



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2025

Dear FAN Members,

For nearly three decades, FAN has championed the arts in Miami-Dade County, and that's because of you. In the coming year, we will celebrate our 30th anniversary—an incredible milestone made possible by your dedication, enthusiasm, and generosity. Funding Arts Network continues to be a vital force in sustaining the cultural vibrancy of Miami-Dade, and I am deeply grateful for all that you do to advance our mission.



FAN thrives thanks to your commitment and involvement. As we look ahead to the next 30 years, I invite you to deepen your engagement—join a committee, share your ideas with our VPs, lend a hand. It's a great way to support our mission and connect with others.

As we celebrate this milestone year, help us grow: bring a friend to an event, share our story, and let's aim for 30 new members for FAN's 30th!

With gratitude and warmest wishes for a joyful summer,

Jackie

Jackie Kamin

FAN President 2023-2027



FAN LEADERSHIP

FAN Officers and Directors are pleased to welcome our new board members: **Monica Cronin** as Co-VP Grants, **Paulette Mintz** in her new board role as Secretary, **Barbara Montero** as Treasurer, and **Stephany Ronderos** as Assistant Treasurer.



Monica Cronin



Paulette Mintz



Barbara Montero



Stephany Ronderos

PROGRAMS

Alan Mason & Meredith Porte, Co-VPs



Last year's Luncheon Programs brought outstanding speakers, meaningful conversations, and wonderful moments of connection—enjoy a few highlights in the photos below!



Dr. Alan Mason and **Meredith Porte** are busily working on another season of inspiring events. Be sure and save these dates for the 2025-2026 Luncheons/Programs and please, invite a friend/prospective new member:

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 11:30am

Luncheon Program – details to come

Sunday evening, December 21, 2025, 6pm

Holiday Party, Coral Reef Yacht Club

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 11:30am

30th Anniversary Luncheon and Program

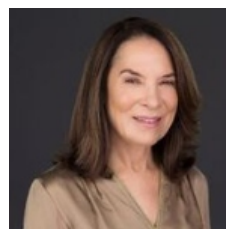
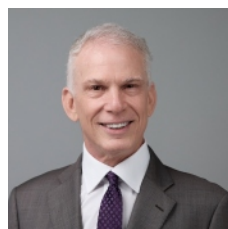
Tuesday, March 10, 2026

11am, New Members Meeting

11:30am General Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 11:30am

Annual Meeting and Grantee Awards Ceremony



Alan Mason
Co-VP of Programs

Meredith Porte
Co-VP of Programs

MEMBERSHIP

Sara Adler & Audrey Weiner, Co-VPs

A LOOK BACK—AND A LOOK AHEAD



As we ease into the quieter summer months, along with the Development Committee, we'd like to thank those of you who've introduced your friends to FAN! Our **neighborhood house parties** have become a popular and personal way for new faces to experience our mission. These gatherings create a warm, welcoming space to spark interest and connection.

Would you like to **host a house party** during the upcoming season, or do you know another member who might be interested in hosting? Just email us at vpmembership@fundingartsnetwork.org or send us a text—we'll take it from there.

TIME TO RENEW

This year, **your dues and donations enabled us to award \$250,000 to local arts organizations**. If you haven't renewed yet, now's the time! Renew online via your **Member Dashboard** or the **Membership tab**, or mail your check to:

Funding Arts Network
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 331864
Miami, FL 33233-1864

You'll receive renewal reminders on the anniversary of your join date. If you plan to pay via a Donor Advised Fund or later in the year, just let us know.

STAY INVOLVED

FAN's impact depends on you. Consider joining our **Membership Committee** (contact us at vpmembership@fundingartsnetwork.org) or our **Development**

Committee (contact jane.gullong@gmail.com). You'll get to know new people and enjoy a real sense of camaraderie. It's important! It's rewarding!

With thanks and warm wishes for a wonderful summer,



Sara Adler
Co-VP of Membership



Audrey Weiner
Co-VP of Membership

GRANTS

Monica Cronin, Terry Kaplan & Tish Richardson, Co-VPs

At the April Awards Luncheon, we celebrated outstanding programs in dance, music, theater, and visual arts. It was a joyful opportunity to connect and to honor the artists and supporters who bring the arts to life.



THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE GIVING

A spirit of generosity is the magic FAN creates, enabling our organization to award **21 grants of \$10,000 each this year**, along with **four new \$5,000 Community Impact awards**.



DANCE GRANTEES

Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, *Polovtsian Dance*

Dimensions Dance, *Summer Dances 2025*

Miami City Ballet, *Celebrating Legacy and Innovation*

Peter London Global Dance Company, *Everglades: Divine Water*



MUSIC GRANTEES

Adrienne Arsht Center, *Knight Masterworks Series*

Florida Grand Opera, *Positive Resonance*

Hued Songs, *Negritude: Music of the Black Diaspora*

New World Symphony, *Manfred Honeck and Julia Bullock*

Nu Deco Ensemble, *Michael League*

Seraphic Fire, *Jason Mac Ferdinand*

Wertheim School of Music – FIU, *Wertheim Chamber Music Series*



THEATER GRANTEES

GableStage, *Prayer for the French Republic*

M Ensemble, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*

Miami New Drama, *English Only*

Zoetic Stage, *Merrily We Roll Along*



VISUAL ARTS GRANTEES

Center for the Advance of Jewish Education, *29th Annual Jewish Film Festival*

Locust Project, *Tara Long: La Esquinita (Little Corner)*

Lowe Art Museum, *Petah Coyne: How Much a Heart Can Hold*

Miami Film Festival – MDC, *Miami Film Festival 2026*

Miami short Film Festival, *24th Annual Miami short Film Festival*

Patricia and Phillip Frost Arts Museum – FIU, *Hiromi Moneyhun: Floating Worlds*

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARDS

A highlight of the event was the introduction of our inaugural **Community Impact Award** recipients—four organizations that use the arts in powerful ways to engage underserved communities—were awarded \$5,000 each: GableStage, Miami City Ballet, Museum of Contemporary Art, and New World Symphony.

As this was our first year offering these awards, the Designated Grants Committee, led by **Harriet Gershman** and **Terri Mason**, will review the process and propose refinements to ensure we continue supporting organizations that go above and beyond to bring the arts to underserved communities.

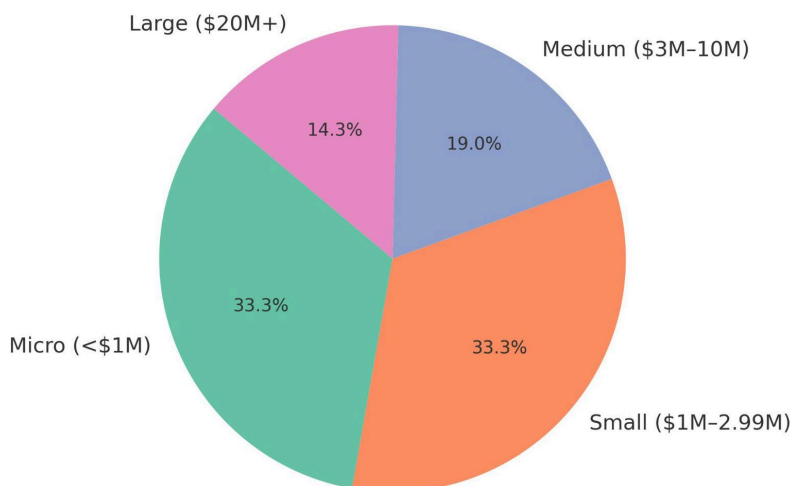
GRANTEE SNAPSHOT

The **FAN website** now features a detailed look at this year’s 21 grantees, offering insights by annual budget size, artistic discipline, and number of first-time awardees. It’s truly inspiring to see how widely FAN’s support is spread across organizations of all sizes and disciplines.

