



### **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 were announced at the 2016 Applaud the Arts event.

#### **2016 Arts Awards Recipients**

**Vision:** John Zobler, City Manager City of Ocala  
**Arts 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)  
**Art 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)  
**Art Education:** Jessica Mongerio, All County Choir  
**Service:** Jessica McCune, Ocala Storytellers

#### **2019 Arts Award Recipients**

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

### **2020 Arts Award Recipients**

**Vision:** Jennifer Murty, Ocala Style Magazine  
**Art 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  
**Art Education:** Brooke Hutto, Harbourview Elementary School  
**Service:** The Leppert Family, Ocala Civic Theatre

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

### **2022 Art Awards Recipients**

**Vision:** Jessica McCune, Longtime Advocate for the Arts  
**Arts Education:** Brittany Schofield, Howard Middle School  
**Service:** Dr. Joanne Cornell Ohlman, Arts for All @ Fort King Presbyterian

### **2023 Art Awards Recipients**

**Vision:** Margaret Watts, Artist  
**Arts Education:** Tyrus Clutter, College of Central Florida  
**Service:** Dr. Leslie Hammond, Volunteer Juror for many local exhibits

### **2024 Art Awards Recipients**

**Vision:** Angie Lewis  
**Service:** Darian Mosley  
**Arts Educator:** Charles Eady

**Special Tribute to James Melton, a leading tenor in the 1930's and 1940's who was raised in Citra, Florida (Marion County)**