

Carol Velasques-Richardson
14437 NW 143 Place
Alachua, Florida 32615
(352) 672-2122
Richardsoncarol63@yahoo.com

Bio

Carol Velasques Richardson holds several cultural and artistic positions in Alachua County. Ms. Velasques Richardson is the Program Coordinator of the A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center in Gainesville, Florida. The A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center, housed in the former Jones Family home at 1013 NW 7th Avenue in Gainesville serves as a tribute to one of the most influential educators in the history of Alachua County. The Museum features a permanent exhibit on “Prof” Jones, the people and places of the Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street neighborhood, and houses a collection of oral histories centering on the African-American experience in Gainesville. The rest of the space will host rotating exhibits.

She is a Board Member of the Arts Council of Alachua County, Advisory Board Member with WUFT TV/Classic 89, University of Florida, Chair, City of Alachua’s Parks Recreation and Culture, Theater Director and Station Manager of WUBA 88.1 FM, High Springs, Florida.

Ms. Velasques Richardson’s career in the performing arts began in the early 90s as an actress and then shifted to Multidisciplinary Arts and Culture management. She has directed 50 adult and children’s theater and film productions particularly examining race and culture in America such as “Fences,” “The Amistad Case,” “Cat on Hot Tin Roof,” “In Splendid Error: The Frederick Douglas and Captain John Brown Story,” “Dreamgirls,” “Grandmothers,” just to name a few. Carol’s other productions have included: “Smokey Joe’s Café,” “To Kill A Mockingbird,” “Phantom of the Op’ry,” “A Lesson Before Dying,” “The Amen Corner: A James Baldwin Journey.” “Sven Guitars,” “The Piano Lesson” “Blues for An Alabama Sky” “The Wiz of Oz” Huold and the Purple Crayon and many more in Florida and Georgia.”

Ms. Velasques-Richardson was successful in receiving a grant from the Florida Humanities Council to bring to life the story of famed African American Educator Mary McLeod Bethune to Life. She has worked with the Samuel Proctor Oral History Department to start the first Samuel Proctor Oral History Radio Program using the 7000 interviews in the library catalogue now in its 4th year.

While serving on the advisory board for the City of Gainesville, Florida Department of Cultural affairs, she co-developed the cultural plan for the city serving 150,000 residents. Reviewed agency grants.

Beginning June 2021, Ms. Velasques Richardson was appointed to the National Endowment for the Arts, as a grant reader for the summer Challenge America grants representing 31 community arts organizations in the United States.

While serving on the Alachua County Arts Council, she has co-developed a county-wide (9 municipalities) strategic plan which includes public art, performing, visual art and various multidiscipline which affect minority and rural communities. She works to engage communities on the value of the arts and how the arts also contribute to economic development and sustainability for communities.

Ms Velasques-Richardson has served as a Review Panelist for the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs in the Multidisciplinary, UACAP (Underserved Arts Program) category as well as the Community Theater in 2001-2004.

She is now in her 3rd year as a Review Panelist for the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs in the Media Arts and Multidisciplinary Level 3 category (2019-Present). Reviewing applications from Television, Radio, Community Arts, Museums, Universities and Film Festivals throughout the State of Florida.

At WRUF/WUFT Classic 89., Ms. Velasques -Richardson reviews applications for the “Artistry In Motion.” A 30 minute television segment dedicated to showcasing various artists and arts organizations in the Alachua and Marion County region. WUFT broadcasts in 20 Florida Counties in North and South Florida.

At WUBA 88.1 FM, Ms. Velasques-Richardson serves as Station Manager of a community radio station dedicated to telling the stories that affect the community. She hosts a monthly blues show and promote arts and culture on during primetime listening.

Ms Velasques-Richardson is dedicated to communities in which she lives and works to supports the arts wherever possible by providing a platform for the artists, reviews public policies, develop programming and assists agencies and communities in developing and nurturing its own creative resources.