

Art Guild 30 Year History

A journey begins with a single step. In 1978 twelve resident/artists at Fairfield Glade came together to form an art guild for Fairfield residents. In 30 years the Guild has grown to a membership of approximately 164 individuals, and has opened its membership to anyone with the willingness to be an active volunteer member. Through the years the Guild has met in the FFG Multipurpose room, occupied a portion of the FFG CC arts and crafts building on Wilshire Heights Dr., later took full responsibility for that building (one giant leap of faith on how a small volunteer group could come up with a monthly lease payment of just under \$300 plus utilities WE DID!), when a mold problem in the building arose we had to vacate the building, FFG United Methodist Church opened its doors to the Guild to have our meetings and for a period of time the Village Green Mall let us use their interior space to showcase our work. After three years of not having our own home and thanks to the dedication and belief in what we could accomplish, in April of 2008 the new Plateau Creative Arts Center opened its doors and the Guild had a HOME!

The journey of how the Plateau Creative Arts Center came to be is a series of miracles. The idea of having a home of our own started with the belief that we were like the little engine that needed to climb the hill . . . we knew we could, we knew we could. A series of small (this was to enable the members to feel freer to express their opinions and concerns) meetings for Guild members were held to discuss the need for a home of our own and to see if the members were willing to support the cause. The FFG CC Board was approached asking that a site of common property be donated on which to build an arts center, this center would become an important component not only to the Glade but to the plateau region and would be a win-win situation for all, the Board agreed to put the idea before the community for a vote. Of the voters who responded 80% voted in the affirmative. The Guild became a member of the Crossville/Cumberland Chamber of Commerce; representatives attended the Chamber events to share the news of how we were planning to build an arts center in Cumberland County. Informative talks about our goals were given to various local organizations. Community leaders gave generously of their time and efforts in letting the greater Tennessee community know about our plans and helped in our obtaining grants and most importantly through a painstaking process the United States Department of Agriculture granted the Guild a loan. Guild members generously donated monies to the building fund, worked rigorously and supported the various fund raising projects; civic organizations and community residents did the same. In April 2008 the Art Guild at Fairfield Glade officially opened its doors to the public with the Grand Opening Celebration. So many people attended that we later learned some couldn't find a parking spot and disappointingly went home.

The journey begun thirty years ago will continue along new and incredible pathways we can only imagine. How proud we all are to be part of this organization started by twelve dedicated individuals.

PRESIDENTS of the ART GUILD AT FAIRFIELD GLADE

1978, 79	Ed McComb	1980	Al Mayberry
1981	Bonnie Vance	1982	Al Mayberry
1983, 84, 85, 86	Lional Schwan	1987	Don Good
1988, 89	Lou Teal	1990	Sylvia Morrell
1991, 92	Dian Rentschler	1993	Al Mayberry
1994	Bob Hoover	1995, 96	Dorothy Grauff
1997	Sandra Echard	1998, 99	Le Voss
2000	Patti Drake	2001, 02	Bev Olin
2003	Audrey Paul	2004, 05, 06	Nancy Hamm
2007, 08	Ray Butkus	2009	Claudia Kirkpatrick
2010	Donna Slinkard	2012	Barbara Rogers
2013	Sara Flohr		

A journey begins with a single step. In October 1978, twelve residents and artists from Fairfield Glade and Crossville came together to form an Art Guild for local residents. Dues were \$12.00, and the first president was Ed McComb. In 30 years the Guild has grown to a membership of approximately 164 individuals, and has opened its membership to anyone with the willingness to be an active volunteer member.

Through the years the Guild has met in the FFG Multipurpose room, occupied a portion of the FFG Community Club (CC) arts and crafts building on Wilshire Heights Drive, later taking full responsibility for that building (one giant leap of faith on how a small volunteer group could come up with a monthly lease payment of just under \$300 plus utilities WE DID!). This was considered the Guild's "First Home"

The concept of "hosts" was originated in 1984. In 1985, at the suggestion of Mary Bodman, the Guild began awarding scholarships to local high school students interested in pursuing a career in the arts.

In the early 90s, Al Mayberry suggested an art library which soon started with a subscription to "Portfolio" magazine. As you all know, our library has grown to be the most extensive collection of art books, magazines and videos in Cumberland County.

After mold was found in the Wilshire Heights property, we had to vacate the building; FFG United Methodist Church opened its doors to the Guild to have our meetings, and for a period of time the Village Green Mall let us use their interior space to showcase our work. After three years of not having our own home, and thanks to the dedication and belief in what we could accomplish, in April of 2008 the new Plateau Creative Arts Center opened its doors and the Guild finally had a HOME of its own!

As Joyce Guitar, the 1989 Guild Historian said in the History published that year "It seems that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Back in 1978, members

met, painted and drew, traded ideas and “tricks of the trade”, enjoyed each other, fed their faces, watched art videos, went to museums and art galleries, took educational trips, contributed to worthy art causes, welcomed new members, competed against each other and made the Fairfield Art Guild what it is today . . . a meeting place for extremely gifted and talented people who thoroughly enjoy helping out those less gifted. It is a place to go to practice your art, feed your soul and have your spirits lifted.”