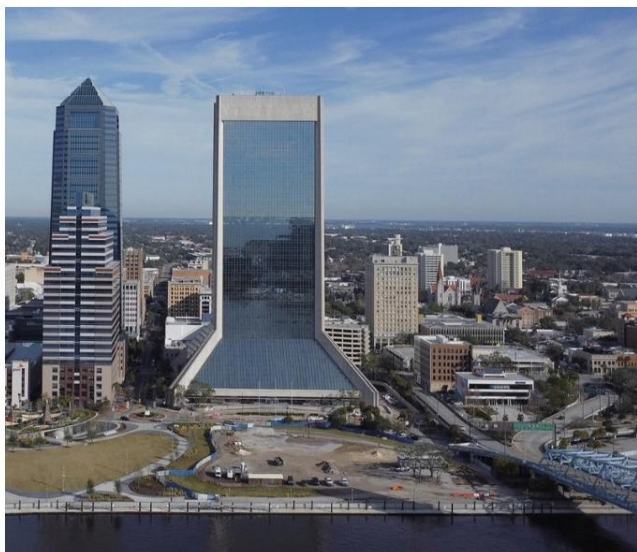


A Brief History of Creativity in Jacksonville



Introduction

A Brief History of Creativity in Jacksonville, intends to help compile an overview of the resources available to the people of Jacksonville in the form of books, online resources, and the institutions that carry this history in their publicly accessible spaces. The organization of this booklet is influenced primarily by the availability of resources, and it is not a comprehensive history. This booklet also prioritizes artists whose work was created in or influenced by Jacksonville. This booklet does not prioritize recent history or living artists.

By sharing these resources, I hope only to give an entry point for people to dive deeper into their own interests.

When researching these creative people, readers might discover or rediscover that the city of Jacksonville has its own bright spots and its own shadows, but that creativity has remained a constant from the beginning of time as we move through these cycles of life. I have found that as people who create, we have been speaking the same language no matter the time that separates us. It is a wonderful thing to see the remnants and influence of the creativity of the past where it is alive today. Maybe this booklet can help to strengthen a creative dialogue among generations.

I do not intend for this booklet to be sold, and the content of these pages is owed to their respective subjects.

Published in 2026

* Resources available at the Jacksonville Public Library are signified by **JPL**.

Comments and suggestions are welcome at
thelonghaulcafe@gmail.com

For a digital copy of this booklet with accessible
links:



Artifacts of the Timucua

Although they occupied a larger area than the boundaries of the city of Jacksonville, early examples of creativity in what is now Jacksonville can be found among the history and archaeological artifacts of Timucua-speaking people. Pottery, flutes, and shell necklaces are a few examples that suggest creative practices. More information and artifacts can be found at the Timucuan Preserve, The Beaches Museum, as well as the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

Reading List:

-*The Timucua*, Milanich, Jerald T. JPL

Online Resources:

-<https://keithashley.domains.unf.edu>

-<https://www.nps.gov/teachers/classrooms/timucua-pottery.htm>

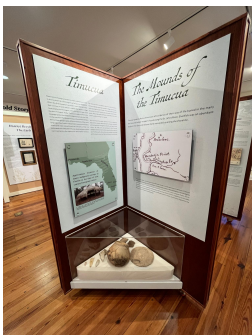
The Timucuan Preserve



The Beaches Museum



The Mandarin Museum



Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues (c.1533–1588) and Theodore de Bry (1528–1598)

Jacques Le Moyne, French artist and member of Jean Ribault's expedition, made plans in 1587 to create a book about his experience in Florida. He passed away before he was able to complete the book, but left behind a collection of paintings. Theodore de Bry, a Flemish engraver, having been in communication with him about engraving illustrations for the book, decided to engrave LeMoyne's paintings. The engravings are not a reliable account of the expedition, as de Bry took creative liberties and sensationalized Le Moyne's images.

An exhibit of these engravings can be found in the special collections department at the Main Library.

