

FALL 2021

ARTS CULTURE

The Arts & Culture Insider for Greater Miami & Miami Beach



MIAMI
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Photo by Saddi Khali, Art of Black Miami 2018



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ON THE COVER

The DVCAI WALL'N collective captures the skyline, beaches and multi-ethnic lifestyle of Miami. Answering the question, "What Makes Miami, Miami?," this mural stretches across a vast wall at HistoryMiami Museum, created by Izia Lindsay, Asser Saint-Val and Rosa Naday Garmendia, members of the WALL'N collective. The mural spans 130 feet inside the museum's lobby. The three Miami artists were selected to create the mural by Rosie Gordon-Wallace, president of the Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI). They are immigrants who hail from Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti and Cuba. They all have extensive experience creating murals in the Caribbean and Miami.

The goal for the mural was to allow folks to find Miami within drawing and to activate the space and capture themselves using the mural as a backdrop for their selfies.

The mural will be on view through January 2022 at HistoryMiami Museum, 101 W. Flagler St. in Downtown Miami.

WELCOME...

What sets Greater Miami & Miami Beach apart from other great locales? Just about everything. More than a century ago, this seductive destination was created as a pioneer trading post on the banks of the Miami River. Today, it's known as one of the most welcoming, progressive and exciting places in the world.

Thanks to its amazing weather, thriving arts scene, diverse population and non-stop nightlife, Greater Miami & Miami Beach has earned its spot as a preferred vacation destination among culture seekers. Its multifaceted appeal lets visitors enjoy second-to-none fun-in-the-sun partying, in addition to scoping out elite cultural happenings and venues.

The attractions lineup includes unique natural wonders like the Everglades, miles of sandy beaches, top sports teams and events, and world-class museums and festivals that you won't find anywhere else. With a wide range of events, accommodations and dining options, Greater Miami & Miami Beach is as inclusive as it is unique, as sophisticated as it is sexy. Get one step closer to the vacation of a lifetime!

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The Department, and its 15-member volunteer advisory board, the Cultural Affairs Council, develop cultural excellence, diversity, access and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting equitable opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and the approximately 2.7 million residents and millions of annual overnight visitors who are their audiences.