Grantees span **four budget categories**:

- Micro (under \$1 million) – 7 grantees: Arts Ballet of Florida, Dimensions Dance, Hued Songs, M Ensemble, Miami Short Film Festival, Peter London Global Dance Company, and Zoetic Stage.
- Small (\$1M–2.99M) – 7 grantees: FIU Wertheim School of Music, Frost Art Museum, GableStage, Locust Projects, Miami Film Festival, Nu Deco Ensemble, and Seraphic Fire.
- Medium (\$3M–\$10M) – 4 grantees: Florida Grand Opera, Jewish Film Festival, Lowe Museum, and Miami New Drama.
- Large (\$20M and above) – 3 grantees: Adrienne Arscht Center, Miami City Ballet, and New World Symphony.

Grantee Breakdown by Budget Category

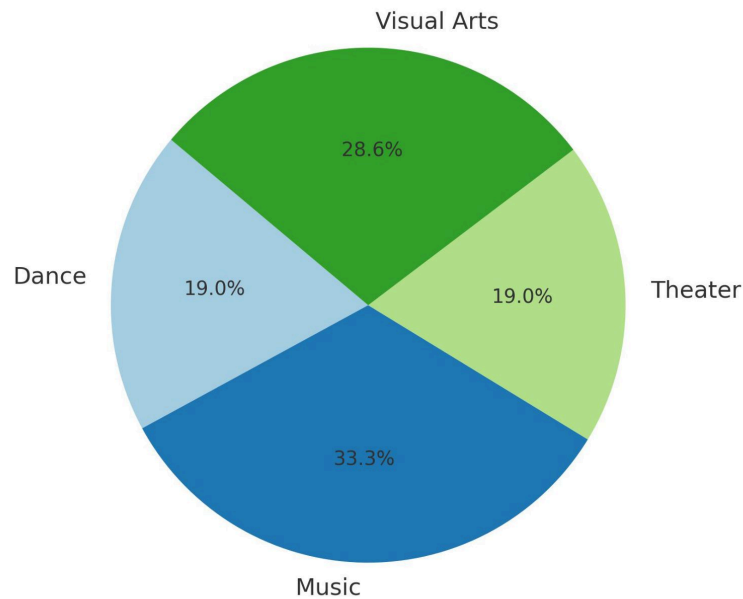


Grantee distribution by budget category, showing an even split between Micro and Small organizations, with fewer Medium and Large.

They also represent a vibrant mix of disciplines:

- Dance – 4 grantees
- Music – 7 grantees
- Theater – 4 grantees
- Visual Arts – 6 grantees

Grantee Breakdown by Arts Discipline

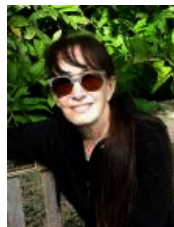


A heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in this year's screening process. As always, we welcome feedback to improve the next cycle. Planning will begin again in September with a workshop for prospective applicants, followed by application collection and the start of a new round of screening.

In the meantime, let's support this year's grantees by attending upcoming Cultural Camaraderies and experiencing their powerful work firsthand.



Monica Cronin
Co-VP of Grants



Terry Kaplan
Co-VP of Grants



Tish Richardson
Co-VP of Grants

CULTURAL CAMARADERIES

Lisa Block & Helaine Ohayon

A VIBRANT 2024-2025 SEASON

Our 2024-2025 season kicked off in July with an electrifying performance by Dimensions Dance and wrapped in June with the fiery flair of Ballet Flamenco. In between, FAN members experienced a series of unforgettable, sold-out, Cultural Camaraderies, across Miami-Dade—spanning visual arts, music, theater, and dance. These dynamic events brought us face-to-face with the creative energy of the artists and organizations we champion.



CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS OF SUMMER

FAN host **Sydney Cappel** invites members and their guests to the **Frost Art Museum (FIU)** on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 11:00am** for a captivating visit to ***Floating Worlds***, an intricate paper-cut exhibit by Japanese artist **Hiromi Moneyhun**. Experience the delicate beauty and cultural depth of this stunning installation. Visit the [FAN Events Calendar](#) for more information and to plan your visit.

Join FAN hosts **Paula Finkle** and **Judy Stopek** on **Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 8:00pm** at the **Moss Center** for a signature performance by **Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami**. Don't miss this unforgettable evening of dance and community. Full details are available on the [FAN Events Calendar](#).

