members' Open Show

Permanent Collection

Featuring work by:

Herman Bischoff

Pinky Bass and Friends

Members' Juried Show

Morris Family

Mobile Watercolor Society

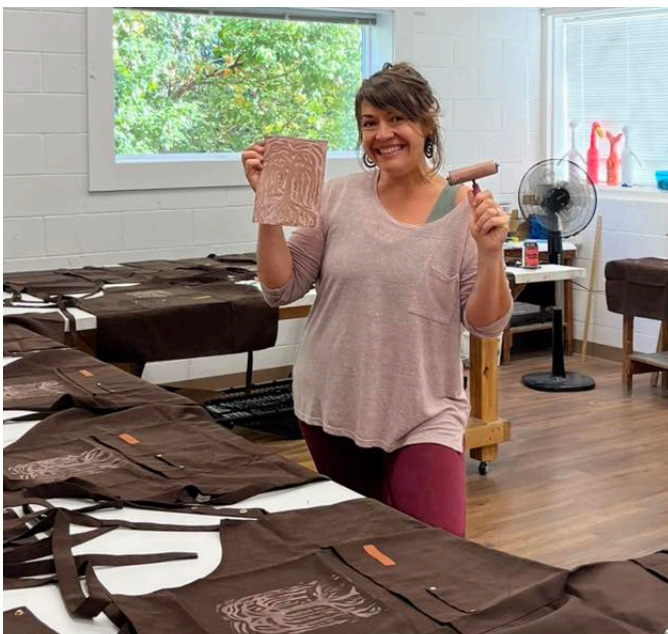


Pottery on the Eastern Shore of Mobile

History, Traditions, & Techniques

Exhibit curated by Zach Sierke

[Travelled to Poarch Creek Indians Museum &
Welcome Center]



\$15K

Total Sold in Artwork in Plein Air Fairhope





Monthly First Friday Art Walks:

On the first Friday of each month the Art Center welcomes about 500-600 visitors free of charge for the exhibit openings. Visitors are treated to refreshments, art and live music made possible by generous sponsorships from local businesses. Our Night Art Mart geared to young emerging artists proved successful and set up quarterly.



ESAC Outdoor Art Show:

The 54th Annual Outdoor Art Show, in conjunction with the Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival, wowed over 250,000 visitors. Held on the third weekend in March, the show has included prestigious, international and regional fine art artists.



Corks, Casks, and Canvas

This inaugural fundraiser held November 2025 was led by Chairs Jack and Patti Burrell. The Bourbon and Wine Tasting event raised \$33,682 for ESAC programming through ticket sales and art auctions.



Plein Air Fairhope

In its 8th year, artists from around the Southeast region are clamoring for 60 spots in this outdoor painting event and exhibit. All spaces were sold within one week and it has been ESAC's highest grossing exhibit.

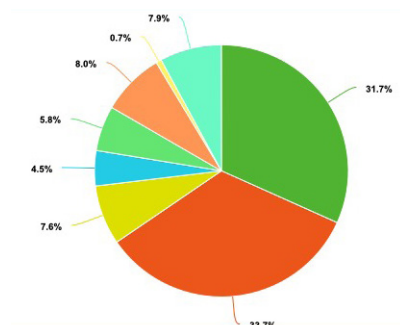
ESAC Spring Homes Tour

Chairs Linda Lou Parsons and Sharon Dearing provided leadership in its second year. Thank you to Anne-Clinton and Garriff Roberts for sponsoring the Kickoff Cocktail Party and all our homeowners who provided access to their beautiful properties. A total of \$18,000 was fundraised!



GROSS REVENUES/EXPENSES 2025-2026

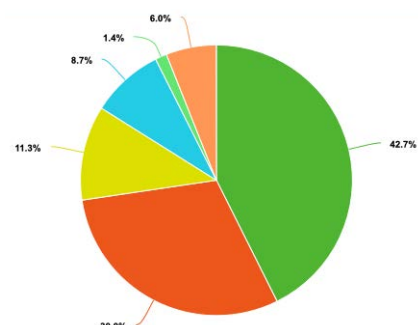
INCOME



- Contributions: \$260,143.32
- Tuition: \$276,139.46
- Special Events: \$62,614.38
- Exhibits: \$37,094.73
- Membership: \$47,395.10
- Retail Sales/Rentals: \$65,845.69
- Interest: \$5,774.94
- Outreach: \$64,506.34

TOTAL INCOME \$819,514.06

EXPENSES



- Admin: \$346,765.11
- Academy: \$243,876.62
- Exhibits: \$91,860.88
- Outreach: \$70,589.37
- Bank & Processing Fees: \$11,152.84
- Misc: \$48,765.34

TOTAL EXPENSE \$813,010.60

GRANTS & SUPPORTERS

\$20,000 +

Alabama State Council on the Arts
City of Fairhope
Gaye P. Lindsey

\$10,000+

Community Foundation of South Alabama
Daniel Foundation of Alabama
Hearin/Chandler Foundation
M. W. Smith Jr. Foundation
Sybil and White Smith Foundation

