

[Narrator] You've tuned in to another  
edition of The Breakroom, a

weekly conversation about how  
the City of Saint Augustine

works from those who do the  
work everyday.

Hosted by the

City of Saint Augustine's  
communications director,

Melissa Whistle.

The Breakroom

offers a closer look at the

different city departments and  
provides updates on current and

upcoming projects and events  
and now your host Melissa

Wissel.

[Melissa] Welcome to The  
Breakroom.

Thanks for tuning

in.

Over the years, the City  
Commission has established

three citizen awards as a way  
to recognize local individuals

for outstanding service and  
contributions to the city.

These awards are the Aviles  
Award, the Adelaide Sanchez

Award, and the Order of La  
Florida.

Each award carries

with it distinct criteria which  
must be met by its recipients.

The individual must be  
nominated by a city

commissioner and confirmed by a

unanimous vote of the entire

commission and the awards are  
presented at a time that

coincides with a milestone in  
our city's history.

So in

September coinciding with the  
founding of the City of Saint

Augustine, the nation's oldest  
city, the city commission

recognized Miss Kay Burton for  
the first of two recipients of

the 2023 Order of Law Florida  
Award.

Joining us in the break

room for the first time, allow  
me to introduce miss Kay Huppi

Burton.

Kay welcome and  
congratulations.

[Kay] Well, thank

you very much and thank you for  
congratulations.

I'm very very

humbled.

[Melissa] What an honor.

You've  
been in the city for many many

years doing lots of great  
works.

We're going to talk

about that.

I do want to I  
want to let folks know what the

criteria is and I'm going to  
say that it requires for the

individual quote over a long  
period of time has unselfishly

devoted time and talent to the  
welfare and betterment of Saint

Augustine's citizens and  
heritage who has exemplified

the finest qualities of  
citizenship and has contributed

extraordinary services to the  
community.

[Kay] Goodness.

[Melissa] You you

probably don't think that all  
of the great work you do

Measures up because for you  
it's a love of what you've been

doing.

[Kay] I have truly enjoyed

what I do probably much more

than the people who receive  
whatever I do.

[Melissa] Well let's talk

about I think the one standout  
thing that you do is your work

with the Art Association.

That  
was sort of the the pinnacle of

your work.

Yeah there's a lot  
of things that you do and I

want to come back to that.

But  
let's talk a little bit about

the art association.

[Kay] Yes.

[Melissa] Think

back eight late 80s is when You

started?

[Kay] Well, I became the

administrator in 1989 the day

after I retired from Southern

Bell but I had been associated

with the Art Association since

I was a baby.

Um my mother and

father came here in 1925 and of

course, the Art Association was

founded in 19 yes,

19twenty-four by Naina Hawkins,

the editor of the Saint

Augustine record and in those

days, nobody had ever heard of

a babysitter.

So, they just

dragged the kids along.

[Melissa] Right.

[Kay] And there were several of us

who grew up in the art  
association, the Rangers and

and the trying to think of the  
name but anyway, many artists

families.

[Melissa] Right.

[Kay] Who grew up in  
the Art Association and ours

unless they have already left  
us, left this world, they're

still associated.

[Melissa] And the  
Reigners I believe were a

recipient.



[Kay] Yes.

[Melissa] Of this award  
as well.

So you're in you're in

good company.

[Kay] Oh yes.

Tom and I  
have been friends since we were

kids.

Toddlers.

[Melissa] Yeah.

[Kay] But at  
any rate I took over the

presidency of the Saint  
Augustine Art Association Just

the year after my first husband  
died and it was because we were

just about finished.

[Melissa] Mm hmm.

[Kay] Our Art Association Gallery

which was built in 1953 had a  
roof that leaked like a sieve.

[Melissa] Mm hmm.

[Kay] We used to count how  
heavy the rain was by the

number of buckets of water we  
filled in the kitchen.

[Melissa] Oh

goodness.

[Kay] It was terrible and  
finally, I said to the board,

if we don't do something about  
this roof, we're not going to

have a gallery.

[Melissa] Okay.

[Kay] And we  
went to the bank and Ingrid

Geyer was very conscientious  
and very kind and did arrange

for us to get a loan so we  
could get a new roof.