WITH GRATITUDE

Huge thanks to the 18 generous members who made this season's Cultural Camaraderies possible: **Carol Blades, Sydney Cappel, Carol Damian, Betty Fleming, Paula Finkle, Leslie Genauer, Noreen Goldwasser, Hillary Hoffman, Rita Klissas, Jackie Kamin, Joanne Levite, Michelle Lowinger, Judy Mann, Letitia Richardson, Stephany Ronderos, Lida Sharlin, Judy Stopek, and Susan Weizman**. Your support brought these special events to life and helped us celebrate the arts in unforgettable ways!



Additional appreciation to **Judy Stopek**, who will help bring next season's Cultural Camaraderies to life.

Want to host a CC next season? We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to **Lisa Block** (ljamronblock@yahoo.com), **Helaine Ohayon** (hbs049@gmail.com), or **Judy Stopek** (judystoppek@gmail.com).

We look ahead with anticipation to the 2025-2026 season, which promises to be every bit as engaging and inspiring.



Lisa Block
Cultural Camaraderie Co-Director



Helaine Ohayon
Cultural Camaraderie Co-Director

MEMBERS ONLY!





Special thanks to **Thea Goldman** for hosting an inspired Members Only gathering this spring at the home and gallery of NYC transplant **Bernice Steinbaum**. These exclusive events add a whole new layer of connection and creativity to FAN membership—and we want more! **Have ideas for the next one?** We'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to sydcarpel@aol.com or betty_fleming@bellsouth.net with your suggestions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Robin Regensburg, VP

SPECIAL EVENT

On Tuesday night, October 28, FAN member **Thea Goldman** will moderate a dynamic author Q&A at Books & Books in Coral Gables. Also open to both the **Books & Books** and **Miami Book Fair** communities, this event promises to be a wonderful opportunity to spotlight FAN to a broader, arts-loving audience.

FAN will host a reception and informational table before the panel. Full details to follow in the formal invite.

STAY CONNECTED

Don't lose touch over the summer—follow FAN on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) so you don't miss exciting updates, behind-the-scenes moments, and sneak peeks of what's to come.

Planning a get-together with your FAN friends this summer? We'd love to see you! Wherever you are, please send me a photo of your gathering—I'd be thrilled to share it on FAN's social media: vpcommunications@fundingartsnetwork.org.



Robin Regensburg
VP of Communications

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Cherese Crockett

What motivated you to join FAN?

I've long admired FAN for its deep commitment to supporting the local arts community. During my time at Oolite Arts, I've seen firsthand how FAN's programming and generous grants make a real impact. Becoming a part of that mission felt like a natural next step.

What is your current role at Oolite Arts?

I've spent my entire adult life in the art world, and my journey has led me to this exciting new chapter as Interim Director of Programming. My work continues to be guided by a genuine passion for supporting artists and advancing Oolite's mission to help them create and thrive.

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

I'm a huge fan of both tennis and football! Last year, I had the amazing opportunity to attend the Paris Olympics and watch some of the world's best tennis players compete. Attending a Super Bowl is still on my bucket list. A lover of both art and sports—go figure!

Can you share a project you're particularly proud of?

One project that's especially close to my heart is the Shares membership program at Oolite Arts, which I've led since its inception. It invites local artists to create a special edition of 50 artworks—often in new mediums—and gives collectors a unique way to begin or grow a collection of Miami-based art. It's a meaningful bridge between artists and supporters, and I'm proud of the platform it provides for creative experimentation and connection.



Karen Weiner Escalera

Tell us about your background and how the arts first became part of your life?

My mother was a fiber artist and helped instill in me a love of crafts. I grew into a passionate arts fan in college, through courses in art and music history, and by going to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Barnes Foundation, and the Symphony.

Tell us about your passion for the culinary arts.

For 12 years, I've been writing miamicurated.com, a blog on food, fashion, culture and travel, and it's now the #2 food blog in Miami and #12 in Florida. Beyond enjoying fine food, I've developed a deep appreciation for the creativity in its presentation—something that's practically essential in today's top restaurants.

