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East Cooper Arts Advocates

November 5, 2026

From the President's Desk

It has been an exciting year for us. In January we began doing business as (DBA) East Cooper Arts Advocates. The mission of the East Cooper Arts Advocates is to advance and promote access to the arts in Mount Pleasant and East Cooper. 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 of Mount Pleasant policies, to foster collaboration among various arts organizations and artists, and to develop awareness of the social, health, and economic benefits of the arts.

After years of promoting the need for a community arts center in Mt. Pleasant the Town open *The Venue MTP* in December 2025 as temporary arts center. We applaud the Town for recognizing the tremendous role the arts play in the development of people and communities, yielding significant personal, social, and economic benefit. East Cooper Arts Advocates is committed to support the success of this project. However, *The Venue MTP* falls short of our vision for a Community Arts Center that would be all-inclusive center and include facilities for the performing, visual, literary arts, and honor Mt. Pleasant Cultural Heritage. We will continue to advocate for a permanent art/cultural center that is all-inclusive.

East Cooper Arts Advocates puts the emphasis on COMMUNITY. We believe an arts/cultural center should be as much about community as it is about the arts: "We see an arts/cultural center as a physical PLACE where people come together and become part of an all-inclusive 'neighborhood'. It will not only bring the magic of quality professional theatre experience to Mount Pleasant residents and visitors but will also be a community-gathering place. We believe a town becomes smaller and friendlier when everyone is engaged and bringing people together not just to experience the arts but to create art themselves is a big step toward bringing a large community together.

A brief review of what we have done in 2026

Mount Pleasant Community Art Center Committee began doing business as East Cooper Arts Advocates to avoid confusion with the Town's art center (The Venue MTP).

ECAA presented an East Cooper Arts Updates at the Wando Library.

ECAA continued to advocate for the creation of a town department of cultural affair. Unlike most other municipality the Town of Mt. Pleasant does not have a department of cultural affairs. The arts are under the Town's recreation department.

East Cooper Arts Advocates partnered with Mount Pleasant Artists Guild to present a *Community Participator Art Project* for the opening of Novant East Cooper Health Center for Women.

The South Carolina Arts Commission renewal our grant for another year.

We need your help to continue to represent and promote art and culture in Mount Pleasant and the area East of the Cooper. Advocates like everything else has costs.

The grant from the Sount Carolina Arts Commission covers only a portion of our operating costs. Help us make Mount Pleasant the art and cultural center of East Cooper by making a donation.

To Donate
Please make checks payable to East Cooper Arts Advocates
Mail to: 1612 Collier St., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466

To pay on-line by credit card go to EastCooperArtsAdvocates.org/Donate

For information: ECArtsAdvocate@MPCommunityArts.org

KAT GOLDBERG – FEATURED ARTIST

Kat Goldberg is a creative powerhouse, a mix of Genie and Willy Wonka. Kat is a painter featured at Perspective Gallery (Mt. Pleasant), Nidum Studio (North Charleston), and Beeple Studios (Charleston). She teaches theatre set and design at Stage Door Arts Academy in Mt. Pleasant. Her inventive eye turns everyday objects into something magical, on stage, in art, and around the community. Kat grew up in Mt. Pleasant. She left Mt. Pleasant to attend Furman University, where she majored in education. While at Furman she worked in the scene shop under the direction of Brett Bryson and learned how to build and paint sets. Kat always enjoyed creative endeavors and making things. In her 20's after attending a couple of "paint and sip" events, she became interested in studio art, choosing to experiment with acrylic paints.

After collage, instead of returning to Mt. Pleasant she decided to travel so she could experience something new. During her travels she met her husband to be in Houston. They married and moved to Los Angles, the first of many moves that would eventually bring Kat and her family back to Mt. Pleasant. Her husband's work took them from Los Angels to Hawaii to Stuttgart, Germany before returning to Mt. Pleasant. Their first child was born in Hawaii and Kat decided to be a stay-at -home mom due the high cost of childcare.

It was during the COVID lockdown that Kat started painting again. Although, she has a background in set building and paint, she is self-taught as a studio painter. When asked if she felt inhibited because of lacking formal education in studio art, she replied:

"I don't know what rules I'm breaking, so I don't feel guilty about breaking them. I ask myself what can I do with this? I play with it, have fun and experiment? I'm continually evolving, growing and learning. I try to paint every day. So, it's almost like a formal education. It's just experimenting and learning."

Her advice to anyone considering a career in the arts is: "Learn everything you can, work on your skills every day and learn every day to improve."

Contact Kat Goldberg at info@stagedoorarts.com

Thank You

East Cooper Arts Advocates the under which Mount Pleasant Community Arts Center Committee is a501(C)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our tax ID# 81-1566431

East Cooper Arts Advocates receives funding from the SC Arts Commission

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