



**Community Impact Report 2022-2023**



# Table of Contents

## St. John School of the Arts

Although officially founded in 1981 the St. John School of the Arts (SJSA) traces its roots to 1972 as an extension of Steel Unlimited, the youth steel band that was the dream of Ruth "Sis" Frank. Sis was a true pioneer in many ways - first as a property management developer, and then as an arts visionary for the young people of St. John.

The mission of the SJSA is to enrich and broaden the development of the youth of St. John through arts education. The sense of confidence and accomplishment our students attain helps them lead more productive and fulfilling lives.

SJSA is not only the oldest arts education institution in the Virgin Islands but continues to be pre-eminent in the entire Caribbean. Serving over 500 students in both the public and private schools of St. John, SJSA provides scholarship assistance to over 25% of the students in its after-school programs.

Arts education - whether for personal achievement or performance perfection - creates a pathway to a higher level of development. Fulfillment in the arts furthers fulfillment in life. SJSA provides the pathway for creative achievement.

St. John School of the Arts is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, celebrating its thirty-fourth year in our permanent cruz bay location, relying on private and business donations as well as volunteer support. SJSA would like to thank those donors who have continued to support the school for many years.

SJSA is partially funded by Virgin Islands Council on the Arts (VICA) and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Virgin Islands Lottery, and the Theresa Foundation.

SJSA is a full member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education.

SJSA at a Glance **3**

Letter from the Executive Director **4**

Our Impact **4**

Programs **5**

2022-2023  
Arts for Advocacy Projects **10**

Cultural Preservation **13**

Events **15**

SJSA Supporters **18**

Financials **19**

Donors/Sponsors **20**

# SJSA at a Glance

## Our Mission

*St. John School of the Art's mission is to provide Arts education through After-school, In-School, and Community Arts Programming that have the power to transform lives and inspire greatness by instilling poise, confidence, and character.*

### History

What began as a steel band program and the vision of creating and sharing the arts in St. John U.S. Virgin Islands, The St. John School of the Arts was created through the management of Ruth "Sis" Frank and the instructional genius of Rudy Wells. Community support has allowed St John School of the Arts to continue bringing arts education to the children of St John for over 40 years.

### Programs

St. John School of the Arts empowers our island's youth and their families through our passion for music, movement, dramatic arts, and visual arts. Our programs seek to instill creativity and a greater sense of collaboration throughout our diverse community. St. John School of the Arts implements a variety of programs under the following umbrellas of service:

#### Afterschool Programming

After-school classes led by a dedicated, high-performing faculty in a variety of artistic disciplines

#### In-school programming

High quality arts instruction within the public and private schools of St. John provided by SJSA teaching artists

#### Community Arts Programming

Independent and collaborative art education opportunities for our diverse community to create and share art

### To fulfill our mission, St. John School of the Arts is committed to:

**Serving** many economically challenged families through scholarships and grants.

**Creating** an atmosphere where young people feel empowered to go beyond their limits and use the arts as a positive form of personal expression.

**Demonstrating** to the community the high level of talent and personal growth that develops when students are given proper training, mentoring, and encouragement.

**Showcasing** world renowned artists who extend their knowledge and technique to our community.

**Providing** the community opportunities to engage with the arts as audience members and active participants.

# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It has been a dream actualized to transition to the role of SJSA's Executive Director. It has been an honor to lead, envision, and create programs that provide arts access to the community of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands.

During my first year in this capacity I focused structuring SJSA, so that we are wiser, more financially secure, and able to increase the number of youth, adults, and seniors we reach. This year has been incredible with the expansion of programs and community involvement. It has truly been a joy to see the impact of our program during the past year.

Over the next few pages, you will learn more about our commitment to diversity, equity, arts advocacy, and cultural preservation. In the aftermath of hurricanes and a pandemic we have become more resilient and more deeply integrated in our community.

I want to express my gratitude to all our community stakeholders who assisted SJSA this past year in gaining a stronger sense of community through our in-school, after school and community arts programming.

I look forward to the opportunities and new beginnings that this next year will bring with your continued support.

