

A photograph of the interior of the Gadsden Arts Center & Museum. In the foreground, a young girl with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue shirt, smiles at the camera while holding a clipboard. In the background, a group of four children (three boys and one girl) are gathered around a large, colorful portrait of a man in a red jacket, looking at it intently. The museum has white walls, wooden floors, and various art pieces displayed. The ceiling is dark with exposed pipes and lights.

Gadsden Arts CENTER & MUSEUM

Donor Progress Report January–June 2026

Art Connects. Art Inspires. Art Builds Community.

Because of your generosity, Gadsden Arts Center & Museum continues to provide exceptional exhibitions, transformative arts education, and meaningful community experiences throughout our region.

During the first six months of 2026, more than 8,000 participants enjoyed exhibitions, educational programs, tours, workshops, special events, and community gatherings made possible by supporters like you.

“We so appreciate the wonders always on display at Gadsden Arts. We thank you and your exemplary staff and volunteers. You make a real difference in the world.”

— Gadsden Arts patron

January–June 2026 Impact

8,043 Total Participants

- 1,882 Exhibition Visitors
- 258 Exhibition Tour Participants
- 1,497 Event & Program Participants
- 510 Summer Art Camp Participants
- 337 Art in Schools Participants
- 340 ArtZone Participants
- 485 Art @ Home Kits Distributed
- 642 Volunteer Engagements
- 1,159 Volunteer Hours
- 756 Active Members
- 241,471 Online Engagements

January

*"Thank you for making our lives richer!"
– Longtime Gadsden Arts members who
became donors this year*



A strong start to the year

The year began with **2 Weeks with the Arts**, bringing together artists, collectors, volunteers, and supporters for one of the museum's most important annual celebrations. The event supports exhibitions, educational programs, and community outreach throughout the year.

The annual **Collect Select Exhibition & Sale** once again connected collectors with outstanding artists while helping sustain Gadsden Arts' mission.

Educational programs also launched a new year of learning opportunities, including Art in Schools, Creative Futures Council activities, ArtZone, tours, internships, and Summer Art Camp planning.



February–April



Southern Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition

From February through April, Gadsden Arts presented the **49th Southern Watercolor Society Annual Juried Exhibition**, featuring exceptional watercolor artists from across the United States. The exhibition attracted visitors from throughout the Southeast while providing opportunities for tours, artist talks, educational experiences, and public programs. A major highlight was a sold-out **Dine & Discover** program featuring nationally acclaimed artist and Quincy native **Dean Mitchell**, whose presentation drew visitors from throughout the region.

"Dean Mitchell is amazing—a talented painter for sure, but what shines through is his depth of thought and feeling. My life has been enriched by being here today."

— Gadsden Arts patron

Dean Mitchell: Dine & Discover

Visitors experienced an unforgettable presentation by Dean Mitchell, whose reflections on art, creativity, and life resonated deeply with attendees.



April – June



Julie Torres: Generations

In April, Gadsden Arts announced **Julie Torres: Generations**, a major exhibition exploring freedom, democracy, empowerment, and civic participation through contemporary fiber-based artwork. The exhibition officially opened in May and quickly became one of the museum's most widely attended exhibitions of the year. 277 patrons attended opening events. Supported in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as an America250 project, the exhibition sparked meaningful conversations through lectures, tours, artist receptions, and community dialogue programs.

We also enjoyed a Members Happy Hour and fantastic year in review during our Annual Meeting, honored and thanked our dedicated volunteers, and celebrated **Melanie Joyner** for 20 years of dedicated service upon her retirement from Gadsden Arts.

Above: **Generations** Public Opening—the event attracted a “standing room only” crowd

Oval: FSU Art Students talk about their art at the Public Opening
Right: Gadsden Arts leadership volunteers celebrate one another and the “First Annual and Possibly the Last Bobblehead Awards.”



Florida State University Student Exhibition

The museum continued its partnership with **Florida State University**, providing emerging artists with the opportunity to exhibit their work in a professional museum setting.

“Experiences like this are transformative for emerging artists, giving them not only visibility but also the confidence that comes from seeing their work taken seriously within a broader public context.”

— Carrie Ann Baade, Florida State University

Art Education & Youth Programs



Creativity for the next generation

Education remains at the heart of Gadsden Arts mission. Through the first half of 2026, hundreds of children, youth, and families participated in creative learning opportunities inside and outside the museum.