Image: Olympia Theater at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts

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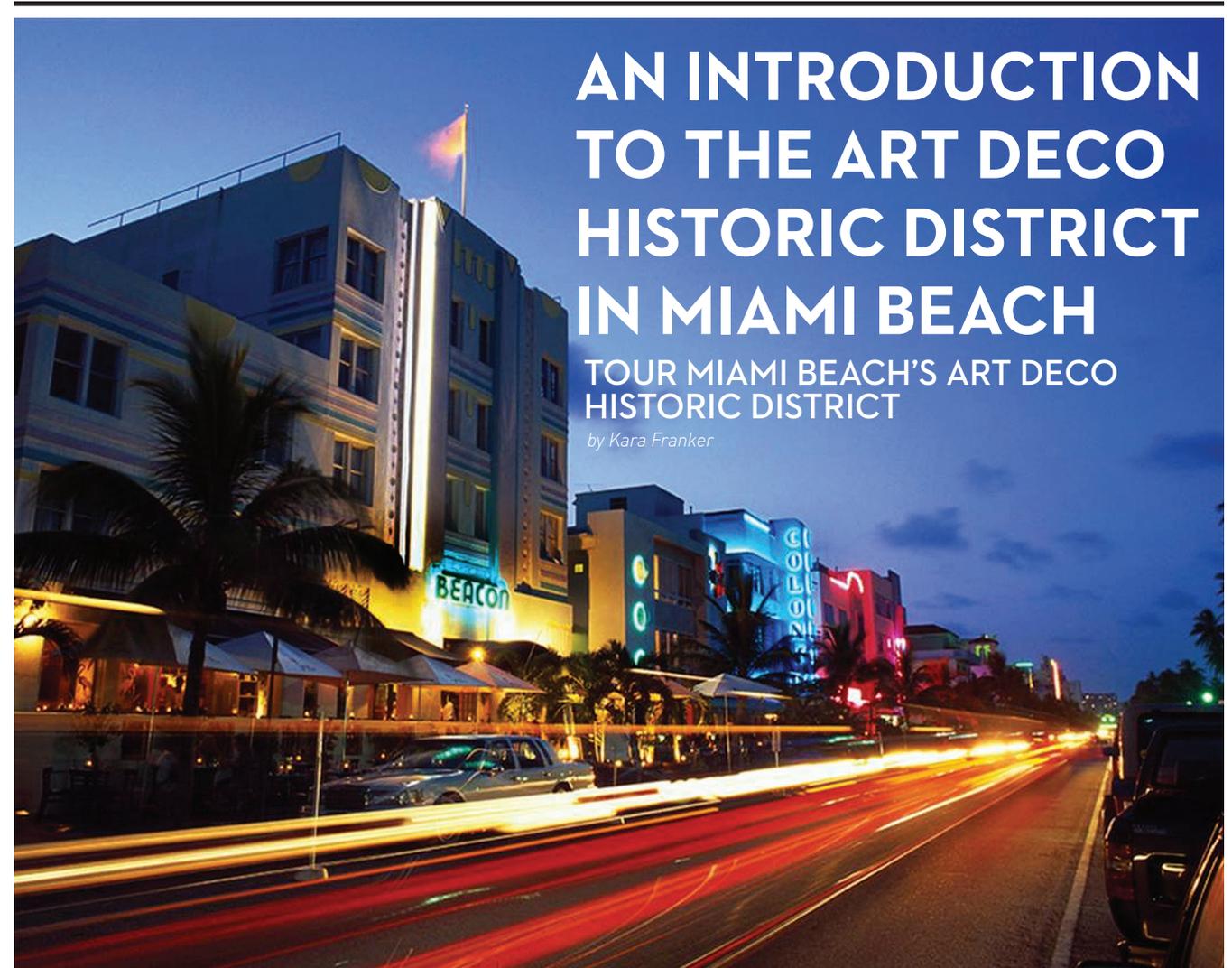
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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ART DECO HISTORIC DISTRICT IN MIAMI BEACH

TOUR MIAMI BEACH'S ART DECO HISTORIC DISTRICT

by Kara Franker

Miami Beach's Art Deco Historic District boasts colorful buildings, interesting décor elements, intricate details and a century-old history that offers a glimpse into a bygone era.

WHAT IS ART DECO ARCHITECTURE?

Reaching its "heyday" in the early 1920s and 1930s, Art Deco architecture is a modern take on neoclassical, one that is equally historic, retro and fabulous. Making its debut in Paris in 1925, today, the style is marked by its characteristic bright colors, from pastel blues and pinks, to bright oranges, vibrant yellows, greens and more.

Buildings in the typical Art Deco style feature exotic flora and fauna motifs inside, along with prominent structural gems, like geometric fountains or statues. Whimsical pastel buildings are embellished with glamorous features, from porthole windows and shiny curves, to glass blocks, chrome accents and terrazzo floors.

HISTORY OF ART DECO ARCHITECTURE IN MIAMI BEACH

The first 20th-century neighborhood to be recognized by the National Register of Historic Places, Miami Beach's Art Deco Historic District is made up of 800+ buildings and structures built between 1923 and 1943.

When decades of neglect nearly caused Miami Beach's Art Deco scene to be demolished, a historic preservationist named Barbara Baer Capitman founded the Miami Design Preservation League, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting the appearance and integrity of Miami Beach's Architectural Historic District.

It was through her hard work and perseverance that Art Deco in Miami Beach gained national protection,



The Celino South Beach hotel in the heart of the Art Deco Historic District. Photo courtesy of The Celino South Beach.

motivating designers and developers to bring out the area's Art Deco elements and restore its pastel-hued boutique hotels to their original style.

