



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



Dear FAN Members,

Happy Spring! I hope you have all been enjoying this beautiful season and the many arts activities offered in Miami this year. Our Cultural Camaraderies have been well-attended and well-reviewed by our attendees. Our social get-togethers have been lively good fun, and the FAN luncheons in January and March offered fascinating programs. The grant screening program is underway and will be prepared for voting in time to award all grants at our [Annual Membership Meeting and Grants Award Luncheon on April 29th](#). Thanks to all of you who do the work to make FAN a highly impactful organization.



Of course, there is nothing constant but change. In this FAN election year, we are saying good-bye to several valued officers and directors who have served on the board for the maximum time allowed by our bylaws. Fortunately, these amazing individuals have all committed to staying involved in FAN's many activities, so we are not really losing them.

Sydney Carpel and **Betty Fleming** first served together as Membership Co-VPs; Sydney then moved to Treasurer and Betty to Secretary. They both performed their official tasks admirably while also finding time to host Cultural Camaraderies and Members Only events.

Amy Pollack has been a highly effective Nominating Committee chair who has worked tirelessly to fill the board with smart, friendly officers and directors.

Laura Raiffe, director-at-large, has not yet termed out but is stepping down to devote more time to her young family.

On behalf of all our board and membership, we are deeply grateful to you all for your dedication to our mission.

Remember, everyone, our members are FAN's ambassadors. Follow our **Instagram** and **Facebook** and "like" and especially, **share** our posts. Bring friends to our events and talk about the good we do in the community. As you know, membership dues represent most of our grant pool, so growing our grants requires growing our membership. It's a no-brainer, really; who wouldn't like to "meet friends to support the arts?"

I hope to see many of you at the remaining **FAN events** this season. In the meantime, be well and long live the arts in Miami!

Best wishes,

Jackie

Jackie Kamin
FAN President 2023-2025



PROGRAMS

Alan Mason & Meredith Porte, Co-VPs

HEALING POWER OF THE ARTS

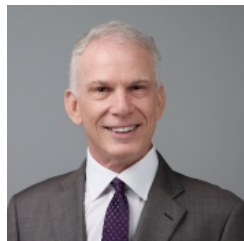
The theme of FAN's March luncheon program, produced by FAN member **Meredith Porte**, was "The Healing Power of the Arts." FAN members and their guests heard from four South Floridians who have long been committed to helping others heal through their ongoing work using art, music, writing and dance as an integral part for healing and promoting well-being.



Moderated by FAN member and community builder **Thea Goldman**, attendees were treated to an engaging, interactive afternoon with: Jared Bistrong, Director and Founder, South Beach Sound Healing Orchestra; Amanda Keeley, Multi-disciplinary Artist and Founder, Exile Books; Alexa Lash, Singer, Songwriter and Musicians on Call Volunteer; and Ana Padron Martin, Arts in Medicine Specialist, Miami Cancer Institute.



The highlight of the event was a demonstrative performance by South Beach Healing Orchestra along with Alexa Lash, which treated FAN members to a very special health and healing experience.



Alan Mason
Co-VP of Programs



Meredith Porte
Co-VP of Programs

GRANTS

Terry Kaplan & Tish Richardson, Co-VPs

GRANT SCREENINGS

There was outstanding turnout for the screener kick-off meetings for FAN's four disciplines: Dance, Music, Theater and Visual Arts. FAN received 53 applications for the 2025-2026 grants season and 47 of the applicants made it to the next step.



At the kick-off meetings, screeners learned about the grants process, screener responsibilities, and resources available to enable the process. Everyone was receptive and enthusiastic. Immediately after the meetings, site visits began and went extremely well.



NEW: COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

We are very excited about the new **Community Impact Grants**, which all FAN members will have the opportunity to vote on this year. To qualify, applicants must offer the program to the Miami-Dade community at large, and it must be free. This is a chance for us to see what organizations are doing to make an impact in their community and for FAN members to decide whether to reward that activity with a Community Impact Award. We will award four grants of \$5,000 each.

