



City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of Mayor Harvey L. Ward, Jr.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Eleanor Blair arrived in Gainesville in the spring of 1971 driving her 1951 Plymouth, with only \$40, a shopping bag of clothes, a box of paint, and immediately fell in love with our community; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor Blair raised two children, many rescue dogs, and a few spouses. She worked very menial jobs while remaining devoted to the arts. This included music, as she drummed at night in bands such as No Questions Asked, The Blues Cruisers, Connie & the All-stars, and Weeds of Eden; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor Blair Studio on Main Street in Gainesville converted a dilapidated space into an elegant gallery, that for decades was the focal point for art walks and community events. This inspired many other artists to locate into our communities' arts and culture center; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor Blair's paintings are found in museums and galleries throughout the state, in many public and private collections. She has donated her art to hundreds of charity auctions, painted in dozens of open-air events and during orchestral performances, and she has taught many students over five decades, including her inspirational class "The Artist's Way"; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor Blair participated in 50 consecutive Spring Arts Festivals, with her art on the posters of several. She was named the City's Art Volunteer of the Year in 1990, and received many accolades, including the National League of American Pen Women, the Conservation Steward recognition of Alachua Conservation Trust, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the City and County Cultural Affairs Board; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor Blair's landscape and still life paintings capture the grandeur, mystery, and unique qualities of sky, water, foliage, and Florida-ness of this place. While her art enriches tens of thousands of walls in public buildings, in businesses, and in the homes of people who admire her interpretations of beauty that capture our collective love of this place; and

WHEREAS, while our community has finally run out of wall space for her, she has painted the portrait of nearly every palm tree, and her desire to explore other environments while inspiring her grandchildren motivates her to re-locate to Austin, Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey L. Ward, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim July 23, 2024 as

Eleanor Blair Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in recognizing this special day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 16th day of July 2024.




Harvey L. Ward, Jr.
Mayor