WHERE TO SEE ART DECO ARCHITECTURE IN MIAMI BEACH

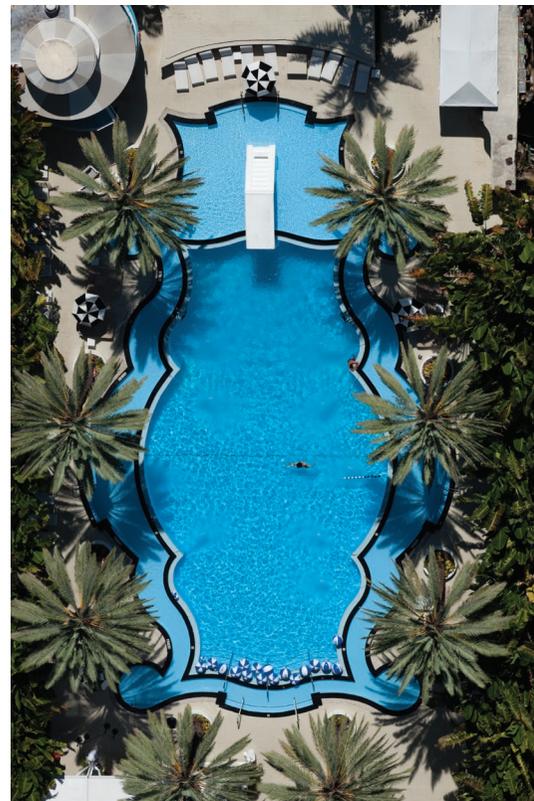
The Art Deco Historic District is located in Miami Beach between 5th Street and 23rd Street, along Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue and Washington Avenue.

Head to the intersection of 5th Street and Ocean Drive, walk north, and you'll start to notice the area's quaint buildings with porthole windows, curved metal rails and duplicated flags from popular ocean liners that once anchored at PortMiami in the 1930s. In particular, look for The Celino South Beach hotel, between 6th and 7th streets: an Art Deco gem that was once a popular hangout for Hollywood glitterati like Clark Gable, Carole Lombard and Rita Hayworth.

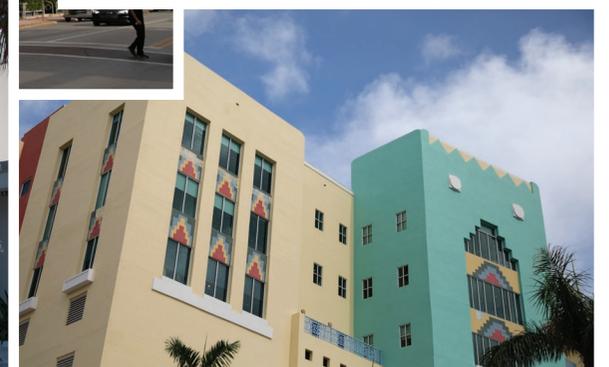
Nearby, the Beacon South Beach Hotel (1936) and the Colony Hotel (1935) have neon accents and giant signs that are hard to miss. And across the street, a stroll through Lummus Park promises enchanting views of the whimsical Art Deco skyline as a whole.

Continue north to 23rd Street, and you'll notice other prominent Art Deco spots like the Clevelander Hotel; The Villa Casa Casuarina, the 1930s Spanish-style mansion where Gianni Versace famously lived and died; and the restored National Hotel, which boasts a two-story lobby and a 205-foot-long pool, the longest in Miami Beach.

At one of the outer edges of the Art Deco Historic District, Lincoln Road is Miami Beach's pedestrian-only promenade and outdoor mall. It is lined by restaurants, shops, bars and more, all with Art Deco nuances on their façades.



The 205-foot-long pool at the National Hotel.



Art Deco buildings from left to right, top to bottom: Clevelander Hotel, Leslie Hotel, Marlin Hotel, Hotel Shelley, Art Deco Welcome Center and a popular Art Deco building at 5th Street & Washington Avenue.

