



June 17, 2019

Florida Council on Arts and Culture
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Re: Anita Prentice, Florida Artists Hall of Fame, St. Lucie County and Fort Pierce Florida

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with the greatest pride and pleasure that the City of Fort Pierce supports the nomination of Anita Prentice to the Florida Artists Hall of Fame.

The City of Fort Pierce is a more beautiful city because of the more than 150 mosaic benches created by Anita scattered around our city. The Florida Artists Hall of Fame includes the 26 original Highwaymen-African American speed landscape painters, who sold their art from their vehicles. Anita has honored several Highwaymen's graves with her mosaic art, including Alfred Hair, and has been an integral part in creating the City's Highwaymen Heritage Trail.

Anita has made it her personal mission to honor noted anthropologist and author, Zora Neale Hurston, who died and is buried in Fort Pierce. She created a mosaic portrait, and continues to promote the life and art of Zora.

Many organizations' sights have been raised due to Anita's generosity. Anita has provided her art to the A.E. Backus Museum, the Manatee Observation and Education Center, Fort Pierce Main Street and the Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce. When the City of Fort Pierce enhanced our Veterans Memorial Park, Anita created patriotic mosaic benches that line the grounds and water features. There's a bench for every branch of military service, offering veterans and visitors a colorful vista, as well as a place to sit and reflect.

Anita has been a supporter of the arts community, serving the St. Lucie Cultural Affairs Council, and working with St. Lucie Public Schools to bring arts education and appreciation to our young people. Anita has also contributed her art to many causes, including St. Lucie County Fire District's "Lil Feet" project, featuring artistically decorated boots and other firefighter-related items for auction. Proceeds of this event provide shoes to needy children.

Anita's love of art and of history is reflected in her daily life. She lives and works from her studio located in historic Casa Caprona Apartments, a vintage structure built during Florida's boom time in the early 20th Century. She has worked tirelessly to preserve its structural integrity and its significance to our region.

Anita Prentice has lived most of her adult life in St. Lucie County and Fort Pierce and championed many of her fellow artists. She loves Fort Pierce and her artwork is an enduring tribute to this city, county and our state.

I hope you will honor this much-deserved candidate with entry into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson
Mayor