

INSIDER

THE INSIDE TRACK TO NEAPOLITAN LIVING



INSET AND RIGHT:
UNIQUE SELECTIONS
FROM COCOON
GALLERY IN NAPLES



LEMONADE HYPE

SPOTLIGHT

PLANTING ROOTS IN NAPLES

Inspired by nature and crafted by hand, the creations at **Cocoon Gallery** are so unique they often become the focal point of a room. Founder Mitchell Siegel travels the world curating awe-inspiring and one-of-a-kind accessories and furniture; he also handcrafts natural materials, such as acacia and teak wood, into custom live-edge tables, mirrors, sculptures, and wall art. Turn the page to discover more. —*Gaylene Salomons* →



PLANTING ROOTS IN NAPLES

Continued

After years of successfully operating from Greenwich, Connecticut, Cocoon Gallery relocated their woodshop operations to the Naples Design District, establishing a 25,000-square-foot shop within walking distance of their gallery, which has been open on Fifth Avenue South since 2020.

The woodshop, which includes a custom-made kiln designed to accommodate giant slabs of wood, is where Cocoon’s artisans create their live-edge furniture and decor from exotic woods. Buyers are invited to visit the woodshop to select various raw materials from which custom pieces are created. Visits are by appointment and include an opportunity to watch the artisans at work.

A licensed importer of exotic wood from Southeast Asia, Cocoon Gallery uses wood that is sustainably harvested; only fallen trees are sourced, and a tree is planted for each tree harvested for the company. (*cocoongallery.com*)—G.S.

COCOON GALLERY'S 25,000-SQUARE-FOOT WOODSHOP IN THE NAPLES DESIGN DISTRICT IS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF ITS FIFTH AVENUE SOUTH GALLERY SHOWROOM.

COMMUNITY

EMPOWERING WOMEN and Inspiring Change

In existence since 1996, the **Women's Foundation of Collier County** (WFCC) continues with its mission to be a catalyst for change in the lives of women and girls in Collier County through grantmaking, advocacy, and education.

The Women Lifting Women (WLW) campaign came about after an extensive, detailed, and comprehensive needs study. There are three components of the campaign: to address homelessness and isolation affecting senior women, to empower young women to face everyday challenges so they can move forward with confidence in their career paths, and to grow the organization's endowment to \$5 million to support the foundation's work in perpetuity.

Gather for Good is yet another recently



WLW SHOP & SHARE SUPPORTERS, FROM LEFT: SUSAN WEISS AND JENNA BUZZACCO-FOERSTER; DONNA MESSER, LYNDA WALTERHOUSE, ANNE FLEMING, AND EILEEN CONNOLLY-KEESLER.

launched campaign. It encourages local women to host brunch, golf outings, book clubs, or sip-and-shop events with their close friends with the intent to support the WLW campaign. An intimate party format is the perfect place to raise awareness and financial support for troubling trends, like homelessness. A conversation-and-cocktails event cohosted by Elizabeth A. Star

and Melanie Sabelhaus at Marissa Collections raised \$130,000 in one evening.

The organization created a handy planning kit to help hostesses seamlessly execute their events, including a vendor resource list for everything from invitations to photographers.

To date more than \$600,000 has been raised to support this campaign. (*wfcollier.org*)—G.S.