So that

was the first thing that we  
did.

[Melissa] Sounds kind of like that

rain and water was a problem  
even back then.

Well we

continued to deal.

[Kay] And the  
problem was there was a tree

that was leaning on the roof.

[Melissa] Okay.

[Kay] The tree had made big

holes.

[Melissa] Oh boy.

Okay.

[Kay] Anyway

that that that was just the

first problem.

The second

problem was that because of all

the moisture in the building.

The person who had been running

it had declared it was a sick

building and she wasn't

going to open the gallery

anymore and I said well I'll

open it so that's how I started  
the next day and we gradually

build up.

I established a  
newsletter.

I sent it to all of

the former people that I knew  
who loved the art association

and we gradually began to get  
started having regular shows

again and getting tears to come  
in and help.

It was it was

really magical.

[Melissa] And the other  
what another piece of the

building and we're talking  
about the building that's down

on Marine Street.

Right?

[Kay] Yes.

[Melissa] It's pink.

It's a very pretty

building.

[Kay] Yeah.

[Melissa] And it and you  
also were part of the there was

a major fundraising effort in  
the 2000s if I'm right.

[Kay] Well

actually it was my sister and  
brother-in-law Faith and Joseph

Tiberio.

Uh We had difficulties

of course always raising money

and one of the things we did  
was to have an art auction.

Well, one year of the art  
auction was a terrible failure

and they saw me standing up in  
front of people with tears

running down my cheeks and  
Ty poked faith and faith poked

him and they said, let's let's  
do something and so they got

together with our architect and  
president of the Art

Association at that time who  
was Les Thomas and Les said

well I have the plans that were  
originally drawn with two wings

in the front of the gallery.

Would you like to build two

wings?

And Ty said well I think  
we'll start with just one.

And

Les said well it's going to  
look funny with just one wing.

We really ought to go for two.

Right.

We convinced Ty that he

should do both.

So within a  
couple of years allowing for  
the dig by the archaeologist.

[Melissa] Right.

[Kay] And other things we  
achieved 2 new wings.



One wing  
is named the Faith and Joseph

Taberio Wing.

The other one is  
named for my mother Margarita

Phillips.

[Melissa] And you you were  
coming here for years as a

child with your mom.

[Kay] Yes my my  
mother drove every year we

would come down in just in time  
for Thanksgiving dinner.

We

drove a model A Ford loaded to  
the guild and she drove all the

way from actually we started in  
Western New York from my

father's farm in near Buffalo  
and then we'd go to

Philadelphia stay in  
Philadelphia for a month with

my grandmother and then drive  
down to Saint Augustine.

So

here it was my mother in this  
little poor little Tin lizzy as

they called it.

[Melissa] Right.

[Kay] And she  
was blind in eye.

She had only

the sight of one eye and two  
little girls.

And I always used

to say she was either stark  
raving man or very brave.

[Melissa] Well

clearly she was a role model of  
just we're going to go and do

and you followed you have  
followed in that.

Let's get

some things done.

[Kay] Yes.

[Melissa] If  
you're just now tuning in

you're listening to the break  
room.

This week I have

Kay Burtin in studio with us.

She is a 2023 recipient of the

Order of La Florida Award Uh  
telling us a little bit about

the history of her time here in  
Saint Augustine and getting the

Saint Augustine Augustine Art  
Association closer into what we

see it as it is today and the  
Art Association now is

extremely successful.

[Kay] Absolutely.

Thanks to Diane and

Bill, Diane Bradley, and Bill  
Mayor, our present president,

and all of the volunteers that  
we have.

We have wonderful

volunteers.

We have a wonderful

board of directors.

Everybody

the board works.

We are a

working board.

Everybody has a

job and we all do our jobs.

[Melissa] Well, before we run out of

time, I also want to talk a

little bit about the two

things.

The other two other

things that are near and dear

to your heart, one is the pilot

club and the other is Emma and

if we don't get it in in this

conversation, I'm going to have

you come back.

Let's start with

Emma.

[Kay] Alright.