Reading List:

–*Narrative of Le Moyne : an artist who accompanied the French expedition to Florida under Laudonnière, 1564*

JPL

–*America : the complete plates 1590–1602* Bry, Theodor de JPL

–*Florida's Timucua Indians : a pictorial history* Spencer, Donald D JPL

–*Le Moyne de. M., Jacques 1533–1588 1st Professional Artist to Record New World. Vertical File JPL*



Paintings of the St. John's River

Famous paintings of the St John's River include Thomas Moran's 1878 painting entitled *Ponce de Leon in Florida, St. John's River* by Martin Johnson Heade, Winslow Homer's 1890 painting, *The White Rowboat*, and selected works by John James Audubon, all of which are a part of the Florida collection at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Reading List:

–*A Florida Legacy: Ponce de Leon in Florida* Torchia, Robert W. JPL

–*Artists of the Jacksonville Area Sesquicentennial Exhibition, Part II* Cummer Gallery of Art

Online Resources:

–<https://arbus.com/reflections-artful-perspectives-on-the-st-johns-river/>



Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896)

Harriet Beecher Stowe, author best-known for her book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, lived in Mandarin from 1867–1884. Her book *Palmetto Leaves*, published in 1872, is a collection of writings about her time in Mandarin. More information about Stowe can be found at the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

Reading List:

- Palmetto Leaves* Stowe, Harriet B. JPL
- Stowe, Harriet B. 1811–1896 Writer/Mandarin Resident. Vertical File JPL
- Stowe, Harriet Beecher Author. Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

- <https://www.mandarinmuseum.org/mandarin-history/harriet-beecher-stowe>



Frederick Delius (1862–1934)

Frederick Delius (formerly “Fritz”) was a composer of classical music who lived in Solano Grove from 1884–1886, 25 miles south of Jacksonville, where he managed an orange plantation. He connected to his calling as a composer during this time, influenced by his teacher Thomas Ward, the music of the African-American community surrounding him, and the natural beauty of Florida. His house was moved to the Jacksonville University campus in 1961, where it can be viewed from the outside.

Reading List:

- The Road to Samarkand*, Jahoda, Gloria JPL
- Examine monographs, music scores, manuscripts, letters and more in the Delius Collection JPL

Online Resources:

- <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/east/delius-house-at-jacksonville-university-part-one-grove-mythos/>
- <https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?p=AONE&u=googlescholar&id=GALE%7CA401214992&v=2.1&it=r&asid=01c0639f>



Claudia L'Engle Adams (1865-1895)

Claudia L'Engle Adams, pianist and singer, founded The Friday Musicale. The Friday gatherings began among friends as a way to celebrate music in 1890, then became a formal institution in 1893, making it the oldest performance organization in Jacksonville.

Reading List:

- History of the Ladies Friday Musicale.* JPL
- Friday Musicale Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

- <https://www.jacksonville.com/story/news/local/2020/02/03/curious-jax-friday-musicale-has-faced-tragedies-and-triumphs-during-its-130-years/112229882/>
- <https://fridaymusicale.com/history/>

Leah Mary Cox (1867-1953)

Leah Mary Cox photographed Jacksonville near the turn of the 20th century. She took more than 4,000 photographs using a laborious process of glass plate negatives, perhaps most notably documenting the aftermath of the fire of 1901.

Reading List:

- Jacksonville greets the 20th century : the pictorial legacy of Leah Mary Cox* Cox, Leah Mary JPL
- Cox, Mary Leah 1867- Artist Photography. Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

- <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/west-riverside-avondale/fish-weir-creek-and-leah-mary-cox/>

Charles Adrian Pillars (1870–1937)

Charles Adrain Pillars was a sculptor whose best-known work in Jacksonville is his 1924 sculpture entitled *Spiritualized Life* or *Life*, in Memorial Park.

Reading List:

–*Life : the untold story of Charles Adrian Pillars*

Wood, Wayne W JPL

–Pillars, C. Adrian Artist Sculpture Riverside Park's Winged Victory. Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

–<https://artistsofoldflorida.com/artist/c-adrian-pillars-jacksonville/>



James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938)

James Weldon Johnson, writer and activist, grew up in the Lavilla neighborhood with his brother John Rosamund Johnson. Together they wrote the words and music for *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. James Weldon Johnson is also known for his works of literature and poetry, such as *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, and *God's Trombones*, and as a founding member of the NAACP. More information about James Weldon Johnson can be found at the Ritz Theatre.