\$5,000 +

J. L. Bedsole Foundation
MAPP Foundation
Tom and Becky Myers
Jim and Pam Prestwood
RJJB Family Foundation
Schmidt & Barton Family Fund

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Cathy and James Adams
Jack and Patti Burrell
CK Collection
R. C. Craft Family Foundation
John A. Ebner
Lany Simmons
Poarch Creek Band of Creek Indians
Tamara's Downtown

Continued on next page >>>

The Eastern Shore Art Association received its tax-exempt status under IRS section 501-(c)(3) in 1958. Since that time it has never been revoked or modified. All gifts and grants are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

GRANTS & SUPPORTERS (Continued...)

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Alabama Power Foundation
The Barkin Family Fund
Bass & Company LLC
Allison Beard
Ann Brooks
Robert A. Brown
Cardiology Associates
Century Bank
The Citizen's Bank
Coastal Stone Works Inc.
Miles and Virginia Cook
BJ Cooper
Cottages of Fairhope
Sara Demott
Winky and Bill Dowdle
Lad Drago State Farm Insurance
Fairhope Title Services

Fox 10
Garden Design Solutions
Hargrove Foundation
Jetmundsen Foundation
Jennifer Jenkins
Rick Kingrea
Little Bird
Walt Massey Automotive Group
Michael and Margaret Neely
Prestwood Law Firm
Johnny Prewitt
Rance Reehl
68 Ventures
Julie Shamburger
TCB Coastal Banking
George Talbot
Trustmark

\$500 - \$999

Jen Achee
Alabama Credit Union
Ashurst & Niemeyer
Barbara Bayer
Julio Beaton
Blue Heron Realty
Rena and Gene Bouchillon
Rebecca Canale
Fran Coet
In honor of Beth Coward
Randall Davis
Torrey DeKeyser
Fairhope Fit & Trim
Kim Garrett
Hal and Beth Greene
Sidney and Philip Hodgson
Infirmary Health

Jones Design and Construction
Natalie Jones Cheryl Kametz
Klarman and Day Contractors
Level Property Management Group
Walt Massey Automotive
Morgan Stanley - The Radcliff Schatzman Group
Origin Bank
Pelham Pearce
SBC Properties
68 Ventures
Sneed insurance
Abby Stimpson
Brad & Peri Summersell
Walcott, Adams, Verneuille Architects
Walmart
Wilkins, Bankester, Biles & Wynne
Bryant and Patrick Whelan
Lynn and Cori Yonge

\$250 - \$499

Terry Barkin
Terry Bassett
Louis and Moren Braswell
Cathy Brumback
Brian Douglas Cheshire

Chilly's
Martha Crenshaw
The Fairhope Inn
James Frater
Lee & Caroline Herron
John & Susan Leach

Maloney Hospitality/ Jubilee Suites
Lisette Norman
Susan Perrine
Jim and Valery Smith
Mary Ellen Stewart

\$100 - \$249

Debi and Bob Attorri
Daphne Utilities
Jimmie J. Duet
Jayne and Dick Edge
Eusebia Fink
Sherry Stimpson Frost
Rodney L. Henderson

Timothy Houseman
Myra Koch
Willie and Johnny Lyle
Carolyn Mayo
Eleanor Mauritsen
Allen and Kimi Oaks Press & Co.
Robert & Elsie Pritchard
Rayza's

Riviera Utilities
Alan Rothfeder
Margaret Sellers
Stephen Savage
Larry Sims
Spencer Smith
David and Maria Spies
Ricky Trione

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EASTERN SHORE ART CENTER

ART CHANGING LIVES



BOARD OFFICERS

Thomas C. Myers, M.D., President
 Natalie Jones, Vice-President
 Gin Duncan, Secretary
 Buddy Russell, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Dearing
 Katie Sneed
 Gia Wiggins
 Joshua Rachal
 Jimmy Prestwood

Patti Burrell
 Brent Barkin
 Jennifer Jenkins
 Kim Garrett
 Beth Thomas

STAFF

Pelham Pearce, *Executive Director*
 Adrienne Clow, *Exhibits/Marketing Director*
 Reanna Watson, *Academy Director*
 Kayla Dean, *Admin Specialist*
 Petra Dinardo, *Bookkeeper*
 Lindsey Lawrence, *Community Outreach Director*



LAST LOOK BACK ON THE YEAR: PORTRAITS OF HOPE

This collaborative project came to us via the City of Fairhope in April 2026 and was founded by brothers Bernie and Ed Massey. Works that were created at ESAC to be displayed at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on The National Mall to celebrate America's 250th!

We are honored to have been part of this program.



EASTERN SHORE ART CENTER

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Fairhope, Alabama 36532

251.928.2228

<https://esartcenter.org>