ART DECO WELCOME CENTER AND TOURS

Located on Ocean Drive and 10th Street, the Art Deco Welcome Center, which is the office of the Miami Design Preservation League, is home to books and brochures about the area. It serves as the starting point for guided tours through Miami Beach's Art Deco past. It was founded in 1976 to save the area's then-neglected hotels from being destroyed, and today operates as a full-service visitor center.

In addition to the above, it offers lectures, films, exhibits and other events; has an onsite gift store and museum; and can provide information about Greater Miami & Miami Beach's performing arts attractions, national parks and monuments, museums and transit options.

A variety of walking tours depart from the Art Deco Welcome Center. For a schedule, visit mdpl.org.



WYNWOOD'S THRIVING ARTS & CULTURE SCENE

Explore street art and culture in the Wynwood Arts District

by Shayne Benowitz

Street art is mercurial by nature and the murals of Miami's Wynwood Arts District, just north of Downtown Miami, are in a state of constant, paint-splattered flux.

The late Tony Goldman, visionary developer and founder of Goldman Properties, first set his sights on the neighborhood in 2004 when he saw an opportunity for this formerly dilapidated warehouse district to become a canvas for world-class street art. His magnum opus, the Wynwood Walls, opened in 2009 as an outdoor museum dedicated to street art. Today, Wynwood Walls and the streets surrounding it are an ever-changing tapestry of murals by renowned local, national and international street artists.

WYNWOOD WALLS

Wynwood Walls occupies an entire city block on Northwest 2nd Avenue between 25th and 26th streets. It includes a garden, as well as an indoor gallery and studio space.

The program changes every December, in time for Art Basel Miami Beach, with a new theme and a fresh

Wynwood Walls is home to ever-changing murals

muralists working today, as well as cutting-edge, emerging talent. Below is a sampling of some of the artists whose work currently is or has been on display at Wynwood Walls.

Shepard Fairey

Los Angeles-based artist Shepard Fairey is most well-known for his Obey campaign and the Obama Hope poster. He's also one of Wynwood Walls' earliest collaborators, creating a permanent outdoor mural. His mural is a collage of pop culture and social justice figures from Martin Luther King Jr. to David Bowie and Basquiat. It also prominently features a portrait of Wynwood Walls founder Tony Goldman.



Wynwood Walls founder Tony Goldman by artist Shepard Fairey

Kenny Scharf

A New York street artist during the Golden Age of the 1970s and 80s, Kenny Scharf is known for his spontaneous, spray paint cartoon-like characters. His mural has been a mainstay at Wynwood Walls from its inception.

RETNA

RETNA is an LA-based artist, known for his distinctive lettering in an alphabet of his own invention based on both Chicano graffiti and the calligraphy traditions of ancient civilizations. He's painted walls in Miami since 2006 and joined Wynwood Walls in 2011 with a mural of white lettering on a red background.

coat of paint. While some murals have been there from the beginning, the museum is constantly showcasing new works. Before a mural is replaced, Goldman Properties takes care to document it through photography, video and artist interviews.

"We want to always give people a reason to come back and explore," says Jessica Goldman, CEO of Goldman Properties and Tony's daughter. "We want to give opportunities to as many wonderful artists as we can, so we change."

Their roster of artists includes some of the most famous and highly acclaimed



Happy Style street art by El Pez

Maya Hayuk

Brooklyn-based artist Maya Hayuk has created one of the most photographed murals at Wynwood Walls with her pastel colored, geometric forms that create overlapping diamond shapes. She draws inspiration from everything including views of outer space to nail art and ancient Sanskrit mandalas.

Inti

Chilean artist Inti's mural was added to Wynwood Walls in 2015. Drawing upon Incan traditions, folklore and culture, his mural's subjects are two larger-than-life children with both celestial and agrarian symbols and motifs inspired by child labor photography of the early 1900s.

The London Police

The London Police are a British art collective based in Amsterdam who bring a sense of playfulness to their work, often utilizing a group of characters known as the LADs, depicted through simple line drawings with round heads and happy faces. They contributed a mural to Wynwood Walls in 2015 in sky blue featuring the LADs in a factory-like setting. Their work can also be found on the streets of Wynwood.