Reading List:

–*Writings* Johnson, James Weldon JPL

–Johnson, James Weldon Writer/Statesman. Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

–<https://www.jacksonville.com/story/news/local/2020/02/12/who-is-james-weldon-johnson-co-author-of-lift-evry-voice-and-sing/112231906/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&gca-uir=true&gca-epti=z113601v113601d--36--b--36--&gca-ft=152&gca-ds=sophi>

–<https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-artists-hall-of-fame/james-weldon-johnson/?member=17>



John Rosamund Johnson (1873–1954)

John Rosamund Johnson was a composer and performer, born in Jacksonville, who developed a successful career in New York, and specifically on Broadway. He also toured around the United States as a vaudeville performer with his collaborator Bob Cole.

Reading List:

–*A Cultural History of the First Jazz and Blues Communities in Jacksonville Florida, 1896–1916, A Contribution of African Americans to American Theatre* Smith, Peter Dunbaugh **JPL**

–Johnson, John Rosamond Musician. **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

–<https://www.jacksonville.com/story/news/local/2020/02/12/who-is-james-weldon-johnson-co-author-of-lift-evry-voice-and-sing/112231906/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&gca-uir=true&gca-epti=z113601v113601d--36--b--36--&gca-ft=152&gca-ds=sophi>

–<https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-artists-hall-of-fame/john-rosamond-johnson/>

Henry J. Klutho (1873–1964)

Henry Klutho was an architect who helped rebuild Jacksonville after the Great Fire of 1901. He is best-known for his Prairie School style design. Notable structures still stand today including City Hall, formerly the St. James hotel, the Dyal-Upchurch building, as well as several buildings in Springfield and Riverside. An exhibit dedicated to Klutho and the history of the St. James building can be found in City Hall.

Reading List:

- The Architecture of Henry John Klutho: The Prairie School in Jacksonville*, Broward, Robert C. JPL
- Springfield Tour of Homes* JPL
- Klutho, Henry J. 1873–1964 Architect. Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

- <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/kluthos-head-and-the-prairie-style-tree-of-life/>
- <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/springfield-klutho-apartments/>
- <https://arbus.com/henry-john-klutho/>



Frederick Carl Frieseke (1874-1939)

Frederick Carl Frieseke, painter, was an expatriate in France and a member of the Giverny art colony. As a child he spent some years in Jacksonville starting in 1881. In 1921, he created a series of watercolor paintings from memory of his childhood in Jacksonville. These works are a part of the collection of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

Reading List:

-*Uneventful Reminiscences: A Childhood in Florida*
Frieseke, Frederick Carl

Online Resources:

-<https://www.cummermuseum.org/event/frieseke-in-florida-a-memories-of-jacksonville-in-the-1880s/>
-<https://arbus.com/frieseke-in-florida/>

Harold Hilton (1886-1959)

Harold Hilton, originally a store clerk in London, moved to Jacksonville in 1928 where he became a painter. He was the president of the Florida Federation of Art and the Florida Watercolor Society.

Reading List:

-*Artists of the Jacksonville Area Sesquicentennial Exhibition, Part II Cummer Gallery of Art*
-Hilton, Harold, Artist Painting. **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

-<https://artistsofoldflorida.com/artist/harold-hilton-jacksonville/>

Bion Barnett, Jr. (1887-1965)

Bion Barnett, Jr. was born in Jacksonville to the well-known Barnett family. He moved to New York and Europe where he studied art and became a recognized painter.

Reading List:

- Artists of the Jacksonville Area Sesquicentennial Exhibition, Part II Cummer Gallery of Art*
- Barnett, Bion H., Jr. **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

- <https://artistsofoldflorida.com/artist/bion-barnett-jacksonville/>

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)

Zora Neale Hurston was an author and anthropologist, best known for her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, who spent time in Jacksonville as a child, and again later when she helped document oral history at the Clara White Mission.

