

Celebrating the Arts



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Take a dash of Southwest Florida sun, a pinch of beach sand, and a splash of an ever-developing arts scene. Stir well. Add a burgeoning population of people who love the arts and who appreciate the beauty, entertainment, and fulfillment arts bring to their lives, and you have Lee County. No longer are we the place from which you must go for arts, but rather the place to which you may go. The recipe is complete. The ingredients are measured, the mix is underway, and the results are remarkable.

How fortunate we are to live in an area where we have access to excellence in the arts! *Times of the Islands* has a long history of presenting the arts to our residents and visitors in exciting, attractive, and interesting ways, demonstrating its strong commitment to the arts in our area and revealing the efficacy of business partnerships with the arts. This is *Times of the Islands*' annual arts issue, and inside readers can find stories like "The Body as Landscape," which spotlights photographer Allan Teger's images of the human body turned landscape. Though his models are nude, Teger focuses not on erotica or sexuality but rather on the beauty and perfection of the human body, much like artists from Ancient Greece or the Italian Renaissance did.

In this issue, readers can also learn about the number of talented musicians who call Lee County home and an artist who overcame extremely challenging

circumstances. They can discover the power of music therapy, a mystery writer with local roots, and a Sanibel weaver known for her one-of-a-kind creations.

Building audiences and increasing awareness of the arts have been the primary focuses of the Alliance for the Arts for more than thirty-one years. We take great pride in our longevity, our successes, and the support we continue to receive from the community as we endeavor to provide leadership, resources, and advocacy for the arts. Through our Angels of the Arts Awards, we recognize and honor those throughout our county who make the arts thrive, including *Times of the Islands*, which received a nomination for 2007's art publication of the year.

So come, experience all the theater, dance, music, art, and culture Lee County has to offer. There is something for everyone and in every flavor imaginable, from Bach to bongos and Monet to Matlacha. All the ingredients are in place, and the feast awaits you.

Louise Senneff

Louise Senneff
Executive Director
Alliance for the Arts