

Press Release, June 12, 2012

### Arts Alive Nassau! ...The Rebirthing

The Amelia Arts Academy has been rebirthed and is very much alive. The Board of Directors of the organization has formally changed the name to Arts Alive Nassau! And the name demonstrates all the new life in this organization built on a 20 year foundation of providing arts in this community.

The new name came out of a community strategic brainstorming session that was held on April 23. A group of over 20 community members gathered to brainstorm ways that the organization might better serve community art needs. A new name was suggested and the idea was received enthusiastically by the group. Then for the rest of that week the group engaged in a lively email "conversation" regarding new names and reasons for them. By the end of the week there was consensus that Arts Alive Nassau was the name. The Board of Directors voted the name in unanimously at their May meeting and we just received notification that the State of Florida has approved the name change. This name was selected because it shows the organization is providing art programs and opportunities throughout Nassau County and is very much alive and vibrant!

Arts Alive Nassau moved its administrative office to space within the Compass Development Group located in the Gateway Center. Since programming now is being provided on sites of other community organizations there was a need to reduce costs of rented square footage for studios, classrooms, and a band room. Through the generosity of Ron and Lisa Flick, the Compass Group made this possible by donating our administrative office space.

Janet Streit has been appointed Acting Executive Director by the Board of Directors. Streit brings over 30 years experience in non-profit management and fund development to the organization. And Streit knows the value of arts opportunity as she herself developed her love of drawing as a child through community art opportunities and uses her art today as a way to process the ups and downs of life. "I am pleased to lead Arts Alive Nassau into its new vision of providing arts to those who might not otherwise have access to the arts. That is a worthy and needed mission in this county." Streit said.

The Board of Directors appointed a Community Advisory Committee at its May meeting. Serving on this committee are Robin Bolan, Paul Bosland, Joan Cipriano, Jean Frank, Tom Henderson, Kathy Johnson and Shirley Spaniel. "We are so happy to have these community leaders support our work", says Jane Lindberg, President of the Board of Directors.

The community is encouraged to get involved with this new life and support the work of Arts Alive Nassau. A fund development plan is being created to support the new vision as just one way the community can help. There are exciting plans in place to kick off the start of school – a dulcimer program at the Boys and Girls Club, and the return of our Emma Love Hardee After School band to name just a sampling. Your help is needed to provide arts opportunities to those who have little or no access to arts without Arts Alive Nassau. Please contact the office at 904-277-ARTS (2787) or [janet@artsalivenassau.org](mailto:janet@artsalivenassau.org) for ways you may be able to help Arts Alive Nassau.

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