Reading List:

- Zora Neale Hurston : in and around Jacksonville, Florida in the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's* Murrell, M. Alene **JPL**
- Dust Tracks on a Road* Hurston, Zora Neale **JPL**
- Hurston, Zora Neale Author. **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

- <https://www.floridamemory.com/learn/classroom/learning-units/zora-neale-hurston/documents/audio/>-<https://www.thejaxsonmag.com/article/six-zora-neale-hurston-sites-in-jacksonville-page-2/>

Film Studios

Richard E. Norman (1891–1960) was a filmmaker who bought property in Arlington, the former studios of the Eagle Film Company, to create a silent film studio called “Norman Film Manufacturing Co”. The studio created 8 films, and was different from most other film studios at the time for producing films with all-black casts. Jacksonville was also home to several other film studios in the early 20th century, including Klutho Studios, designed by Henry J. Klutho. Other examples were: Kalem Company, Inc., Lubin Motion Picture Company, which later became Vim Comedy Company, King-Bee Film Corporation, Amber Star Company, Thanouser Company, and Klever Pictures, Inc. The warm winters and proximity to New York made Jacksonville an optimal place for filming, however all of these studios eventually either relocated or went out of business around the time of World War I. Notable actor Oliver Hardy got his start in Jacksonville. The history of Norman Studios is exhibited at the Norman Studios Museum, and a collection of film posters from Norman’s films are displayed at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Reading List:

- Richard E. Norman and Race Filmmaking* Lupack, Barbara Tapa JPL
- The First Hollywood Florida and the Golden Age of Filmmaking* Bean, Shawn C. JPL
- Almost Hollywood: The Forgotten Story of Jacksonville, Florida* Miller, Blair JPL
- Norman, Richard E. and Gloria M. Richard E. Norman Film Co–Owner Dancer Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

- <https://guides.fscj.edu/jax/silentfilm>
- normanstudios.org



Augusta Savage (1892–1962)

Augusta Savage was a sculptor, born in Green Cove Springs, who lived in Jacksonville in the late 1910s. Her most famous work, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, inspired by the song by James Weldon and John Rosamund Johnson, was created as a commission for the 1939 World's Fair. Unfortunately, the sculpture was destroyed after the fair, as Savage didn't have the funds to move it.

An unnamed sculpture by Savage can be found in the Special Collections department at the Main Library, and her sculpture *Gamin* can be found at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Reading List:

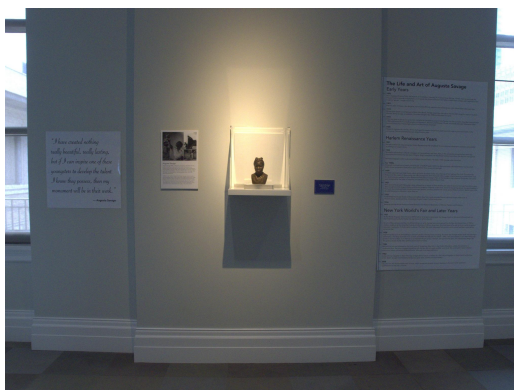
–*Augusta Savage : Renaissance woman* Hayes, Jeffreen M JPL

–*Sculptor Augusta Savage : her art, progressive influences, and African-American representation* Hinnant, Denise Ellaine JPL

–*Augusta Savage and the art schools of Harlem.* JPL
Savage, Augusta Fells Artist. Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

–<https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-artists-hall-of-fame/augusta-savage/>



LaVilla Music History

From the late 19th and through the first half of the 20th century, LaVilla was an important stop for the Chitlin circuit, with major venues along Ashley Street. Some of the people who performed there were Butler “String Beans” May, Patrick Chappelle’s Rabbit’s Foot Company, which included Ma Rainey, and Ray Charles. The Ritz Theatre & Museum exhibits this history.

Reading List:

–*A Cultural History of the First Jazz and Blues Communities in Jacksonville Florida, 1896–1916, A Contribution of African Americans to American Theatre* Smith, Peter Dunbaugh JPL

–*Ashley Street blues : racial uplift and the commodification of vernacular performance in La Villa, Florida, 1896–1916* Manuscript Material JPL

Online Resources:

–<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/lavilla-la-genovars-hall-lenape-bar-wynn-hotel-finkelstein-building/>

–<https://uncoveringjax.wordpress.com/lavilla/>

–<https://www.thejaxsonmag.com/article/six-surviving-chitlin-circuit-sites-in-jacksonville/>

–<https://www.thejaxsonmag.com/article/ray-charles-in-jacksonville/>

–<https://jaxmusic444.com/our-glittering-past>

–<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/lavilla-ashley-street-birth-of-the-blues-in-black-vaudeville-death-of-butler-string-beans-may/>

Arthur Blake (1896–1934)

Arthur Blake, also known as Blind Blake, was a blues guitarist and singer. He was a successful recording musician from 1926 until 1932. He was born in Jacksonville, and after recording music in Chicago he would return to Jacksonville periodically and perform.

