

Background and Development

DeLand Museum of Art – Museum of Florida Art

Developments to Note:

1951	Founded with \$13 dollars as <i>DeLand's Children's Museum</i> <i>Located in the LL Jacobs Building on Woodland Boulevard</i>
1956	The Museum appointed it's first Director, Dorothy Johnson
1958	The Museum moved to 126 South Florida Avenue
1964	The Museum moved to the Old DeLand Library on New York Avenue
1965	The Museum changed its name to become the Deland Museum of Art
1980's	Focus changed to support Florida artists under the leadership of Directors: Ken Rollins, Alex Nyerges and Harry Messersmith
1988	The Museum Guild was established on October 28, 1988 under the leadership of organizing president Jane Messersmith. There have been 12 presidents since the time of its inception.
1992	Established the DeLand Fall Festival of the Arts under the leadership of Harry Messersmith and then Mainstreet DeLand Director, Maureen France
1996	Major Exhibition: <i>Ansel Adams</i> under the leadership of Michael Sanden
1998	Major Exhibition: <i>Audubon</i> under the leadership of Mark Alexander
2000-01	No Director
2001	The Museum appointed Jennifer Coolidge hired as Director The Museum appointed David Fithian hired as Exhibition Coordinator Celebrated Museum's 50 Year Anniversary for Gala Event
2002	Developed Museum's Corporate and Community Partners program for annual giving from area business and education/civic partners Expanded membership exhibition to a statewide juried exhibition
2003	Hosted exhibition and artist group from Wakayama Prefecture, Japan as a part of the Florida Sister State program (exhibition toured to 3 sites)

2003-06	Implemented youth outreach to Spring Hill with a series of youth murals at the Chisholm Center, Police Athletic League, Boys and Girls Club, etc. funded through Weed and Seed program as a partnership with the DeLand Police Department
2004	Discussed at a Board retreat the concept of becoming a Museum for Florida Art as a vision
2004	Hosted the First Annual <i>Arts in Autumn</i> event at the Colvard home Partnered with Polaroid Corporation to develop tour exhibition "It's a Dog's Life" Photographs by William Wegman (Seed funding: \$12,000) has toured to 14 venues nationally Established <i>The Art of Chrome and Leather</i> as an annual event
2005	Presented the <i>Hewitt Collection of African American Art</i> from the Bank of America Collection and serving Volusia's elementary Title I schools with tours. Developed partnership exhibition with Florida Craftsmen "Spheres of Influence" featuring nationally known ceramic artists, Andy Naas exhibited at both locations
2005-07	Purchased <i>Legendary Florida Collection</i> from Jackson Walker Developed curriculum, website and contextual materials Began "Field Study" program with Volusia County Schools Awarded supporting grants for <i>Legendary Florida</i> development including: Challenge Grants from the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs, Division of Historical Resources and Florida Humanities Council Developed partnership with the Florida House to display art on loan with video kiosk and <i>Legendary Florida Collection</i> works
2006-07	Implemented name change to be the Museum of Florida Art
2006	Established Equifest and Equus exhibition and first Florida Equine art exhibition Presented our first Florida artist retrospective with published catalog Dan Gunderson <i>Time in Space (30 Years at Stetson)</i> Began Endowment Fund Lead ECHO grant project for CAC for facility improvements

- 2007 Presented exhibitions with statewide artist group: Florida Printmakers
- 2007 Dedicated: Chris Harris Permanent Collection Gallery; Libby West and Ann West Hall Gallery and Dorothy Johnson Gallery
- 2007 Partnered with The Lowe Art Gallery in CT, Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, Shawnee, OK and Millenia Fine Art, Orlando, FL to present Florida artist, Fran Hardy with artist catalog
- 2007 Established the Florida Artist of Enduring Excellence award which presented full Museum comprehensive exhibition of Florida artist, Anna Tomczak with exhibition tour to 3 Museums with publication
- Awarded ECHO grant and matching gift for the Evans C. and Betty Drees Johnson Children's Art Center
- Hired Education Curator, Pam Coffman
- Hired Program Assistant, Michelle Sullivan
- 2008 Twentieth anniversary of the Museum Guild. Recognized by MoFA Board party.
- 2008-09 Awarded Abraham and Ray Kaplan Foundation Grant to support development of Florida artists and exhibition package
- 2008 Harold Garde received the Award for Florida Artist of Enduring Excellence and was presented with a full Museum comprehensive exhibition and exhibition tour with publication and documentary video
- 2009 Increased Museum's visibility with outreaches to: DC, Naples, Jacksonville, Gainesville, Tallahassee, Orlando, Tampa, Palm Beach
- Hosted Statewide artist/educator symposium with the Florida Alliance for Arts Education
- Partnered with the CAC to support the purchase of the CAC land from Stetson with a generous private donation, Museum investment and an ECHO grant award.
- Awarded ECHO grant for improvements to exhibition space (lighting), collection storage and HVAC for vault and prep area.
- Established advisory group: Curatorial Council of arts professionals in Florida and beyond to offer expertise on exhibitions and collections
- Established Curatorial Consultant position for Jeanne Dowis with service donated through the Kaplan Foundation

Awarded Florida Arts Recovery Grant

2009

Ummarid "Tony" Eitharong awarded the Florida Artist of Enduring Excellence Award. He received a full Museum comprehensive exhibition and exhibition tour with publication and documentary video

About the Logo:

The logos of the DeLand Museum of Art and Museum of Florida Art were both designed by Florida Artist, John Wilton. As a Museum board member in the early 1980s, John Wilton created the logo that carried the DeLand Museum of Art into the 21st century. With the museum's name change to be the Museum of Florida Art, he had the opportunity to update the look of the logo to match the museum's strategic mission.

Before arriving in DeLand in 1982, John Wilton spent twelve years as a graphic designer and advertising art director in South Florida. For the next 27 years he served as a professor in the Visual Arts Department at Daytona Beach Community College (now Daytona State College). His teaching assignments included graphic design, photography, drawing, painting, printmaking, airbrush, computer art, art appreciation, digital media and video production. Other positions held at DBCC included Program Manager, Gallery Director and Department Chair. He also taught as an adjunct professor at Stetson University and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Wilton now maintains a studio in DeLand.

Public art commissions by John Wilton can be seen locally at the Daytona Airport, the new Volusia County Courthouse in DeLand, The Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, The Oceanwalk Pedestrian Crossover in Daytona Beach, the Beach Headquarters building at Sun Splash Park in Daytona and the new DeLand City Hall. He is represented by Arts on Douglas in New Smyrna Beach, Gold Leaf Gallery in DeLand and Comma Gallery in Orlando. Current work can be seen online at www.johnwilton.net and www.johnwilton.com.