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The murals throughout the Wynwood neighborhood are just as compelling as those found inside Wynwood Walls, and there's hardly a square-inch of concrete not covered in paint. This is where you'll find Miami's local street artists alongside work by visiting international artists.

Bushwick Collective

This organization of graffiti artists was founded by Joe Ficalora, a graffiti artist who grew up in Brooklyn's Bushwick neighborhood during the 1980s. The collective's prolific mural of collaborative work has the support of the Mana Urban Arts Project, a contemporary art project dedicated to large-scale installations by renowned street artists.

El Pez

El Pez is a street artist from Barcelona who is known as the founder of the Happy Style. His playful and imaginative art featuring colorful fish with toothy smiles has been spreading joy since 1999.

MSG Crew

The MSG Crew is a local art collective whose signature tag is a cartoon-like Florida orange with a big, toothy smile. Heavily influenced by interventionist graffiti, their tags are throughout the city.



Snap a photo in front of Wynwood's most photographed murals, by Maya Hayuk

At the old RC Cola Factory in Wynwood, they've painted an enormous wall in a Star Wars dreamscape.

Ernesto Maranje

Miami-based painter, illustrator and muralist Ernesto Maranje unifies images of plants and animals by composing different segments from each through vivid imagination. These highly detailed paintings tell the symbiotic story of how all living creatures are connected.

Jose de Diego Middle School Project

In an effort to connect Wynwood's artistic renaissance to the local community, a grassroots organization called RAW (Reimagining Art in Wynwood) engaged with Jose de Diego Middle School, whose arts funding had recently been cut, to bring acclaimed international street artists to the campus. Many artists donated their time and talents to work with students, paint murals and beautify the school campus.

THE MUSEUM OF GRAFFITI

The Museum of Graffiti opened in December 2019 as the first museum in the world focusing on the history of global graffiti art. The 3,200-square-foot space, curated by co-founder and well-known graffiti artist/historian Alan Ket, displays a permanent exhibition of paintings, mixed-media sculptures and interactive installations by some of New York City's earliest graffiti writers; two feature exhibition galleries; a rotating site-specific immersive installation and a gift shop with several limited-edition artist collaboration items developed exclusively for the museum. ✨




Scan here to access the Art of Black Miami podcasts

ART OF BLACK MIAMI PODCAST GIVES VOICE TO ESTABLISHED AND EMERGING ARTISTS

Always looking to expand its Art of Black Miami programming, which celebrates the Black diaspora, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) debuted its Art of Black Miami Podcast this summer.

by Josie Gulliksen
 This story was originally posted on *ArtburstMiami.com*, an innovative media hub for the creative ecosystem covering theater, dance, visual arts, festivals, independent film, music and arts news.

Featuring a total of six episodes, five already available and a final one debuting soon, the podcasts aim to shine the spotlight and give voice to Miami's established and emerging artists from the Black diaspora. Conducting the interviews is Rosie Gordon-Wallace, founder of the Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator

and a fixture in Miami's arts community for more than two decades.