With my deepest gratitude,

Jeuné B. Provost

## Our Impact



# Programs

## After School Program

Enrollment in after-school programming was robust this year. We offered more than 20 after-school classes in the disciplines of Dramatic Arts, Movement, Music, and Visual Arts. For the first time, SJSA required teaching artists to participate in at least two community outreach activities including open houses, fashion shows, live painting sessions, and student showcases in local venues. Students shared samples of their work and gave mini performances at our Sis Frank Concert Series. During intermissions they were encouraged to speak to audience members, allowing them to further their self confidence and develop their individual styles of expression.



“

I love Caribbean Movement because I get to learn new dances and have fun with my friends

– Iziané

”

“

SJSA gives my daughter a space and outlet to expand her love of the arts...dance, costumes, paint, drawing, writing, ect...as well as giving her a place to cultivate friendships throughout the community, not just school friends.

– Becky

”



## In School Program



SJSA provided free or subsidized in-school programs to Giffth Hill School, St. John Christian Academy, and Julius E. Sprauve School. Teaching artists tailored instruction to the needs of students and were sensitive to social/emotional developmental gaps resulting from pandemic restrictions.

Program: **Broadway Comes to St. John**

Grade Level: 4th grade

School: Giffth Hill, St. John Christian Academy, and Julius E. Sprauve

Program: **Introduction to Middle School Dance**

Grade Level: 6th, 7th, 8th

School: Giffth Hill and Julius E. Sprauve

Program: **Open Arms: Adaptive Art Program**

Grade Level: 3rd-8th grade

School: Julius E. Sprauve

Program: **Virgin Islands/Caribbean Culture**

Grade Level: K-5th

School: Giffth Hill

Program: **African Drumming**

Grade Level: 7th-8th

School: Julius E. Sprauve

Program: **Sis Frank Concert Series Musician Outreach**

Grade Level: K-12

School: Giffth Hill, Julius E. Sprauve

### **Broadway Comes to St. John**

The program gave 4th graders a chance to learn vocal technique, choreography, and staging from professional actors during this two-week program. Individual school groups first worked independently and then came together to present “When I Grow Up”, a glimpse into the joys and pains of growing up.

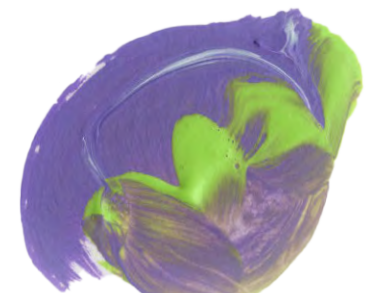
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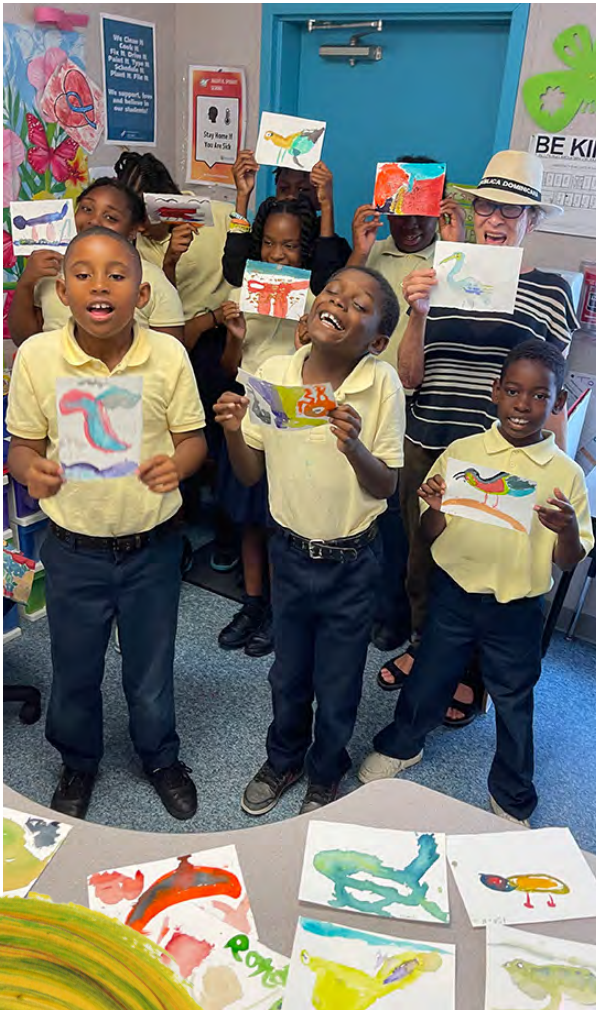
I popped into the school today and was beside myself with all the activities and students in writing, sewing and beading class!