Program Participation

- 337 Art in Schools Participants
- 340 ArtZone Participants
- 585 Art @ Home Kits Distributed
- 510 Summer Art Camp Participants
- 169 Creative Futures Council Participants

Above: Gadsden Arts offers school groups a place to relax at the Quincy Garden Center during their Field Trips

Right: Creative Futures Council youth share work created during a watercolor workshop with Eluster; students think about the painting *Mrs. Flowers* by Dean Mitchell; and a family explores *Generations*.



Community Leadership



Bringing people together through the arts

Throughout the spring, Gadsden Arts hosted public programs, exhibition openings, lectures, member events, and community gatherings that welcomed new and returning audiences.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting celebrated accomplishments, honored leadership, and recognized the donors, members, and community partners who make the museum's work possible. We also had some fun with the "First Annual and Possibly the Last Bobblehead Awards" volunteer recognition ceremony.

"What a delightful evening! I want to express my appreciation to each of you for your dedication and hard work in making Gadsden Arts Center and Museum a beacon of excellence."

— Gadsden Arts leadership volunteer



Above: Friends of Gadsden Arts gather; right: thank you Jim Miller and Leigh Watson Healy for years of talent and leadership; Mark and Patsy Bates with their Bobblehead Awards; Bert Fletcher, incoming board member and Jimmy Nicholson, Board President

Investing in our future

*"Thank you for making our lives richer!"
– Longtime Gadsden Arts members
who became Annual Giving donors this year*



Vision 2030

Donor support is also strengthening the museum's future through facility improvements, endowment growth, and long-term sustainability initiatives.

Sara May Love Gallery

Recent upgrades enhance visitor experiences, accessibility, and exhibition quality, and support continuing accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums. Acoustic panels and a new lighting system are pictured above.

Economic Impact

The arts continue to support local businesses and cultural tourism throughout Gadsden County and the region. Visitors drawn to exhibitions and events contribute to local economic vitality. This year, the museum is projected to have a \$1.5M economic impact.



The Millhouse Inn

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Artists in the house! It's been a very creative start to 2026 at [The Millhouse Inn](#). What a great pleasure hosting so many watercolorists as a part of the [Gadsden Arts Center & Museum](#)'s workshop calendar. It's an easy 2 block stroll out the from door to view the 49th Southern Watercolor Society Annual Juried Exhibition... join the fun!

[#millhouseinnquincy](#) [#quincyfl](#) [#gadsdenarts](#)
[#iainstew7](#) [#tallahassee](#) [#bedandbreakfast](#)
[#FSU](#) [#staycation](#) [#bedandbreakfastforsale](#)





"We appreciate the extraordinary job you and your 'comrades in arts' have done and are doing for our community. You have created a safe space for learning and creating and sharing, and a true haven of civility."
— Gadsden Arts Legacy Society members

You bring the magic of art to everyone.

Every exhibition attended, every student inspired, every volunteer hour contributed, and every community connection is possible because of you. Thanks to our donor family, we are currently more than halfway to reaching our annual fundraising goals, and have reached 82% of our capital campaign goal.

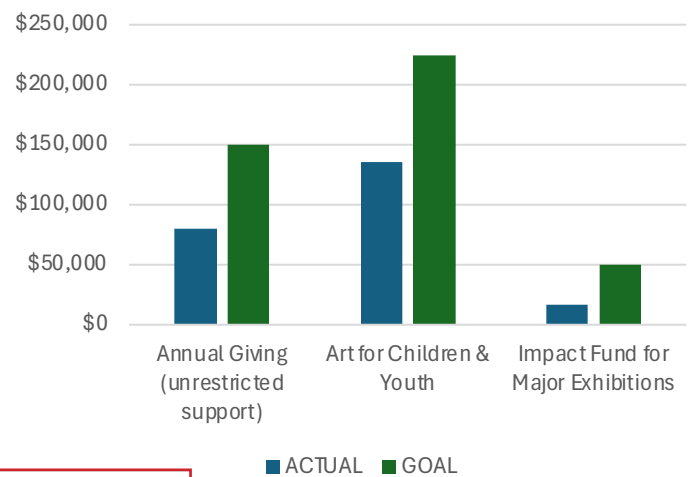
Together, we make world class art experiences available to everyone. Together, we are inspiring current and future generations.

With gratitude,

Grace Robinson

Executive Director
Gadsden Arts Center & Museum

GADSDEN ARTS ANNUAL APPEALS



VISION 2030 Pledges & Contributions (since inception)



Thank you.