

Taste of the Arts Returns To Celebrate SCAC's 30th Anniversary

In early spring, the nonprofit Seminole Cultural Arts Council (SCAC) celebrated the visual, performing, and culinary arts – and its own 30th anniversary – with the 2024 Taste of the Arts fundraiser.

This was the first year since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic that SCAC presented the Taste, which is one of its signature fundraisers. The picturesque setting for the premier event was the new Casselberry Arts Center at Lake Concord Park. The evening featured delicious food tastings from area restaurants, wine and beer, a silent auction that included paintings donated by local artists, and fabulous entertainment.

Victorian performance troupe Phantasmagoria entertained the audience with acts that included fire dancing and belly dancing. Also performing were the Seminole State College Jazz Combo; Ashley Pitzer, a Britney Spears tribute artist; and magician Cameron Francis.



Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of SCAC's heART for the Arts Award, which this year went to The Ritz Theater in downtown Sanford. In bestowing the award on The Ritz, the SCAC acknowledged the dedication of the theater's board, staff, and volunteers to advancing the arts in Seminole County.

"On behalf of The Ritz Theater, it is with pride that we accept the heART for the Arts Award," says Kathryn Townsend, the theater's CEO and president. "This honor reflects our shared commitment with the Seminole Cultural Arts Council to nurture and celebrate the vibrant tapestry of visual and performing arts within Seminole County."

Founded in 1994, the SCAC is a catalyst for the preservation of local cultural and historic heritage including performing, literary, and visual arts. Proceeds from Taste of the Arts will be used to further support the arts in Seminole County. To learn more, visit SeminoleCulturalArts.org.



1. Phantasmagoria fire dancer Lady Cimorene wows the audience. 2. The SCAC board of directors presents its 2024 heART for the Arts Award to The Ritz Theater in Sanford at the Taste of the Arts fundraiser this spring at the Casselberry Arts Center. 3. Bill and Colleen Hufford with Linda Moore and Bob Heller 4. Linda Moore (second from right) of the City of Casselberry with artists Barbara Hart, Karen Branen, Judith Segall, and Mindy Z. Colton 5. The Seminole State College Jazz Combo entertains the guests. 6. Anthony Aramendia, Casselberry commissioner and SCAC board president; Lee Constantine, Seminole County commissioner; Sarah Reece, Altamonte Springs commissioner; Abby Sanchez, Seminole County School Board chair; Patrick Austin, Sanford commissioner; and Bob Dallari, Seminole County commissioner 7. Ashley Pitzer, a Britney Spears tribute artist, with Teri Siciliano of The Ritz Theater 8. Randy Newlon, Casselberry's city manager, with his wife, Kay; Lilian Casselberry; and Ray Carroll