



Artist and Museum Executive John Bunker Honored by The Community Foundation for NE Florida
Esteemed Jacksonville painter selected as the 2020 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award Recipient

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – February 5, 2020 —John Bunker, visual artist and respected veteran of the Jacksonville museum community, received the 2020 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award last night. Beyond creating an extensive and varied body of work over his 50-year career as a professional artist, Bunker also helped shape Jacksonville’s cultural community during his impressive museum career, including positions as associate director and interim director of the Jacksonville Art Museum and director of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

The award, which includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant, recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida, and is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems such as The Community Foundation’s Art Ventures Fund, the Arts Assembly (now the Cultural Council), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and Greenscape, among others. The award was presented to Bunker by members of the Baker Family at a private reception last night.

“John has left an indelible mark on our cultural community, both through his art and in his leadership positions at the Cummer and the Jacksonville Art Museum,” noted Sally Baker Lee, Ann McDonald Baker’s daughter. “My mother’s passion to make our community more beautiful and more caring is exemplified by John’s devotion to his craft and his community, and our family is delighted to recognize John for his contributions.”

John Bunker's artwork is included in numerous museums, as well as corporate, public and private collections in the United States and abroad. Select corporate collectors include: AT&T Universal Card, Mayo Clinic, First Coast Oncology Centers, Nordstrom, First Union Bank, Bank of America, North Florida College, Vistakon, The Florida Senate, Riverside House of Junior League, Orlando Jetport, Timuquana Country Club, Stein Mart, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of North Florida, MOCA Jacksonville and the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville honored Bunker with the Individual Arts Award in 2007 and named him in their roster of “Boundless: 40 Years, 40 Icons” in 2016. As one art critic expressed, "The subjects of his paintings are simmering with energy, saturated with fragments of color, and wonderfully alive."

As envisioned by the Baker family, Bunker is a significant contributor to Northeast Florida’s arts community. Bunker has served as president of the Riverside Fine Arts Association Concert Board, a member of JaxPride, chairman of the Koger Gallery of Art and Gardens Advisory Committee, curator of the Jacksonville International Airport Arts Commission, member of Art in Public Places committee, board member of Patrons of the HeArts, and vestry member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.

The selection process for the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award includes a knowledgeable, anonymous panel of advisors who put forward a short list of finalists after considering a wide range of deserving artists in all disciplines throughout the year. A Selection Committee (a member of the Baker

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family, a Trustee of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, a representative from the advisory panel and The Community Foundation president) reviews the finalists and names the winner. Past recipients include Terrance Patterson, David Engdahl, Jim Draper and Louise Freshman Brown.

Art Ventures

For thirty years, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has invested in the local cultural community as part of an exceptional initiative known as Art Ventures. In 1989, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) chose Jacksonville to receive \$50,000/year for four years, provided that The Community Foundation and (at the time) The Arts Assembly work together to raise \$100,000/year in unrestricted gifts over the same period. The challenge was a success, and the first grants were made in 1990. Art Ventures provides support for the more fragile part of the arts community—emerging individual artists and small arts organizations—and it has provided more than \$1 million in grants to individuals and small arts organizations since its inception. In 2015, The Community Foundation created the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award to honor the late Ann Baker, who led the initial Art Ventures fundraising with Courtenay Wilson, and who chaired The Community Foundation Board of Trustees from 2002-2003.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 56th year, the Foundation has assets of approximately \$480 million and has made grants of approximately \$550 million since 1964.

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