

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Charleston Symphony
Orchestra



Charlton Singleton



The Brubeck
Brothers

Members

David Wohl, Vice Chair | Bill Blizzard | Judy Chitwood | Becky Hilstad | Van McCollum | Jodi Rush
Joan Collar | Kristin Thompson | Dylan Keith | Kimberly Adele

Arts and Cultural Events Coordinator: Ruthie Foster

Letter from the Council

The Town of Kiawah Island Arts and Cultural Events Council is pleased to provide this Annual Report showcasing our events and accomplishments for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. As a Council, our goal is to ensure that Kiawah is recognized as an arts and culturally minded community.



We work to enhance community, visitor, and tourist appreciation of arts and cultural events within the Town and environs. Conducting a successful 2021-2022 season did not come with its lack of challenges. We've had our hands full navigating through the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting to reduced capacities, shortages, inflation, and staffing changes. Despite dealing with these challenges, the Arts Council successfully held 32 events. Our season included 20 musical performances, six piano bars, three art films, a comedy play, a ballet, and a magic show.

Throughout the year, we presented a variety of events along with our local Charleston Jazz and Symphony Orchestras. In December, Burning River Brass proved to be a delightful holiday concert, well received by a large and enthusiastic audience. Later in the season, Charlton Singleton and Contemporary Flow packed the house at Turtle Point with their contemporary jazz, R&B, and original tunes.





Two other successful events were Karla Bonoff and the iconic Brubeck Brothers Quartet. Both events were very well received, even bringing out dedicated fans. Both artists were highly engaging with the audience during and after their performances.

Our audience once again enjoyed the wide variety of jazz performances brought to us by Quentin Baxter. Nicki Parrott, Louis Heriveaux, and Shana Tucker were crowd pleasers, displaying musical artistry that we have come to expect from impresario Baxter. In the classical realm, both virtuosic violinist Benjamin Beilman and pianist Conrad Tao put on dazzling performances, with Tao playing a few of his own compositions.

The events highlighted within this Annual Report simply scratch the surface of our successful 2021-2022 season. The talent showcased was truly remarkable, and the Council is delighted to be back in the swing of things, bringing live events to our community.



We are grateful to all those that make this possible. A special thanks to Mayor Labriola, Town Council, Town Administrator Stephanie Tillerson, and Arts and Cultural Events Coordinator Ruthie Foster. We would also like to thank the Kiawah Island Resort, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Church of Our Saviour, Seabrook Island, and the Sandcastle for providing us with venues.

The Work of the Arts Council

Since its creation in 2005, the Arts Council has grown from having ten events per year with a \$25,000 budget to having over 30 events a year with a \$300,000 budget.



The Arts Council couldn't function without its ten

volunteer members responsible for proposing and selecting each season's events. Members research potential performers, negotiate the terms of performances, and prepare proposals for consideration by the Council. Throughout this process, the Council is mindful of patron preferences, the popularity of various events, and the formal survey that the Arts Council conducts periodically. The Council also considers the venues available and their suitability for different events. When an event occurs, the event manager (usually the member who proposed the event) along with the Arts and Cultural Events Coordinator is responsible for coordinating many aspects of the performance with the artists, the venue, and fellow members.



With the support of its members, Arts and Cultural Events Coordinator Ruthie Foster, conducts administrative work associated with the Arts Council. She manages the budget, schedules vendors, prepares event programs, designs and communicates all publicity relating to the events, manages ticket sales, prepares materials for meetings, and much more.

Organizational Improvements



Benjamin Beilman

This year the Arts Council welcomed three new volunteer members. They were eager to participate, learned quickly, and made significant contributions to the success of our season.

Due to consistent technical issues with our previous ticketing system, we changed providers mid-season. Although the timing wasn't ideal, our new ticketing system, Ticket Tailor, functions much more efficiently and we are pleased with the change.

After testing the waters with outsourced event services staff, the Council has decided to utilize Town staff during next season's high volume events. We believe we will receive a higher level of professionalism from our Town staff rather than outsourcing.

In an effort to mitigate the drastic price increases of our vendors, the Council has decided to raise the \$10 ticket price to \$15 in our upcoming season. We hope that this slight adjustment, combined with increased capacities, will help us offset the extreme effects of inflation.

A significant improvement made by the Arts Council was the decision to eliminate the Cultural Event application process for our upcoming season. Eliminating this application process will ensure that all events funded by the Cultural Events Fund promote tourism, diversity, and variety. Arts Council members will still have the opportunity to propose groups who have historically applied for the Cultural Events Fund.

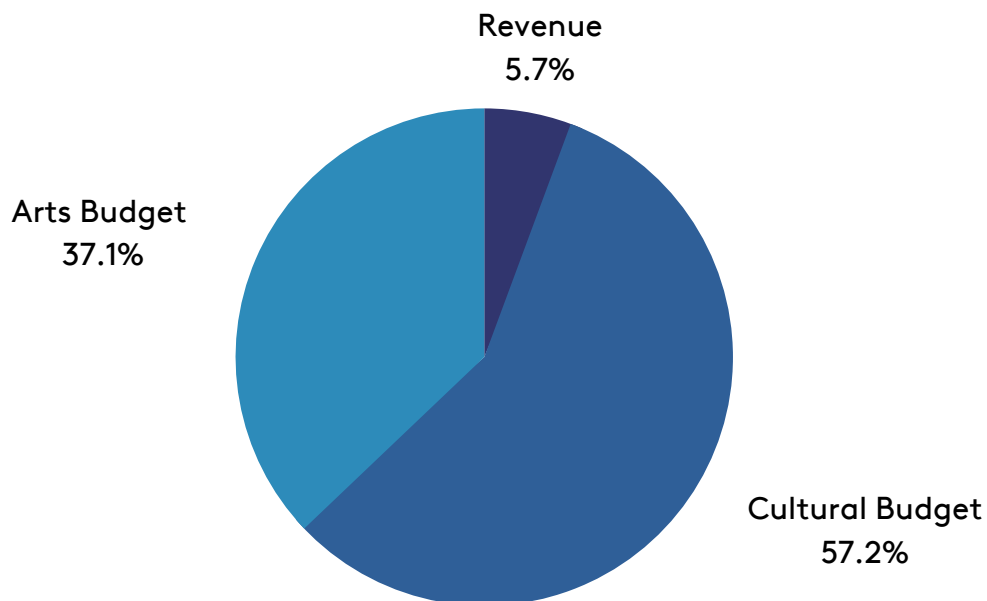
Budget

2005-2006 Season - 1st Season

10 Events | \$25,000 Budget Provided
by the Town

2021-2022 Season

32 Events | \$300,000 Budget
Provided by the Town



Cultural Event Fund
\$182,000

The CEF is funded by local accommodations taxes and as such Cultural Events are intended to drive more tourism.

Arts Event Fund
\$118,000

Arts events are funded by the Town's general fund and can be spent on events that would be enjoyed by our patrons but not necessarily drive tourism to the island.

Revenue
\$17,969

The Arts Council charged a nominal fee (\$10) for events not held at the churches, excluding events where the producer retains ticket revenue.

Thank You

We are grateful to the Town of Kiawah Island, our staff, and our venues for supporting the Arts Council.

Our operation would not be possible without the 10 dedicated members who make up the Arts Council. They volunteer their time and knowledge to bring world class talent to Kiawah Island. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment.



A special note of gratitude goes to Barbara Steele, Director of Catering and Conference Services for Kiawah Island Resort, who has worked closely with us for many years and has continued to go out of her way to accommodate many of our events.

Our Partners