The school felt alive!  
Thank you so much!!

–Gina

”





“ St. John School of the Arts afforded Sprauve School students with special needs the opportunity to shine in the arts under the direction of Jeuné Provost’s leadership. My students benefitted from a grant which allowed weekly sessions for students to be exposed to and work with different art mediums, including paint, clay, engraving and fabric dyes. My students showed an increase in confidence, communication skills and pride by producing works of art under the professional guidance of artist, Shira Sofer. They looked forward to their weekly art sessions. Just before school ended in May, Jeuné set up a surprise guest author and artist, Ms Debra who shared her art, book, and experiences about her travels in Africa working with school children. It was a wonderful and insightful session for the children.

I need to mention how SJSA financially assisted and mentored a young male student who is passionate about being an artist. SJSA gave him a grant to pursue his love of art and music. I’ve watched this young man find himself and come into his own.

Thank you, Jeuné, and to all the donors that believe in our children as I do!

Much gratitude,  
KD Munnely, JESS Special Educator



## Community Arts Program

“

The classes are a very important and meaningful part of the senior experience. The seniors come alive and look forward to the classes every Wednesday. They are pleasantly surprised and amazed at the results of each program. Each class has its own unique strength. Some seniors may resist and complain in the first ten minutes, the instructors are awesome and always win them over. I'm so grateful for SJSA and the magic that the different classes bring to the seniors. We are so blessed and can't thank Jeune' enough for including us.

– Abigail Hendricks  
Project Manager  
St. John Senior Center

”

SJSA offered arts-focused workshops, classes, and activities to build community, preserve culture, and ignite creativity. Many activities brought people together across generations with classes like Green Art, Caribbean Movement, and Beading and Jewelry Making.

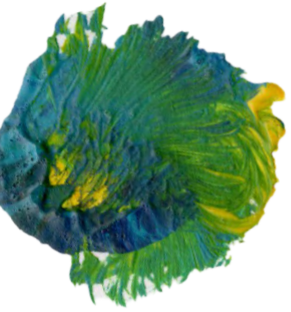
This year we also offered our first Senior Arts program that provided arts encounters (lasting six to eight weeks) in visual arts, music and movement.





## Summer Program

Students enjoyed three weeks filled with lessons in drama, art, music and movement based on the theme of a Virgin Islands folktale. Created by historian, storyteller, and community cultural activist Glen “Kwabena” Davis, students learned the importance of cultural traditions through the art of storytelling.



“

St. John School of the Arts made big changes this school year. Everything went smoothly from the time I enrolled my daughter in classes. She had so much fun and always looks forward to attending classes. I can't wait for next school year. The new executive director is so punctual and professional. I am looking forward to working with her again.

Keep up the good work!

– Iziané's mom

”



# 2022-2023 Arts for Advocacy Projects



## Cancer Survivor Portraits

A collection of student has celebratedf cancer survivors and has brought awareness to the importance of cancer screening and celebrated survivors in our community since October 2022.

**Art has the power to tell stories, change perspectives, and help unite communities facing important issues. See how the St. John School of the Arts empowers our students and the community.**