Online Resources:

- <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/lavilla-blind-blake-walking-west-ashley-street/>
- <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/blind-blakes-jacksonville-ragtime-blues-map-or-in-the-foots-taps-of-blind-blake/>
- <http://gracyk.com/blake1.shtml>

Hans Barth (1897–1956)

Hans Barth was an internationally recognized pianist and composer who lived in Mandarin for the last eleven years of his life. He also taught at what is now Jacksonville University. More information about Barth can be found at the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

Reading List:

- American Composers Today: A Biographical and Critical Guide*, Ewen, David
- Barth, Hans 1897–1956 Pianist. **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

- <https://www.mandarinmuseum.org/mandarin-history/mandarin-artists/hans-barth>

Ellie Lee Weems (1901–1983)

Ellie Lee Weems, photographer, moved from Atlanta to Jacksonville in 1929. He had a successful career as a portrait photographer, and his work is an important contribution to the documentation of the Great Depression and the lives of African-Americans in Jacksonville. He worked for more than fifty years documenting weddings, funerals, entertainers, family portraits, church groups, and more. More information about Weems can be found at the Eartha M. White Museum as well as the Ritz Theatre & Museum.

Reading List:

– Weems, E. L., photographer **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

–<https://www.barbaraarcher.com/weems-about>

–<https://www.institute193.org/exhibitions-photos-by-weems>



Memphis Wood (1902-1989)

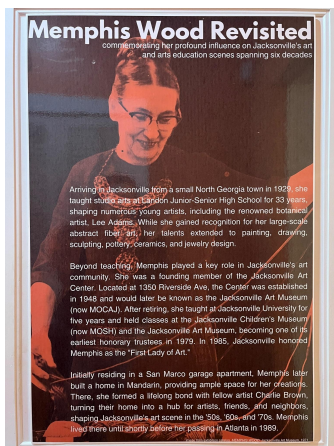
Memphis Wood was a multidisciplinary artist who specialized in fiber art and textiles. Her time in Jacksonville began in San Marco where she taught at Landon High School until 1962. After moving to her home in Mandarin, she became a member of the Crown Craftsmen, and taught art at the Jacksonville Art Museum, Jacksonville Children's Museum, and Jacksonville University. In 1970, the Florida Times-Union called her "Jacksonville's First Lady of Art". More information about Wood can be found at the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

Reading List:

- Kalliope: A Journal of Women's Art Vol. 1 no. 2 (Spring/Summer 1979)
- Artists of Old Florida* Frankel, Alfred R.
- Wood, Memphis Artist Multimedia /JU Art Department Chair **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

- <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/south/mandarin-memphis-wood-and-the-art-of-the-sanctified-fecund/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RG0GhpbJvI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ILklpT052c>
- <https://www.mandarinmuseum.org/mandarin-history/mandarin-artists/memphis-wood>



Charles M. Brown (1904–1987)

Charles Brown or “Charlie”, ceramicist, was born in Mayport, then moved to Mandarin soon after at age 2. He began his artistic expression as a painter, but was introduced to ceramics in 1951, becoming a full-time potter in 1962. He is well-known for his ceramics and for using the raku method of firing. More information about Brown can be found at the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

Reading List:

–Brown, Charles M. “Charlie”, Artist Pottery. **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

–<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/south/mandarin-charlie-brown-s-home-and-pottery-studio/>

–<https://www.mandarinmuseum.org/mandarin-history/mandarin-artists/charlie-brown>

Richard Seaman (1904–2002)

Richard Seaman, fiddler and story-teller, was born near Kissimmee Park Fl, and moved to Jacksonville as a young man to work for the Seaboard Railroad. His band The Melody Makers had a weekly radio program on WJAX for several years. He was very active in teaching young fiddlers and passing down traditions he learned in his youth.

