



EAST COOPER ARTS ADVOCATES NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2025

From the President's Desk

What's in a name?

When you encounter a Company, business or entertainer you tend to take in the name for their future happenings. The Mount Pleasant Community Arts Center Committee (MPCACC) was founded in 2016 as a 501(C 3) non-profit organization. The traditional role for MPCACC is to help all artists to further their artistic passion. In the spirit of accurate information, MPCACC is rebranding itself as East Cooper Arts Advocates (ECAA). This new name distinguishes between this local non-profit organization and the Town's Recreation Department, which oversee the arts. ECAA is not affiliated with any government agency.

East Cooper Arts Advocates seeks to be a proactive advocacy partner for the East Cooper Creative Community. Our aim is to provide a powerful and unified voice for the East Cooper Creative Community to influence Town policies, foster collaboration among artists, various organizations and develop awareness of the social, health and economic benefits of the arts.

Currently, the Town is considering many options about the layout and services of the temporary facility, "The Venue MTP", currently being developed. These are exciting early days, which is why NOW is the time for local artists to have information and a voice in shaping the types of activities to be offered. The temporary space is at 627 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. We are optimistic that our dream for a community arts center will become a reality. Keely Enright is working hard to create a workable temporary space. Town Council is supporting the project—and has put some serious dollars behind the endeavor. Now it's up to all of us to actively support this ambitious project. Please let our elected officials know that this project has your support. Keep the conversation going as you talk with fellow artists and arts lovers. In the Fall, attend events at the temporary facility. Voting with our "feet" will be a powerful sign to the Town's "movers and shakers" that this ambitious project MUST succeed.

This is our very first Newsletter and we hope that it will be your link on a monthly basis to the Arts and Artists of the East Cooper area. Sections of our Newsletter will list our artists events, highlight an "Artist of the Month" and keep you up to date on development of the new Venue MTP facility.

Want to be more involved? ECAA welcomes your help in promoting the project. And please remember we are your voice

Contact Marie-Louise at president@mpcommunityarts.org if you'd like more information about how you could become involved as a Board Member or volunteer.

East Cooper Events

April 12 -13

Event: Isle of Palms Songwriters Festival

Contact info: ddlandeo@msn.com

April 15

Event: East Cooper Arts Happening

(A virtual discussion on the state of the arts East of the Cooper)

Moderators: Linda Eisen & Emily Miller

Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Location: virtual

RSVP required

RSVP at ECArtsAdvocates@mpcommunityarts.org

you will be emailed a link on April 10

October 7

Event: Mt. Pleasant Candidates Forum- EC Arts Advocates & League of Women Voters

Moderator: Julian Young Date:

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Time: TBA

Location: Mt. Pleasant Municipal Center, 100 Ann Edwards Lane, Mt. Pleasant

If you or your organization is presenting an event East of the Cooper, Charleston or North Charleston, EAST COOPER ARTS ADVOCATES invites you to submit information about your event to be printed in our newsletter. Submissions are due the 15th of the month prior to the event. Email to ECArtsAdvocates@mpcommunityarts.org

Artist of the Month

Ann Caldwell

Interviewed by Crystal Clement- ECAA board member

I enjoyed talking with Ann, she has a very captive personality and a beautiful smile. Ann is a longtime southern woman with a classic way of making life interesting. This is an artist that has a very diverse background, she was even working as a draft person until

she stabilized herself in the singing world. She is a storyteller, wrote a children's book, "Me being Me". It's about embracing a fun Gullah story. Currently she is performing at the Lutheran Retreat Center (was already singing for them) as a local person performing the stories of the Charleston sagas for people visiting our city. To show her versatility, she stepped up to be the informational/guidance person for a travelling group the "R.O.A.D.S." scholars that were in town. She was a success! She has always sung, but that's not all that built her. She sings, she tinkers (has a tool belt), she is a writer and loves to encounter anything that comes her way.

Her first exposure to music while growing up with her little brother and sister was her mom's taste in music. She loved listening to her mother's music. Gospel played in the morning and R& B played on the stereo in the afternoon. Her afternoon listening was Mahalia Jackson, Ed Ames, Eydie Gorme to name a few. Diversity of what she listened to helped her find her own style.

She started singing in her 20's when her mom suggested she try out for Porgy & Bess. It was her first time trying a professional way to sing. She was with them for the entire 14 shows program. This led her to sing professionally mature. Her priority was to associate with singers that would guide her by example. The exposure of more advanced performers led her to enroll in vocal lessons. She found a former Opera performer as an instructor, then took lessons for 10 years.

Ann sang with a "house band" that was established, and it kept her singing regularly. Singing gospel had been going on before she took the professional route. When given an opportunity to perform in South Carolina, she would mostly accept. Traveling and performing is not what she is looking for. Being married got her a wonderful daughter Allison, however her and her husband are no longer together.

When asked, how would you empower people to become singers? She responded with a smile and said she would advise singers to listen to EVERYTHING, don't limit yourself to listening to just one genre. Variety will empower you to tune into sounds in different songs and performers. Sing the same but personalize your sound. Find your voice, give yourself time to create your originality. You will evolve into becoming an individual. When you sing what you like, while you feel an emotion, your body language changes, and a special story gets told. Ann's performance observations include don't stand still, don't flutter around, wait to see how you are "moved" then emote your feelings that the song makes you feel. You should want people to feel the songs in their hearts. Build a relationship with the band and performance of songs. You have to "handle" songs. Ann's way to operate through life is, "Encourage. Enlighten. Enhance. Engage." This mission statement is making the most out of everyone and every day.