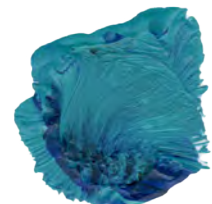
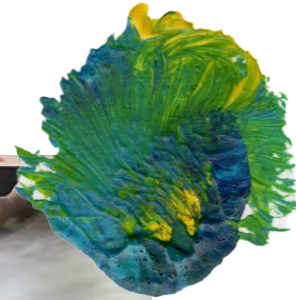
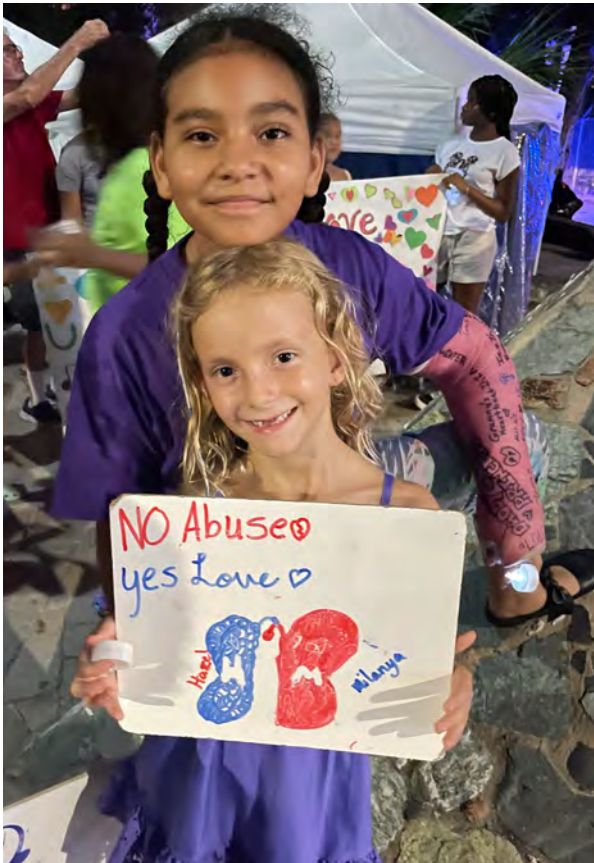
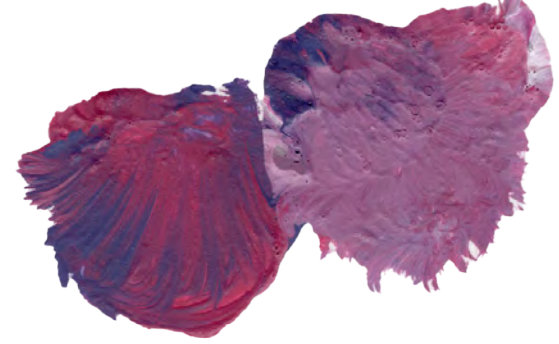
## Community Mural

The SJSA played a pivotal role in coordinating school groups, senior citizens and volunteers to create two exquisite tile murals in the newly renovated Virgin Islands National Park playground. Funded by Friends of the VI National Park, the project was guided by former SJSA teaching artist Crystal D'Abbraccio and her husband Sean of Tiny Tile Mosaics. The project captures the increasingly endangered beauty of our coral reefs.



## The Art of Love is Not Abuse

SJSA offered a free class in the visual arts designed to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence and inform community members about available resources. Through discussion of the slogan, "If You See Something, Say Something", students learned the importance of speaking up in the face of stigma.



## Earth Day

Through Earth Day activities including temporary tattoos and face painting, we engaged students and challenged them to find ways they can use art for teaching the do's and don'ts of protecting our environment.



## Adaptive Life Photographers

Art has the power to tell stories, change perspectives, and unite communities for important causes. We teamed up with Salvage Life, a nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide adaptive sports clinics and education for the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as to prepare adaptive athletes for competition at the Paralympic level. The photography students shared their stories of hope, perseverance, and commitment through imagery.



# Cultural Preservation

SJSA has a renewed commitment to promote and preserve Virgin Islands and Caribbean history and culture. This year we offered in-school and community-wide programs to increase participation in cultural events like Emancipation Day and St. John's annual carnival activities. Our troupe placed second in the "Troupes 50 and Under category".

## Celebration Parade

In keeping with theme "Flocking to the Arts," members of the SJSA troupe delighted viewers as they danced in colorful, feathery costumes inspired by local birds.



“

A wonderful job done by all!!!

Thank you for what you  
bring to our community!

-Sing St. John

”

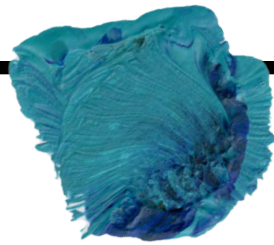
## Food Fair

During the Carnival Food Fair, SJSA provided jewelry-making classes, cultural art workshops, face painting, music and dance demonstrations and hosted a community drum circle.