What is the most rewarding part of your work?

Before founding my agency, KWE Partners, I worked for Hilton International Hotels and was inspired by Conrad Hilton's belief in "World Peace through International Trade and Travel." I've always believed that travel fosters cross-cultural understanding, supports economic growth in developing countries, and offers a deeply personal sense of discovery. Experiencing new cultures and civilizations is a lifelong passion—and the most rewarding part of what I do.

Tell us something about yourself that most people don't already know.

I've always been fascinated by different cultures. At 16, I won a statewide essay contest in Delaware on the importance of the United Nations—that moment sparked a lifelong passion for global connection through travel. I once considered a career in education, which led me to accept a position as an adjunct professor of American literature and composition at the National University in Bogotá, Colombia. While living there, I traveled to Brazil, fell in love with the country, and became fluent in both Spanish and Portuguese.

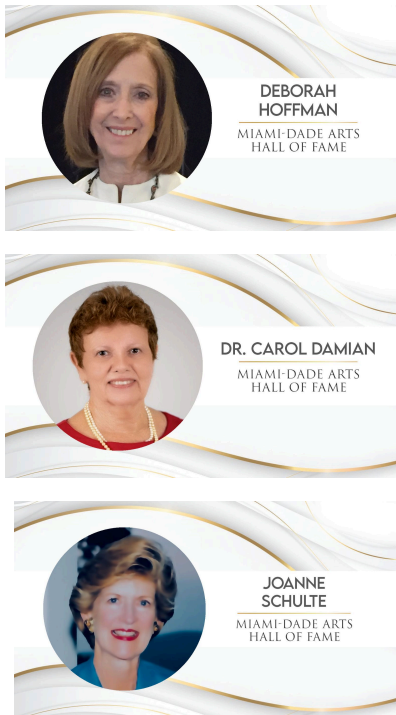
What motivated you to join FAN—and stay involved?

I've been a FAN member for about six years. I always tell friends that FAN is a unique way to support the arts—not just through financial contributions, but by experiencing some of Miami's top visual and performing arts alongside others who share that passion. Being a member means learning more about our city's cultural landscape and, as a screener, even meeting the creative leaders behind the scenes. That combination keeps me inspired and engaged year after year.

APPLAUSE

Congratulations to **Debi Hoffman, Carol Damian, and Joanne Schulte** on receiving the inaugural Hall of Fame Award—a prestigious honor presented by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Arts &

Business Council of Miami. This well-deserved recognition celebrates their leadership and commitment to supporting the arts in our community. We are proud to see them acknowledged at the highest level!



DONATIONS IN TRIBUTE

Funding Arts Network acknowledges with appreciation and gratitude these donations from FAN members:

Sydney Cappel in honor of **Joan Smith's** 90th birthday
Susan Jay in honor of **Joan Smith's** 90th birthday
Joan Smith in honor of **Debi Hoffman**



GROVE BANK & TRUST

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

FAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Jackie Kamin; Secretary, Paulette Mintz; Treasurer, Barbara Montero; Assistant Treasurer, Stephany Ronderos

Vice Presidents: Communications, Robin Regensburg; Development, Jane Gullong and Terri Mason; Grants, Monica Cronin, Terry Kaplan and Tish

**Richardson; *Membership*, Sara Adler and Audrey Weiner; *Programs*, Alan
Mason and Meredith Porte**

**Directors: Lisa Block, Linda Gassenheimer, Harriet Gershman, Denise Gerson,
Helaine Ohayon, Bobbi Ossip, David Richardson**

**Past Presidents: Terri Mason, Paula Finkle, Maureen Gragg, Rachel Blechman,
Barbara Garrett, Terry Schechter and Deborah Hoffman**

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

FUNDING ARTS NETWORK
P.O. Box 331864, Miami, FL 33233-1864
fan@fundingartsnetwork.org

www.fundingartsnetwork.org

Dedicated to supporting and enhancing
visual and performing arts programs in Miami-Dade County

