

The Naples 100

• CREATIVES



LAURA BURNS
Executive Director
United Arts Council of Collier County

Laura Burns brings a lifelong immersion in the arts to the United Arts Council (UAC), the state's designated local arts agency for Collier County. Burns helped to establish a creative arts program in Ohio for individuals with profound disabilities, and strongly believes that the arts are a platform for dialogue. The UAC has worked closely with local government entities, organizations, and area stakeholders to create a county-wide strategic plan for arts and culture.

EDUCATION: Savannah College of Art & Design (BFA), University of Akron (MA)

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Founding member, Naples Design District; immediate past president, founding member, Hattie Larlham Creative Arts Program in Manuta, Ohio; implementing a Smithsonian-approved finishing plan for new display cases at the National First Ladies Library; worked on the *Guinness Book of World Record's* World's Largest Painting in 1995

WHY I CHOSE THIS FIELD: I've been in the arts my entire life, as a performer, maker, and creator. I chose administration because I have experienced first-hand the ways art and culture unite us and create a platform for dialogue and inclusion. I couldn't imagine doing anything else.

ADVICE TO 18-YEAR-OLD SELF: Take the risk—it'll be worth it in ways you will never imagine.

CHARITIES: Shelter for Abused Women & Children, Project Help

STEN DONOVAN



JOHN M. COONEY
Partner
Stofft Cooney Architects

John M. Cooney has earned a reputation for exemplary, award-winning architecture. Growing up in New York informed Cooney's sense of design. Stofft Cooney Architects prides itself on its wide array of projects ranging from intimate residences to substantial estates with a scope of work that encompasses all genres to reveal influences from the most emulated, diverse styles throughout history. Regardless of style, the firm's philosophy is to create timeless architecture with modern amenities.

EDUCATION: Kent State University

HOMETOWN: East Hampton, Long Island

FIRST JOB: Lifeguard

BEST ADVICE: Make sure you love what you do for work as it's the majority of your waking day.

HIDDEN TALENT: I'm a good writer and can write poetry.

HOBBIES: Yachting, fishing, traveling, and pushing the envelope when and where I can

FAVORITE COLLIER COUNTY RESTAURANT: The Continental

CHARITIES: STARability Foundation and its Trailblazers Academy

BUCKET LIST: Bordeaux, France for some wine



KIM COLLINS
Vice President, Principal, and Owner
Collins & DuPont Design Group

Kim Collins has earned more than 100 design awards. She established Collins & DuPont Design Group with Sherri DuPont in 1987 to bring together their shared philosophy of serving their clients with high standards of personal service with designs that genuinely reflect individual tastes. Their leadership and visionary thinking have built a successful full-service concierge style firm, working with clients throughout Florida, the United States, and globally. She undertook post-graduate studies and has traveled extensively seeking knowledge and inspiration.

EDUCATION: Colorado State University

FUNNIEST WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE: We left the market by valet with another person's car. We noticed after one of the designers I was with thought someone stole her candy and soda that had been left in the car. When we returned, the family, whose car we were driving, was sitting wide-eyed at the curb.

BEST ADVICE: Luke:37: Faith does not make things easy; it makes them possible.

FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION: Italy

ADVICE TO 18-YEAR-OLD SELF: In the midst of your difficulty lies opportunity and learning.

FAVORITE COLLIER COUNTY PLACE TO VISIT: Gulf of Mexico



DAVID CORBAN
Architect
David Corban Architects

David Corban's work as an architect is marked by a dedication to environmental and community sustainability. Recent projects include the Shelly Stayer Shelter, the first purpose-built shelter for human trafficking victims in the United States, and the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center. His firm's design for Celebration Park received an "Award of Excellence" in 2019 from *Metal Architecture*. LEED-accredited, Corban has earned several regional and statewide American Institute of Architects Awards, including "Citizen Architect."

EDUCATION: Mississippi State University

HOMETOWN: Heflin, Alabama

FIRST JOB: Mowing lawns for gas money

Toughest Challenge: Starting a new architecture firm in the teeth of the Great Recession

HOBBIES: Cycling, hiking, and traveling with family and friends

FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION: Western Canada

FAVORITE COLLIER COUNTY PLACE TO VISIT: Fakahatchee State Preserve State Park

FAVORITE COLLIER COUNTY RESTAURANT: Taqueria San Julian

BUCKET LIST: Travel to Asia

NICK SHIRGHIO