

Island Arts Council (IAC) Website: islandartscouncil.net

Proposal to Carolina Beach city council for enhancing the arts and culture in the community

IAC Background/Mission Statement: 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization since 2011, now with 90+ members and board of directors of 15. The IAC's mission is to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the literary, culinary, visual, and performing arts in the island community, in order to enhance the quality of life in our area. To further such purpose, the IAC will:

- Champion the arts in Pleasure Island
- Support practicing artists and local art organizations
- Encourage economic development through the arts
- Facilitate the development of our community into a regional arts destination

What art & culture is the IAC already promoting in CB?

- Art in the Yard, 2-day island event - in 2025 there were 49 artist locations on the island
- Artists exhibitions at Crush & Grind, Marriott, Bella Vita-Uncle Vinny's
- First annual "Island Beach House" Gingerbread House competition Dec. 2026
- Community Clay Healing Arts
- American Legion Art Therapy
- Pop up community events: Easter Jamboree tent, Santa by the Sea tent
- Artists Socials supporting local businesses
- August 1-15, 2026 inaugural juried art show: "Echoes on History" New Hanover County through Artists' Eyes at Fort Fisher Historical Museum

What can we do for CB?

Featuring:

- Artists-led projects rooted in local coastal identity and history
- Scalable projects such as public art installations, placemaking elements, and cultural programming (e.g., new for 2026 is the community/artists mosaic totems)
- Project management by the IAC
- Alignment with city plans (town vitality, tourism, walk ability, place making)
- Community engagement through design input and public unveiling events

Advantages of enhancing the arts in CB:

- CB will gain access to art experts
- Reduce administrative burden: the IAC manages artists, timelines, and deliverables
- Cost-effective approach through shared resources and outside funding opportunities
- Local artists are prioritized, keeping investment within the community
- Projects can be phased

Benefits of enhancing the arts in CB:

- Opportunities for residents to feel connected to their town through shared creative experiences which encourages social connection
- A more vibrant, welcoming community for residents, visitors, and future investment
- Enhanced public spaces that foster civic pride and a stronger sense of place
- Supports economic development through cultural tourism and local spending

Public Art: Mosaic Totems Proposal specifications:

Planning Stages / Approval Needed

- Project Management - IAC is totally responsible for the
 - Creation of the posts
 - maintenance of the mosaics on the posts after installation
- Historical Committee -approval of site placements
- Parks & Recreation -collaborate on place making and installation unveiling events
- Public Works -placement logistics to ensure the safety and aesthetic beauty of the Town
- City/Town Finance Committee
 - manpower for installation and grounds maintenance
 - seven 3-hour workshops held gratis at Recreation Center/Community Center buildings
 - Liability (transfer ownership to KB/CB)
- IAC Finance Committee
 - expense of posts, tools, and supplies
 - Budget income from Grant funding from Wilmington Arts Council/NHC Endowment
 - General budget allocation for balance of expenses

Installation

It will be necessary to work in conjunction with the CB and KB towns for secure installation.

18 total posts to be installed during 2026

6 locations across the island : 3 in CB and 3 in KB

3 posts at each location

Size of the posts at each location: 2 artists made will be 4' high from the ground up; 1 community made will be 6' high from the ground up

CB Art Appreciation light post flags with art from IAC members

Planning Stages / Approval Needed

- IAC artists paint coastal scenes specific to Pleasure Island to transfer onto flags for the CB light posts to be hung by city's manpower
- Cost of flag printing/production all by IAC

Featuring/Advantages/Benefits

- Supporting our local artists: Each flag acknowledges, in small print, the artist's name
- A collaboration with the city and IAC as we provide visual traffic focus for enrichment of the local arts and culture
- The beauty of art will flow from the light posts and keep the community and visitors engaged in our mission of developing our island as a regional arts destination