The Emma Music

Association which is an  
abbreviation for Emil Maestra

Music Association began in my  
living room because we had a

very fine piano which we had  
brought with us from

Pennsylvania and a lady who was  
a French Canadian lady was

spending winters here but she  
missed her piano and she

couldn't practice.

So she found  
out about our piano and asked

if she could come and play.

She

could practice.

And of course

we said yes you're more than  
welcome.

So they came very good

friends.

She and her husband

Eli.

And one one year for

Thanksgiving we had several  
guests.

Uh Madam Richoux

invited Noor Alban the daughter  
of Doctor Alban and she invited

her to sit on the bench and  
play the piano together and do

a duet.

And with that another  
guest whose name was Carl

Boringer Hop Dog and he sat  
down and the three of them

started playing jazz.

And  
everybody was amazed.

They had

no idea that Madam Richoux  
could play jazz.

She was

strictly very very classical  
but Carl Broringer was a German

prisoner of war of the  
Americans and because the

American officers had heard him  
playing his harmonica in his



cell they asked him to play the  
piano in the officer's club

during dinner.

And with that he  
began to make a liaison with

his captors.

Ultimately came to  
Canada and spent winters in

Saint Augustine.

[Melissa] Wow.

So you've  
seen musical talent crosses all

barriers.

[Kay] Absolutely.

[Melissa] Well I'm  
going to ask you so and so

Emma was born.

It it came out  
of this was a great wow this is  
fun.

This music how else can we  
get you to perform and Emma

came out of that [Kay] Yes.

They they  
all agreed at that point that

we should have a concert  
featuring Madam Richoux playing

and also featuring Emil Maestra  
who was a retired musician,

very eminent musician who  
played the cello.

And that was

Emma.

[Melissa] That was Emma.

[Kay] That was  
the beginning.

[Melissa] All great ideas

tend to come from people  
sitting around doing something

they love together and saying  
how do we share this with other

people?

[Kay] I'm very very grateful  
that I had the opportunity to  
  
do this.

[Melissa] Sure.

[Kay] And I think  
that's one of the if I have

a talent it may be knowing how  
to get people together who can

help one another.

[Melissa] Well Emma

stands today of a thriving

concert series in Saint  
Augustine.

[Kay] Yes.

[Melissa] Do we do you

know off the top of your head  
what year it's in?

[Kay] What year it

began?

[Melissa] Well what year is it the  
thirtieth twentieth?

What what

year are we in with with Emma?

[Kay] Well it began in 1979.

[Melissa] Oh wow.

[Kay] So it's been  
around.

[Melissa] It's been around a long

time.

[Kay] Yes.

[Melissa] I can tell you I was  
years old when that realist

started.

[Kay] See, time flies.

[Melissa] Yeah.

[Kay] You're having fun.

[Melissa] Doesn't it

though?

Well, I hate to say it  
but we are already out of time

and but I'm going to have you  
come back.

We're going to talk

a little bit more about some of  
the other activities that you

do.

Kay, you're an amazing  
woman.

You're still on the go.

We walk down here where you're  
active as ever and so I would

love to continue this  
conversation to share with your

history and and what you things  
that you do to still contribute

to the community and have you  
back on the break room.

[Kay] Thank

you.

[Melissa] If you missed part of this  
broadcast and want to go back

and listen from the beginning,  
you can now find us on your

favorite podcasting app, look  
for us on Spotify, iHeartRadio,

and more.

You can get a  
complete listing at City Saint

Aug Radio.

com.

We want to keep  
you informed about what's

happening in and around the  
city and most importantly, we

want you to hear it here from  
the people doing the work and

making it happen every day.

Be  
sure to follow us on social

media.

You'll find the city at  
on Facebook, Twitter, and

Instagram at City Saint Aug.

Thanks again for tuning in.

[Narrator] You've been listening to The  
Breakroom, a weekly program

addressing projects and  
programs offered by the City of

Saint Augustine.

Join us each  
week as the city's

communications director Melissa  
Whistle has in-depth

conversations with the people  
who make our town work to meet

the needs of our community.



The

Breakroom is produced by

communication specialist for  
the City of Saint Augustine,

Cindy Walker.

See you at this

time next week for another

edition of The Breakroom.