



## Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture & the Arts



### ArtSmarts

#### FEATURED BUSINESS pARTner: PREMIER EYE CARE



PREMIER EXPERTISE. PREMIER SERVICE.

Premier Eye Care is a longtime supporter of Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture & the Arts. Impact studies confirm that the arts transform communities, and Premier believes that the arts are fundamental to making Tampa Bay a great place to live, which in turn attracts successful, forward-thinking businesses, as well as well-rounded, dynamic young professionals to the region.

Based in Tampa Bay, Premier is one of the industry's most trusted managed eye care companies, providing optometric, ophthalmologic, and full administrative services to Health Plans and their members around the country.

Over five years, the company has grown from \$20 million to over \$75 million in annual revenue, and Premier CEO Lorna Taylor attributes this success to Premier's expert team and to their shared commitment to community and social responsibility. This commitment is demonstrated on the walls of their office, where the works of Tampa Bay fine artists such as Will Corr and Dominique Labauvie are installed. Premier's commitment also includes supporting arts groups and institutions such as the TBBCA, which unites businesses to champion arts and culture through innovative partnerships and sustainable programs, and the Dali Museum, a destination that brings millions of visitors to Tampa Bay. Premier believes groups and institutions such as these make a difference in our quality of life every day.

A close friend of TBBCA and of Premier CEO Taylor was Charlie Houchell. Charlie was very involved in Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture & the Arts for 10 years, serving as Chair of the Board for 3 years. He was a successful business person and entrepreneur who had a love and passion for the arts that started at a young age, so he understood the significance that participation in the arts could have on young people. In his own life, he personally experienced what studies show - that participation in the arts as a young person leads to greater academic achievement, better self-esteem, stronger civic engagement and a higher commitment to social responsibility.

In 2006, Charlie envisioned and launched the TBBCA High School Art Stars Scholarship Program, which allowed local high school juniors and seniors in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties to compete in the areas of dance, instrumental music, literary arts, theatre, vocal music, and visual arts. Charlie and the TBBCA leadership team put together a world-class panel of judges to meet with and review the applicants, such as Michael Connelly, a New York Times best-selling author. Last year our community sadly lost Charlie, a dear friend to many and a wonderful community champion -- TBBCA has named this scholarship in his honor.

TBBCA is proud to partner with companies such as Premier Eye Care who support TBBCA and its initiatives, such as The Charlie Houchell High School Arts Stars Scholarship Program, thus supporting a vibrant arts culture of Tampa Bay.

#### In This Issue

[Scholarship Winners Announced](#)

[3rd Annual DooDad Competition](#)

[Featured pARTner: Premier Eye Care](#)

[Seeking summer intern](#)

#### Stay Connected



#### Quick Links

[TBBCA.ORG](#)

[Economic Impact Studies of Arts and Culture in Tampa Bay](#)

[Arts Tampa Bay - Calendar of Events](#)

#### Nonprofit Needs

The TBBCA is seeking a (part-time) computer science intern. Applicants should be smart, creative-thinkers with a passion for both arts and business. Qualified applicants who are eager to learn will gain practical experience building and maintaining a website on Wordpress, maximizing the power of social media and managing a small peer-to-peer network. This is a part-time summer position with the flexibility to work virtually on some projects. Please email [Jennifer Douglas](#) with questions or to submit a resume.