SAVE THE DATE / REGISTER NOW

We're looking forward to the **Awards Luncheon on April 29**, where we will celebrate all the FAN Grantees and enjoy an afternoon of camaraderie with Grantees, Members, and Guests.



Finally, in keeping with our mission of providing financial support to the Miami-Dade arts community, we have already disbursed funds to over 20 high quality arts organizations for the previous (2024-2025) grant year.



Terry Kaplan
Co-VP of Grants



Tish Richardson
Co-VP of Grants

MEMBERSHIP

Sara Adler & Audrey Weiner, Co-VPs

MARCH MINI ORIENTATION

As has become our custom, immediately before our spring luncheon, we conducted a mini orientation. This provides an opportunity for members who are unable to attend our annual November orientation to have a refresher about the benefits of FAN and ways in which they can become involved. As always, it also provided an opportunity for FAN members to get to know each other.





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: A NEW, STREAMLINED APPROACH

As our exciting FAN season draws to a close later this spring, we will be changing how membership renewals are handled. Many of you will recall that beginning in April of each year, we send out our first (of many) requests for you to renew your FAN membership. There is often confusion about...When is my membership due? When does the FAN year begin? Can I pay at calendar year end?

Like most other organizations, our new and improved process will bill for your FAN membership corresponding to your FAN anniversary date. An example to help explain this is, if you joined or renewed your FAN membership on August 15, 2024:

One month in advance of your August 15 anniversary date, you will receive a reminder that your membership will expire on August 15, 2025. This reminder will come in an email, with a "button" that will direct you to the FAN website renewal section. Renewals can be done online or by check, consistent with past practice. If you have not renewed by August 15, another reminder will be sent by email.

Also, memberships processed online through [your Dashboard](#) now offer the option to **AUTO-RENEW**, which will make the renewal process much easier going forward.

Memberships have a 30-day grace period, during which you will be considered "a member in good standing." FYI: for members who are no longer "in good standing," ability to attend members-only events, participate in committees, vote for grants and board positions and be included in the FAN Member Directory will be impacted.

Another detail: this year, renewal notices for those who paid for their renewal anytime in April, May or June of 2024, your renewal date will be considered July 1, 2025, which corresponds to our previous billing system.

In addition, anyone who has joined in 2025 will have their anniversary date correspond to the date that they joined. For example, if you joined on January 10, 2025, your anniversary date and the date of your renewal will be January 10, 2026.

Should you have any questions or suggestions, please be in touch with either of us. Thank you for your flexibility.

Sara Adler, sadler@adlergroup.com

Audrey Weiner, aud20b@gmail.com



Sara Adler
Co-VP of Membership



Audrey Weiner
Co-VP of Membership

DEVELOPMENT

Jane Gullong & Terri Mason, Co-VPs

In an effort to realize the Development Committee's mission, to increase support for the Miami-Dade arts community, we brainstorm toward developing activities such as **"House Parties,"** intended for membership retention and recruitment.



Feedback for the three house parties we had this January, in various neighborhoods, was outstanding! Here's just one of many testimonials:

"I loved meeting in a more intimate setting and really getting to know other FAN members. It was a great day, and the friend who I invited had such a good time, she is joining FAN."

Please let us know if you would like to host (or co-host with a neighbor) next season!



We hope to make our Member Directory a stronger tool for creating a FAN community. By having your photo in [FAN's online directory](#), members can scroll, recognize each other after meeting at a party or event, get an email address and connect! It's easy!



Just send your photo to admin@fundingartsnetwork.org (Subject: Photo) and Debbie Hirshson will upload it. Or, you can add it yourself, on [your Dashboard profile](#). A headshot is preferable, but we can crop to fit. If your photo already appears, please ignore this request.

We are an active committee and welcome new Development Committee members and ideas! Our current members include: **Jane Gullong** and **Terri Mason**, Co-chairs; **Denise Courshon Weisberg**, **Joan de Pontet**, and **Suzanne Kahanovitz**. Please contact **Jane Gullong** at jane.gullong@gmail.com if you would like to join us or have suggestions or ideas.



