VISUAL ARTS CENTER, PUNTA GORDA
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) POSTPONEMENTS & CANCELLATIONS

The Visual Arts Center is an outlet for creativity and art exploration. Our first concern is the health and safety of everyone who visits, volunteers and works at the Visual Arts Center, and it will continue to be our top priority. We are carefully monitoring official information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) as it continues to evolve. At this time, the Visual Arts Center remains open for exhibits and classes, as well as retail sales of artwork and art supplies.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS: We will continue to hold classes as long as instructors and students want to attend, and we believe it is safe for them to do so. A survey of our current students indicates a desire for the VAC to remain open so they can continue to express themselves through art. We are taking additional precautions, including the addition of disinfectant wipes in each classroom, bathrooms and common areas, and wiping doorknobs and counters before and after each class and in the common areas. We encourage everyone, while at the VAC, to follow the health guidelines and wash or disinfect your hands often. Out of concern for your instructors and fellow students, if you are not feeling well, have a fever or are around others who are not well, please remain at home. For those wanting a creative outlet during these difficult times, we will continue with any group activity with 20 or fewer people and take whatever precautionary and disinfectant procedures we deem appropriate.

EXHIBITS: Visitors continue to view our exhibits with pleasure every day. As long as we have artists that want to exhibit and people who want to view and buy art, it is our intention to continue VAC exhibits. We are looking at creative and safe ways to manage receiving and awards. The next exhibit receiving is set for Monday, March 30th from 9am to 12pm. “New Beginnings” is a judged and juried show open to both 2D and 3D art, and artists are encouraged to submit their best works. If you are considering entering artwork into “New Beginnings”, please visit the VAC website at www.visualartcenter.org, download the prospectus, and watch the website for details of any new procedural opportunities that may go into effect. More to come . . .

We are postponing several VAC upcoming events for large groups beginning Monday, March 16th.

PEACE RIVER NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL – MARCH 21ST & 22ND
This event has been postponed until November. This is based on recommendations from Governor Ron DeSantis and the City of Punta Gorda’s events permit cancellation for large gatherings. The City of Punta Gorda is working to confirm a date in November, and we will post it as soon as it is confirmed. If you were a participating artist and/or volunteered to work this event, we thank you, and hope you will join us in November.

VISUAL ARTS CENTER VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH
The VAC Volunteer Appreciation Lunch typically held in April has been cancelled for this year. We greatly appreciate our volunteers, but with more than 200 of you, we are cancelling on the side of caution. We will be preparing the list of volunteer years and order anniversary pins for anyone reaching a special year. They should be available at the VAC no later than April 20th. In the past we have provided a 20% coupon for each volunteer, and we will continue to issue the certificates for this year. You may pick up and use your coupon any time after April 20th. We regret missing this opportunity to thank you for your service and appreciate your understanding.

Janet Watermeier
Executive Director