## Emancipation Day

SJSA Expressive Pantomime Dancers were featured at this year's Emancipation Celebration. Through expressive movement, they brought the fire and spirit of their ancestors to celebrate 175 years of freedom.



# Events

## Broadway comes to St. John

For almost a decade, St. John School of the Arts' biggest annual fundraiser – Broadway Comes to St John – has been delighting audiences with original productions written by professionals and performed by 4th graders in schools on St. John. This is an incredible opportunity for each student to know what it's like to work with professionals in the arts. For most of the island's 4th graders, this year's production "When I Grow Up" was their first opportunity to get up on stage and shine.

The students also come to know how much discipline and focus it takes to work among peers to create art for others to enjoy.

Following the show, multiple scholarships are awarded to individuals who want to further their training in the arts.



“

Loved their performances! They were all so animated and looked like they enjoyed the stage. What a great experience to have at such a young age. Thank you all for your time and love for this effort.

– Kate Swan

”



## Sis Frank Concert Series

The 2023 Sis Frank Series brought four world-class musical groups to perform in our intimate concert space during the winter and spring months. This year we worked with musician and SJSA alumnus Victor Provost to identify key opportunities for diversification of concert programming and strategies for curating difficult-to-access music. Headlining this year were:

Flor de Tolorache, an all-female Mariachi band who blended traditional Mexican music with contemporary sounds.

The Escher Quartet, featuring Grammy-nominated pianist Terrance Wilson, performed classical and nontraditional music spanning the centuries.

Akua & The Tribe, a multicultural ensemble, presented jazz, blues, soul, R&B, and pan-African music in a variety of languages.

Victor Provost combined his talents with Grammy-nominated Alex Brown in a concert of steel pan and piano duets.



“

One of the best concert series!

”

“

The leadership, the organization, the talent, the guests and the performances are exemplary. We are so excited to see what comes next.

”

“

Outstanding talents and loved the student participation.

”





# SJSA Supporters

## Board of Directors

David Digiacomio

Beth Knight

Ronnie Lee

Kim Lyons

Katia Moltisanti

Jim Provost

Pamela Richards

Amy Roberts

Susan P. Stair, *President and Treasurer*

Monique Walters

Jay Walters, *Vice President*

Angie Warren, *Secretary*

Glenda Werbel, *Vice President*

Harvey Werbel

## Administrative Team

Jeuné B. Provost, *Executive Director*

Jenna Fox, *Assistant to the Executive Director*

## Teaching Artists

Tara Bartlett

*Visual/Textile Arts (Fashion Design & Sewing)*

Sakile Braithwaite-Hall

*Movement (Adaptive Yoga)*

Lily Briggs

*Visual Arts (Arts Exploration)*

Sherita Flowers

*Visual Arts (Art Exploration)*

Alesia Georgiou

*Dramatic Arts (Theater)*

Haile Israel

*Music (Ukulele, Traditional Drums)*

Dawn Johnson

*Visual Arts (Beading, and Jewelry Making)*

Renee Johnson

*Dramatic Arts/Writing (Hear Every Voice  
Creative Writing for Teens)*

James Kivlen

*Music (Guitar, Ukulele, Piano I & II, Violin)*

Susan Nicholas

*Movement (Tumbling I, II III, IV, ALLstars)*

Lisa Penn

*Movement (Cultural Folk Dance: Quadrille)*

Raven Phillips

*Movement (Bamboula)*

Kayden Richards

*Visual Arts (Photography)*

Carl Powell Sr.

