



Beaches

A Celebration of the Arts

2021 Nominees

Irene Lazzara, Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts Award Nominees

All Beaches Experimental Theatre

All Beaches Experimental Theatre (ABET) has been serving beaches residents for 29 years. ABET is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based community theatre with the mission of bringing the excitement of live theatre to diverse audiences. An emphasis is placed on new and original plays and neglected classics, and on developing new talent. Six individual productions are mounted each year running for a minimum of eight performances over three weekends.

A part of ABET's mission is attracting diverse audiences, a facet that is of vital importance. ABET employs color-blind and multiracial casting and crew, including directors. Additionally, most shows are family-friendly to encourage children to develop a love of theatre by producing shows that appeal to them, as well as their parents.

For many years, ABET has provided the only theatrical experience to many of the residents of Atlantic Beach's retirement community, Fleet Landing, as well as other area senior citizens. ABET provides a safe, enjoyable place for them to enjoy a performance. ABET hosts workshops and events for worthy organizations at no charge. ABET has always managed to keep prices affordable for everyone, as well as offering many free and reduced-price tickets. ABET is a major source of the arts for the Beaches community.

Word Revolt (also nominated for the Community Impact Award)

Word Revolt Art Gallery Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit studio gallery in Atlantic Beach, FL, dedicated to hosting free events that benefit artists, charities, and the community.

One of Word Revolt's biggest accomplishments to date is bringing an art scene to what is now known as the Mayport Cultural Corridor. Word Revolt brought the entire community, including city hall members and participants of all ages, together to paint a community mural. Despite the challenges of 2020, Word Revolt maintained a safe schedule of art exhibitions that helped to keep culture afloat. The gallery launched one of the first virtual reality galleries that now reaches 180,000 audience members worldwide.

Other current activities include holding an art auction for the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol, volunteering with Hope at Hand for Jax Virtual Poetry Fest, hosting a completely booked podcast for Jacksonville Main Library, coordinating a Fine Arts Capstone Guest Speaker at Jacksonville University, and debuting "Echo," the art robot. In 2020, Word Revolt held a four physical exhibitions, three virtual exhibits, and one that had both physical and online aspects. One of the virtual exhibits included the International Virtual Reality exhibit for eleven artists in six countries.