Jane Gullong
Co-VP of Development



Terri Mason
Co-VP of Development

CULTURAL CAMARADERIES

Lisa Block & Helaine Ohayon

Such a great season of Cultural Camaraderies, all partially funded by FAN. Since our last newsletter, we've mingled and enjoyed: Dranoff 2's "West African Beats: One Song," Miami Jewish Film Festival's "Once Upon a Time in Algeria," Miami New Drama's "Mad Dog," Florida Grand Opera's "The Elixir of Love," Miami City Ballet's "Winter Mix," Miami Light Project's "Arms Around

America," and Seraphic Fire's "Enlightenment Festival V." Next up, on March 23, Zoetic Stage's "Fiddler on the Roof."



We hope you'll join us and invite friends (and prospective members) to see and hear the very best of Miami's cultural scene.



You'll find all of the latest details [here on our calendar](#).



Lisa Block
Cultural Camaraderie Co-Director



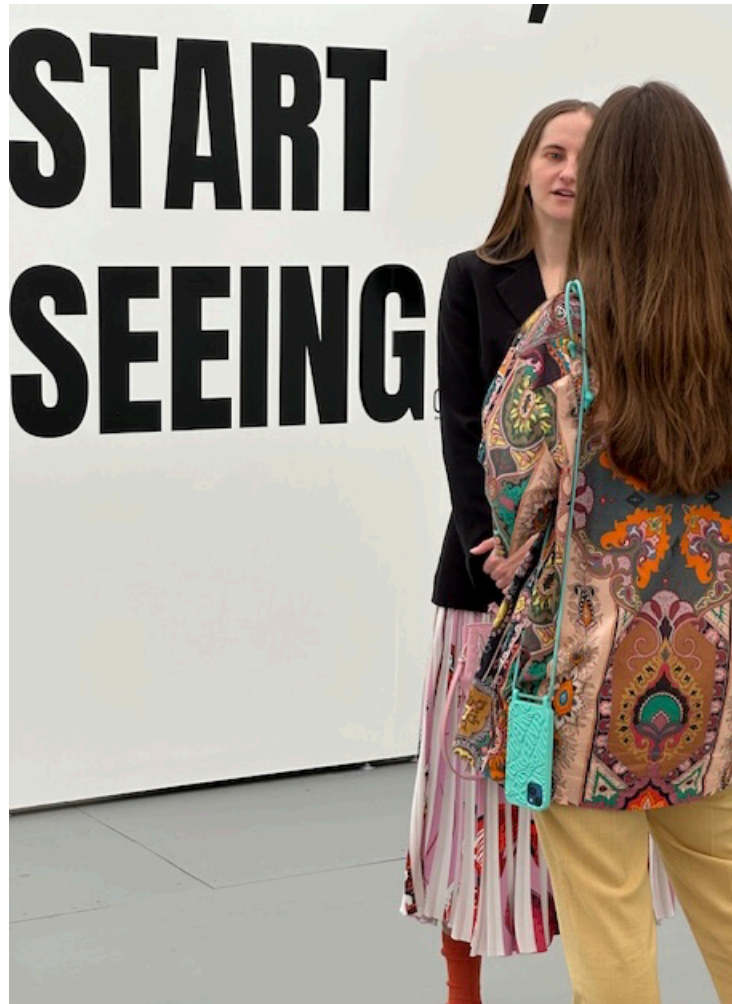
Helaine Ohayon
Cultural Camaraderie Co-Director

COMMUNICATIONS

Robin Regensburg, VP

PLEASE SHARE

The 2024-2025 FAN season has been a celebration of creativity, connection, and generosity. We'd love to see your perspective! When you attend upcoming and future FAN happenings, please take a few photos and send them to VPCommunications@fundingartsnetwork.org.



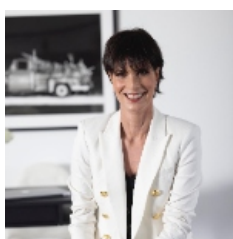
Let's keep FAN's cultural momentum going. You can help by chatting about FAN with people you meet, sharing this newsletter with a friend, spreading the word on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), sending people to our [website](#), and inviting others to experience our events, gatherings, and celebrations. Together, we can grow our community and keep arts thriving in Miami-Dade.