Reading List:

–*A Florida Fiddler: The Life and Times of Richard Seaman*, Hanson, Gregory JPL

Online Resources:

–<https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-folklife-program/folk-heritage-awards/list-of-past-recipients/richard-seaman/>

Charlie “Hoss” Singleton (1913–1985)

Charles Singleton, songwriter, is best known for having co-written the lyrics for "Strangers in the Night" and "Moon Over Naples". He grew up in Jacksonville and continued to work in the city until the 1940s.

Online Resources:

–<https://wbssmedia.com/artists/detail/2262>

Robert “Chubby” Russell Wise (1915–1996)

Robert “Chubby” Wise was a fiddler who, in the early 1930’s, moved to Jacksonville to play music for a living. While in Jacksonville he and two friends, Ervin and Gordon T. Rouse penned the now-famous “Orange Blossom Special.”

Reading List

–*Fiddler’s Curse: The Untold Story of Ervin T. Rouse, Chubby Wise, Johnny Cash, and The Orange Blossom Special*, Noles, Randy

–Wise, Chubby 1915–1996 Country Musician/ Bluegrass Fiddler. **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

–<https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-folklife-program/folk-heritage-awards/list-of-past-recipients/robert-chubby-russell-wise/>

Stetson Kennedy (1916–2011)

Stetson Kennedy, an author born in Jacksonville, is perhaps best recognized for his book *The Klan Unmasked*, where he reported on his experiences infiltrating and testifying against the group.

Reading List:

–*The Klan Unmasked*, Kennedy, Stetson **JPL**

–*Palmetto Country*, Kennedy, Stetson **JPL**

–Kennedy, Stetson and family 1916–2011 Folklorist/ Writer **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

–<https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-artists-hall-of-fame/stetson-kennedy/>

–<https://www.stetsonkennedy.com>

Joseph Jeffers Dodge (1917–1997)

Joseph Dodge was a painter and former director of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. Pieces by Dodge are currently held in their collection.

Reading List:

–*Joseph Jeffers Dodge : paintings and drawings* Dodge, Joseph Jeffers JPL

–*Passion & clarity : the art of Joseph Jeffers Dodge* Murphy–Livingston Debra JPL

–Dodge, Joseph J. Artist Painting/Cummer Director.

Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

–<https://www.cummermuseum.org/event/the-joseph-jeffers-dodge-collection/>

Lee Adams (1922-1971)

Lee Adams was a painter, born in Jacksonville, who has been internationally recognized for his botanical paintings and murals. His painting *Ribault's Landing* can be found in the Special Collections department of the Main Library. More information about Adams can be found at the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

Reading List:

-*Presenting Lee Adams : portraits of tropical fruits.*

Adams, Lee JPL

-*Lee Adams Remembered* Thrasher Horne Centre for the Arts JPL

-*Paintings* Adams, Lee JPL

-Adams, Moulton Lee (Illustrator), 1922-1971 Vertical File JPL

-Adams, Lee and Mimi - 1971 Artists and Environmentalists. Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

-<https://www.mandarinmuseum.org/mandarin-history/mandarin-artists/lee-adams>



Mary Irene Forman (1923–2001)

Mary Irene Forman, a weaver born in South Carolina, later moved to Mandarin. She carried on the Gullah tradition of using sweetgrass, pine needles and bulrush to create her baskets and other objects. More information about Forman can be found at the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

Online Resources:

–<https://www.mandarinmuseum.org/mandarin-history/mandarin-artists/mary-irene-foreman>



1924 Women's Club Exhibition

Four artists were responsible for bringing modern art to Jacksonville: Merrydelle Hoyt, Rose Tharp, Louese Washburn and Edith Harrison. In 1924 they organized an exhibition that would lead to the formation of the Jacksonville Fine Arts Society which marks the founding of what is today MOCA Jacksonville, making it the second oldest contemporary art museum in the country.

Reading List:

- The Armory South: The 1924 Jacksonville Women's Club Exhibition Rediscovered* MOCA Jacksonville
- Artists of Old Florida* Frankel, Alfred R.

