



*At the*  
**HEART  
OF ART**

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS  
SUPPORT THE PURSUIT OF  
CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION  
TO HELP MEET INTANGIBLE  
HUMAN NEEDS FOR LOVE,  
RESPECT, AND A SENSE OF  
PURPOSE IN LIFE

**By Gaylene Salomons**

A palpable positive energy radiates in *Charisma*, a whimsical painting by Amy Moglia Heurman.

*amy mh*



Art is a form of expression with multiple functions. Art inspires. Art reflects the values and beliefs of society. Art preserves culture. Art offers relief from the stresses and pains of life. Art bestows beauty.

By simply adding an “s,” this noun does even more, including referencing various branches of human creativity such as painting, sculpture, music, theater, literature, and dance. Arts and Economic Prosperity 6, a recent economic and social impact study of the nation’s nonprofit arts and culture industry, revealed that 86 percent of

Americans agree that the arts are important to their community’s quality of life and livability.

Seventy-two percent of the population believe the arts provide shared experiences with people of different ethnicities, ages, beliefs, and identities, suggesting that when humans interact with the arts, they gain an understanding of how others see the world.

The study also revealed the arts industry added an estimated \$73.3 billion to the nation’s economy in 2022 through direct and indirect job and business revenues. As a result, cities are

revitalized, and communities become happier and healthier.

As funding for the arts fluctuates from year to year and as programming is slashed in public schools, state and community leaders are challenged to fund the arts. Many institutions are forced to rely solely on private donations in their efforts to increase access.

Within Collier County, there are many nonprofit organizations—both large and small, established and new—devoted to supporting the arts. Read on to learn more about a few of these.