Robin Regensburg

VP of Communications

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Thea Goldman

Thank you for taking time out of your busy real estate practice to do this interview. Speaking of real estate, you were a pioneer in the Wynwood Arts District. What inspired you to go there?

I loved Wynwood from the first moment I saw it, the combination of industrial warehouses and art galleries, and the incredible mix of people made it all so compelling for me.

At about the same time, you founded the organization, “The Women of Wynwood.” Can you tell us about that group?

I had founded and co-chaired the Wynwood Arts District Association and headed up the Clean Streets committee. Working with the women business owners in Wynwood, we created a program that hired women from the Lotus House Shelter to be ambassadors on the streets of Wynwood and keep Wynwood clean. The first woman I hired, Glendina Roseborough, is still taking care of Wynwood today - fifteen years later! Glendina has her own episode on my show, Glendina Roseborough: The Woman of Wynwood.

That sounds interesting. Can you tell us more about your show?

*My podcast, Thea’s Neighborhood Magic, is a behind-the-scenes look at what really goes into igniting a neighborhood. For example, to bring attention to overlooked parts of Miami, I opened restaurants; I was the first in Wynwood and the first in Allapattah. On the show, I speak with other pioneers and risk-takers like legendary art dealer and FAN member **Bernice Steinbaum**, who moved her prestigious New York City gallery to Wynwood when it was just a fledgling arts district. Bernice helped put Wynwood on the map.*

What other organizations are especially meaningful to you?

FAN is truly meaningful and important to me. I've never met so many great people that I have things in common with through one organization. I'm very grateful to FAN.

With these and so many other accomplishments, what are you most proud of?

Oh easy - my son Jake. Being his mom is the greatest privilege of my life!

Can you tell us something about yourself that most people don't know?

I've been a model, lived in London, Paris, Tokyo and NYC, and I'm a three-time cancer survivor!



Michelle Lowes

How did you learn about FAN and what motivated you to become a member?

*I met **Rachel Blechman**, a past president of FAN, at a Brickell Literary Society luncheon. Rachel introduced me to FAN and encouraged me to join. I wanted to learn more about the arts in Miami and thought this would be a great way to contribute, especially in this challenging funding environment. I've been a FAN member for about three years now. During my second year, I became a grant screener and reviewed two theater programs. This year, I am a dance captain with **Paulette Mintz**.*

What would you like to tell us about your current or past work life?

I am a retired research dermatologist. For many years, I studied psoriasis at Rockefeller University in NYC. Then I worked at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, where I opened a special clinic for people with Hidradenitis Suppurativa.

Can you share a specific project, work or personal, you've been involved in, that you're particularly proud of?

I enjoyed my research years and I'm proud that I contributed to the development of new drugs for psoriasis. I'm also very proud of my work with the Hidradenitis Suppurativa Foundation.

Please tell me something most people don't know about you.

I was born in Tasmania, Australia and moved to NYC, with my husband, in 2001. I've been living in Miami for nearly three years. I am learning

Spanish and I'm enrolled in a Masters of Creative Writing program.



Stephany Ronderos

Please tell us about your involvement with other arts organizations.

I originally moved to Miami to take a role as Special Events Coordinator/Manager and liaison for Friends of NWS at New World Symphony. I spent an amazing six years getting to know donors at different levels and ages and curating special events. I'm currently involved with FAN and Beaux Arts, a 100% female-run volunteer non-profit whose mission is to encourage an understanding and appreciation of the arts in South Florida and to support the Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami.

When did you join FAN and what motivated you to join?

I became a FAN member during the summer of 2023. When I began working at NWS, I became aware of bigger art organizations such as Arsht, Bass Museum, PAMM, etc., in Miami. I thought those organizations were it! But when FAN hosted a rehearsal and lunch event at NWS, I met lovely members who spoke passionately about what FAN does. I have always loved different forms of art, and I loved the mission. So, it was a no-brainer!

What have you most enjoyed or been involved with vis-à-vis FAN?

