

Applaud the Arts-October 17, 2019

MCA's 12th Annual Applaud the Arts was all-new for 2019. Although we always love partnering with our friends at The Discovery Center and the Reilly Center for the Performing Arts, this year, we decided to do a little something different.

The event, presented by Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute, and the Urology Institute of Central Florida, was held this year at The Appleton Museum of Art. We had over 300 guests in attendance, 25 Community Sponsorships, and 13 Tapas and Libations Sponsors serving up delights in the cafe. With the help of our sponsors, guests, and an online auction, Applaud the Arts 2019 raised \$36,560, yet only spent \$0.14 of every dollar on the event - thus giving more dollars to our endowment.

We had four different interactive art experiences, including bucket drumming by Sean Thomas from the Boys and Girls Club, a hands-on painting by Maggie Weakley, and live tattooing with Jesse James and Dave Sedano. Next year, we hope to have more hands-on events such as learning a dance move, singing, painting, drumming and more. Your suggestions are welcome!

We were thrilled to have performances from the Kingdom of the Sun Brass Quintet, Ocala Civic Theatre, Forest High School Choir, Marion Ballet and tiny dancers from the India Cultural Association. DJ Big Bert kept the party going between performances with music from around the world.

Most importantly to us, we were able to give out over \$30,000 in Cultural Arts Grants to the Marion Players, the Marion Civic Chorale, the Marion All-County Choir, the Reilly Arts Center, the Boys and Girls Club of Marion County, the Marion Chamber Music Society, Kingdom of the Sun Marching Band, Ocala Symphony Orchestra, The Marion Ballet, Master the Possibilities, and Dance Alive.

Lisa Midgett and Joanne Crowder

Co-Chairs, 12th Annual Applaud the Arts