

MCA ARTS AWARD HISTORY

The awards were established by the Marion Cultural Alliance's Board of Directors in 2016 to recognize individuals and organizations impacting our arts and cultural community through vision, education, and service. The first awards announced at the 2016 Applaud the Arts event.

2016 Arts Awards Recipients

Vision: John Zobler, City Manager City of Ocala
Education: Jayne Ellspermann, former principal of Westport High School
Service: Rusty Belote, Volunteer, Ocala Civic Theatre

2017 Arts Award Recipients

Vision: Jen Normoyle, City of Ocala (for writing and securing the first Levitt Grant)
Education: Jo Crowder, MCPS Fine Arts Coordinator
Service: David D'Alessandris, Community Arts Volunteer

Lifetime Achievement Award: Mary Britt, Ocala Civic Theatre (first one conferred by MCA's Board of Directors)

2018 Arts Award Recipients

Vision: Fine Arts for Ocala (FAFO)
Education: Jessica Mongerio, All County Choir
Service: Jessica McCune, Ocala Storytellers

2019 Arts Award Recipients

Vision: Olivia Ortiz, Couch Sessions
Education: Suzanne Schmitting, Music Educator, Maplewood Elementary
Service: Jim Ross, Ocala Civic Theatre

2020 Arts Award Recipients

Vision: Jennifer Murty, Ocala Style Magazine
Education: Dean Marino, Westport High School
Service: Les Muncaster, Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band

Spirit Award: Matt and Pamela Wardell, for arts leadership during the COVID 19 Pandemic

2021 Arts Awards Recipients

Vision: Ken Colen, On Top of the World Communities
Education: Brooke Hutto, Harbourview Elementary School
Service: The Leppert Family

Spirit Award: Gerald Ergle for his service to MCA and the Horse Fever Public Art Projects (4)