Online Resources:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bELpEi-2HqA>

Ann Adams (1926-1992)

Ann Adams, artist, lived in San Marco and learned to draw with her mouth due to polio. She is most recognized for her greeting card illustrations.

Reading List:

- Adams, Ann 1937 -1992 Artist. **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

- <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/south/ann-adams-polio-patient-artist-who-draws-by-mouth-south-jacksonville-san-marco/>

Robert C. Broward (1926–2015)

Robert C. Broward, architect, grew up in Jacksonville and began working as an architect in the city in 1956. He is also the author of *Henry John Klutho, The Prairie School in Jacksonville*.

Reading List:

- Florida mid-century modern architecture : perserving [sic] the recent past, featuring the architecture of Robert C. Broward. JPL
- Broward, Robert C. 1926– Architect Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

- <https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-artists-hall-of-fame/robert-c-broward/>
- <https://thebrowardfamily.com/author.html>
- <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/east/wacca-pilatka-by-rob-ert-broward/>



The Unitarian Universalist Church,
designed by Broward

Elaine L. Konigsburg (1930–2013)

Elaine L. Konigsburg was an author and illustrator of children's books and young adult fiction. She was born in New York and grew up in Pennsylvania, then moved to Jacksonville in 1968 where she published more than two dozen books.

Reading List:

- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, Konigsburg, Elaine L. JPL
- Konigsburg, Elaine "E.L." 1930–2013 Writer/Artist Multi Media. Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

- <https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-artists-hall-of-fame/elaine-l-konigsburg/>

Alan Justiss (1934-2011)

Alan Justiss, poet, lived in Jacksonville for most of his life, and is remembered also for being a mentor and enthusiast for other poets in the city. An extensive collection of his manuscripts and ephemera can be found in the special collections department at the Main Library.

Reading List:

-Alan Justiss poetry manuscript collection, 1960-2011.
Poetry/ Manuscript Collection JPL

Online Resources:

-<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/lux-x-justiss-on-duval/>
-<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/all-over-town/alan-justiss/>



Harry Crews (1935–2012)

Harry Crews, author, was born in Georgia, but spent his adolescence in Jacksonville. He often used the city as a setting in his Southern Gothic novels.

Reading List:

–*Blood, Bone, and Marrow: A Biography of Harry Crews*, Geltner, Ted JPL

–Crews Harry–Writer Vertical File JPL

Online Resources:

–<https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-artists-hall-of-fame/harry-crews/>

–<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/harry-crewss-childhood-nightmare-northside/>

Mildred Thompson (1936–2003)

Mildred Thompson's best-known work includes abstract paintings and wood assemblages. She was born in Jacksonville but spent most of her life in Europe. Her painting *Magnetic Fields* is a part of the collection of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Reading List:

–*Mildred Thompson: Radiation Explorations and Magnetic Fields*

–Thompson, Mildred 1935–2003 Artist Painting Vertical File JPL

–*Gumbo ya ya : anthology of contemporary African-American women artists* JPL

Online Resources:

–<https://jaxpubliclibrary.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16025coll131/id/740>

Walter Whetstone (1937–2018)

Walter Whetstone collected many items such as musical instruments, antiques, and signs, and installed them on his property which he named the Whetstonian. Located on Jefferson Street, the collection is still visible from the outside.

Reading List:

–*The Whetstonian* Wolfson-Foster, Maura JPL

Online Resources:

–<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/whetstonian/>

–<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/lavilla-whetstonians-last-days-the-mural-of-walter-whetstones-life/>



Padrica Mendez (1938–2025)

Padrica Mendez, opera singer and actress, grew up in the Lavilla neighborhood of Jacksonville. She attended Columbia University where she received the Fulbright Scholarship to study in Italy. While in Europe she performed as a singer and starred in three Italian films. After returning to Jacksonville in 1977 she took over her late father's tailoring business and was able to further develop as a fashion designer.

Online Resources:

-<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/lavilla-pedro-and-padrica-mendez-house/>
-<https://theblackthird.substack.com/p/the-harlem-of-the-south-lavillas>

Alan Jabbour (1942–2017)

Alan Jabbour was a folklorist and fiddler who was born and educated in Jacksonville. He performed with the Jacksonville Symphony and was the founding director of the American Folklife Center.