*Music (Quelbe)*

Dietra Powell

*Movement (Expressive Pantomime)*

Lynette Powell

*Visual Arts (Arts Exploration)*

Shira Sofer

*Visual Arts (Senior Arts and Open Arms)*

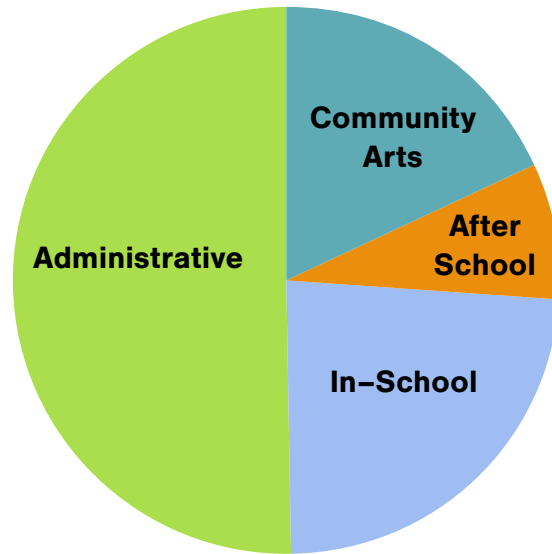
# Financials

## Scholarships

**\$62,826**

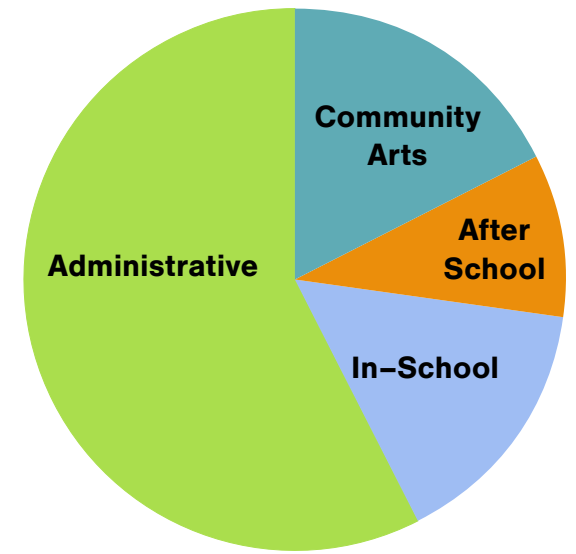
We offered financial support to every child who wants to take classes. No one is turned away.

## Income



**Total Income: \$364,422**

## Expenses



**Total Expenses: \$310,158**

# Donors/Sponsors

## **NATIONAL AGENCIES**

Mid-Atlantic Arts

## **STATE ARTS AGENCY PARTNERS**

Virgin Islands Council on the Arts

## **FOUNDATIONS**

Theresa Foundation

Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park

## **ART PARTNERS**

The Forum USVI

Bajo el Sol Art and Rum Bar

Sing Saint John

## **BUSINESS**

18o64o

Antolino & Associates

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority INC.-Sigma Theta

Omega Chapter

Bajo El Sol Gallery & Art Bar

Bamboula

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Blue Sky Travel

Bougainvillea Leasing Ltd

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Kate N Design

La Tapa

Lime Inn

Lime Out

Love City Barbershop

Mongoose Junction

Morgan's Mango

NChanted Designs

Ocean 362 (Gallows Point)

Rob Crane

Rum Hut St. John

Skinny Legs

Slim Man's Jeep Rental

Sports Bamboo Jewelers

St. John Insurance Agency

Star Fish Market

TOPA Insurance Services

Wharfside Village Hotel

Wharfside Village Hotel The Terrance

Wharfside Watersports

Windspreet

## **SCHOOL PARTNERS**

**Giffit Hill School:** Head of School: Liz Kinsella

Lower Campus: Rachel Fox

4th grade teacher: Laura Dunlap

**Julius E. Sprauve School:** Principal: Michelle

A. Rogers-Bully; Assistant Principal Clifton Boyd;

4th grade teachers: Anne Stapelton and Ivy Regidor;

Special Educator: KD Munnelly

**St. John Christian Academy:**

Principal: Pastor Reginald Joseph;

4th grade teacher: Franzine Caesar- Thomas

## **DONORS**

### **\$20,000 - \$50,000**

Kathleen and John Reny

Victor Anthony Martin

### **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Teri and Bernie Ackerman

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### **\$100 - \$999**

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ML Armstrong Peters

Ayn and Dale Riehle-Miller

Ann and Vicky Rogers

Judith Stoikov

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Michaelm Vogt

## **Student Tuition Sponsors**

Kenneth Burt

Merrideth Fletcher

Aaron and Bernice Jasper

Jean Elizabeth Kinsella and Colin Kinsella

Contributed between September 2022 - July 2023

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