I love getting to know our members and making new friends and learning about different art organizations and experiencing a variety of programs. There are so many happenings in Miami, it's easy to miss a great performance or exhibition. But through FAN's Cultural Camaraderies and events calendar, I keep up with shows I love to catch!

*So far, I've participated in the grant process by being a Dance screener my first year. For the past two years I've been co-captain for the Music discipline. **Tish Richardson** and **Terry Kaplan** have been doing a wonderful job making the process simpler each year, getting screeners excited, and awarding grants to well-deserved programs. We, FAN, are doing something wonderful and important for the art community and I love it!*

Can you tell us something about yourself that most people don't already know?

I was born in the States, spent my first three years in Chicago, and went to Seoul, South Korea for my father's job until I was 11. We returned to a

suburb of Chicago and at that time my first language was Korean, but I picked up English in about 1.5 years. I can speak, read and write fluent Korean. Oftentimes I catch myself thinking in Korean but speaking in English. I studied classical flute!

Can you share a specific project or work of which you are particularly proud?

I'm most excited to work on bringing new members into FAN. I think we are doing something so important; it will be even more fun when we have more members to share that with. The more the merrier!



Lisa Rosenberg

Please tell us about your involvement with other arts organizations.

I toured and taught K-12 students and was also a visitors' guide at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. I was also a museum educator on staff at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. At the beautiful Daniel Libeskind building in SF, I taught and toured school groups and the public.

When did you join FAN and what motivated you to join?

*I only recently moved to Miami with my husband. A dear friend immediately introduced me to FAN and invited me to a luncheon. The community was very welcoming, and **Terry Kaplan** moderated a terrific presentation: "Artists in Residencies." I was delighted by the concept of Cultural Camaraderies as a way to connect with like-minded individuals, and the grant making structure of FAN's work is so impressive. What a wonderful way to not only engage with the arts, but also to make a direct and positive community impact.*

As a new resident of Miami, what are your first impressions of Miami-Dade Arts?

Miami has far exceeded my (already high) expectations as an amazingly vibrant, diverse and engaging community that celebrates and supports a vast array of visual and performing arts, not only established, but also emerging. I'm very excited about all the opportunities I will be afforded by living here.

Can you tell us something about yourself that most people don't already know?

I can read upside down and backwards.

Can you share a specific project or work of which you are particularly proud?

I sat on the Art Advisory Committee of the Jewish Home for the Aged in San Francisco, now the Frank Residences. We were charged with selecting the visual art for the Dementia Wing. It was a fascinating experience, not as easy or aesthetically straightforward as one would think. There was much to learn about what was beneficial and therapeutic and what was not. I'm very proud of what we ultimately accomplished.

IN MEMORIAM

We sadly announce that **Susanne Kayyali**, longtime FAN member, has passed away. Susanne supported FAN in many ways, including serving on screening committees, supporting and attending FAN membership functions and performances, introducing FAN to new persons, and hosting FAN at The Kampong, the botanical garden in Coconut Grove that her family had owned after purchasing it from David Fairchild. Susanne's mother, Catherine Sweeney, a well-known philanthropist who was keenly interested in gardening, purchased the compound in 1963 to save it from developers. It is now part of the National Tropical Botanical Garden. Susanne was also active in programs at various universities. We will miss her lovely presence.

DONATION IN TRIBUTE

Funding Arts Network acknowledges with appreciation and gratitude, the donation from FAN member **Paula Finkle**, in memory of Charlotte Winkler, beloved sister of FAN member **Rachel Blechman**.



GROVE BANK & TRUST

FAN wishes to thank Grove Bank & Trust for their generous support.

FAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*FAN is dedicated to supporting and enhancing
visual and performing arts programs in Miami-Dade County.*

Funding Arts Network offers art-focused programs; invitations to attend performances and exhibitions of FAN-funded programs; and exclusive curated cultural events organized specifically for FAN members.

Please tell a friend!

For upcoming events and information: www.fundingartsnetwork.org

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www.fundingartsnetwork.org

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visual and performing arts programs in Miami-Dade County