Reading List:

-*Decoration Day in the Mountains*, Jabbour, Alan JPL

Online Resources:

-<https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2017/01/alan-jabbour-1942-2017/>

Southern Rock in Jacksonville

In the 1960s and 1970s, The Allman Brothers, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Molly Hatchet, Limp Bizkit, and more, got their start in Jacksonville. Because the city was so conducive to the formation of these bands, Jacksonville has been called “The Birthplace of Southern Rock”. A historical marker dedicated to The Allman Brothers can be found in front of “the grey house” in Avondale where the band lived.

Reading List:

–*Jacksonville and the Roots of Southern Rock*, Fitzgerald, Michael R. **JPL**

Online Resources:

–<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/west-riverside-avondale/willowbranch-park-and-the-be-ins/>
–<https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/programs/florida-artists-hall-of-fame/lynyrd-skynyrd/>



Kalliope (1979-2008)

Kalliope was a literary journal associated with Florida Junior College, now known as FSCJ. It was dedicated to the art and literature made by women, including local artists, and it gained national recognition during its 30 year run.

Online Resources:

-<https://fscj.isle.flvc.org/islandora/kalliope>

Jacksonville Jazz Festival (1979-present)

The Jacksonville Jazz Festival is an annual music festival that has been held for more than 40 years. It features performances by traveling performers as well as local artists.

Reading List:

-Jacksonville Jazz Festival **Vertical File JPL**

Online Resources:

<https://jacksonvillejazzfest.com/history/>

Duval County Folklife in Education Program (1984–1992)

The State Library and Archives of Florida has records of folklife in Jacksonville on their website www.floridamemory.com, including interviews and images from the Duval County Folklife in Education Program, which began in 1984.

Alexander McBride

Pianist/ Blues musician

<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/235331>

<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/235330>

Tony “Red Tam” McQueen

Blues Musician

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235316>

Marie Buggs

Singer

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235293>

Etta Baker

Blues Singer

L.V. Starling of The Versiteers

Singer

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/237995>

Lynn Wadley

Folk Musician

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235367>

Manuel Fraguela

Guitar Making/ Guitar Player

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235292>

Dick Wagner
Instrument Maker
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235250>

Richard Seaman
Fiddle Player and Storyteller
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235323>

Jack Piccalo
Fiddle and Banjo Player
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235321>

Otinus Busness
Violinist

Margaret Garrison
Sweetgrass Basket Maker
<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/235262>

Margaret “Pauline” Hodges
Pine Needle Basket Maker

Ana Isasi Blanco
Lacemaking
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235360>

Frieda Mousa
Arabic Embroidery

Nadia Michael
Palestinian Embroidery

Ablah Bateh
Palestinian Embroidery

Nuhad Farmand
Palestinian Embroidery
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235239>

Ann Duffy
Egg Decoration

Evelyn Coskey
Polish Egg Decoration
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235340>

JoMarie Monsorno
Ukrainian Egg Decoration
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235306>

Ray Singleton
Model Boat Maker

Henry Wesley Stewart
Toothpick Artwork
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235289>

John Cross
Woodworking

Hope Odzak
Byzantine Iconography
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235309>

Concettina Barone
Tatting
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235273>

Prema Kumar
Kolam Design
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235338>

Peggy Hollowell

Quilting

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235307>

Flossie Dickinson

Quilting

Gladys Lanthripp

Quilting

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235328>

Jacqueline Simoneaux

Quilting

Lavinia Mathis

Quilting

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235314>

Fran Hoffman

Peace Quilt

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235311>

Poornima Shantharam

Indian Dance and Flower Braiding

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235335>

Mala Patel

East Indian Folk Dance

<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235364>

Keum Hee Bae

Korean Dance

Kim Alexander

Korean Dance

Mak Thoeung
Cambodian Dance

Tep Monoram
Cambodian Dance

Catherine Armah
Liberian Folklife
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235363>

Fu-Yung Chang
Rice Dough Sculpture
<https://floridamemory.com/items/show/235346>

