

Art Ventures Marks 35 Years with 90k in Grants for the Arts



Courtenay Wilson, co-founder of Art Ventures, Kathy Stark, the 2025 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award winner, and Holly Keris, J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Chief Curator at the Cummer Museum at the office of The Community Foundation.

Stark and 14 other grant recipients were recognized at a Dec. 10 event marking Art Ventures' 35th anniversary. The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida hosted the celebration at the Haskell Building, the Jacksonville History Center's event space.

"I was absolutely thrilled and honored to be recognized this way," said Stark. "Like Ann Baker, I've tried to do my part in giving back to the community. By focusing my art on our 'wild backyard,' I hope to create awareness and appreciation for these important spaces that give us a sense of place and identity."

Along with the award, Stark received a \$20,000 unrestricted grant. This is the 11th year Art Ventures has bestowed this accolade upon an artist in recognition of the vision it shows and the distinction it brings to the Northeast Florida region.

Each of the 14 recipients received a \$5,000 grant to help further their careers.

Art Ventures was established in 1990. Since then, it has awarded \$1.6 million to more than 260 artists and 150 arts organizations.

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