

City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Gainesville Cultural Affairs Board's Business Arts, Individual Arts, and Lennie Kest Lifetime Arts Awards recognize those individuals and businesses that have made significant contributions to the advancement of the arts in our community; and

WHEREAS, Business Arts Award recipient the Civic Media Center recently celebrated 26 years of serving the Gainesville Community as a nonprofit community events space, info-shop, and library. Since 1993, The Civic Media Center has hosted countless art exhibits, concerts, film screenings, creative workshops, puppet shows, theater, performance art, poetry jams, dance parties, book signings, and functioned as a lighthouse for students, activists, artists, and anyone looking to plug in to the richness of Gainesville community. The Civic Media Center is much more than a library. It is Gainesville's "Room of Requirement," shifting forms over the decades to meet the changing needs of our community; and

WHEREAS, Individual Arts Award recipient Diaunte Jenkins' and his company, United We Dance, provide adults with little to no training the opportunity to learn and perform. His dancers train in various styles including ballet, Hip-Hop, Jazz and contemporary. The company hosts unique community performances for audiences of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy. Mr. Jenkins has taught weekly classes for the Pace Center for Girls. The experience helped youth build skill in performance, sharpen discipline and strengthen self-esteem. He sets high standards for his dancers. Mr. Jenkins has a heart for community. He is a visionary with great courage; and

WHEREAS, Individual Arts Award recipient Ashley Ortiz-Diaz is a 2018 UF MFA Recipient and is currently the head curator of the 4MOST Gallery. She has successfully brought conversations to Gainesville through her artwork while also empowering and amplifying the voices of active community members and incarcerated individuals. This year she partnered with the Gainesville Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee to create an exhibition which displayed writing from incarcerated individuals, protest materials from solidarity demonstrations and artworks created by youth held in pre-trial detention. During her years at UF she was one of the key organizers to form a student-backed coalition to address racial and gender disparity among key aspects of the program; and

WHEREAS, Lennie Kest Lifetime Arts Award recipient Tene Silverman has been involved with the artistic community her entire life. Her belief in the importance of the cultural arts has translated into her TV show, dedicated to sharing with the community all of the opportunities Gainesville has to offer. The Tene Silverman Show has been, and continues to be, a resource for those with limited access to, or comfort with the internet. Her guests cover all aspects of life and help get the word out about the services, assistance, and opportunities available. Tene Silverman's passion and energy are never flagging. Her personal and professional dedication to the arts and her community are mind blowing. Her support of charities, fundraisers, and the Arts community make Gainesville a beautiful place to live..

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 5, 2020 as

Civic Media Center, Diaunte Jenkins, Ashley Ortiz-Diaz and Tene Silverman Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me to recognize The Civic Media Center, Diaunte Jenkins, Ashley Ortiz-Diaz and Tene Silverman as recipients of the 2020 Arts Awards and express our appreciation for their overall dedication to the cultural life of our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 17th day of January, A.D., 2020.


Lauren Poe
Mayor