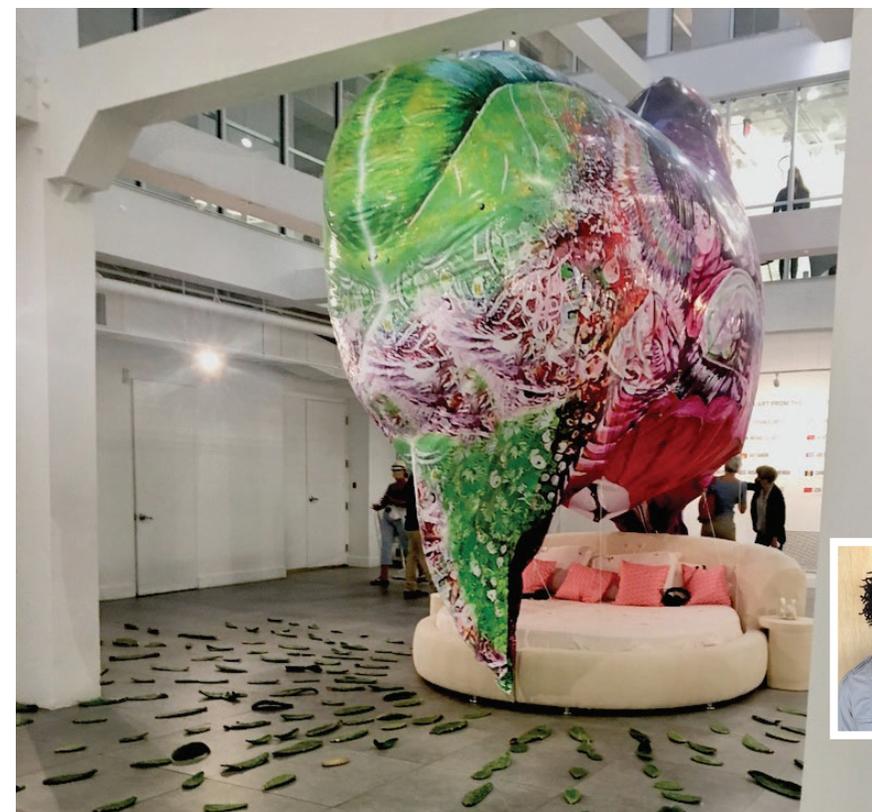
The podcast allowed creative individuals to share their journeys with new audiences during the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020.

"We had a year to think and be creative in the whole virtual space and devise other ways to get our message across about Miami being a destination for the arts," said Connie Kinnard, Vice President of Multicultural Tourism & Development with the GMCVB. "The podcast is another way to support our local artists and show that they're a business entity."

The Bureau's Art of Black Miami Program is part of a broader initiative called the Tourism Business Enhancement Program, which focuses on capacity building for tourism-related businesses, directly or indirectly. The programming helps connect companies to chambers of commerce and eco-development businesses. "It's an initiative to work locally with the



Overseer, Overseer, Officer, 2020 by Jared McGriff. Episode 1



Philosopher's Stone by Asser Saint-Val. Episode 2

businesses in our neighborhood to help them with all types of tourism," said Kinnard.

Artists are a major part of tourism because they are a business, and the Art of Black Miami program helps artists see themselves that way. "We want them to realize they're a major connection for us to tourism," she said.

The artists who collaborate with the GMCVB's Multicultural Division are those who have a connection and speak to or touch the Black diaspora in some way. It's the main focus of the department and the storytelling aspect of it, essentially getting the message out about artists who are somewhat unsung, "is another way to elevate the platform of these artists. In our podcast series it is positioned to where it is a bit of a story about their art and how they connect to Miami," said Kinnard.

Creating the podcast was a way for the department to begin documenting these stories and a way to hold on to the conversations, all working toward creating an archive. "These will really be evergreen



because it's about them and the artists' vantage point and how they create their art," said Kinnard. "The podcast is a way to start thinking differently. Crisis breeds creativity, and this thought process came out of a way to continue our mission in an effective way. Because podcasts have always been virtual, we thought let's go to a tried-and-true method of this story."

This podcast story series is something no other department at the GMCVB has done. For this first year, the group of artists came together a couple of ways.

Knowing they wanted to document certain people, there were names that immediately resonated. They also wanted a combination of up-and-coming as well as established artists, male and female, to help reach all demographics.

Each podcast ranges from 12 to 15 minutes, a good starting point to create what they like to call "snackable content." Translation: Just long enough to entice listeners. They also include links to the artists, in the hopes a listener will do research and hopefully even buy some art.

Local artist Najja Moon, who was the featured artist in Episode 5, shared her journey to being featured on the podcast.

"Rosie Gordon-Wallace approached me. Rosie is incredibly thoughtful and committed to handling everyone with



Urban Tapestry by Marvin Weeks. Episode 3



Erasure in the Making by Devora Perez. Episode 4

care. She explained that the show would center around sharing the work and narratives of artists who live here, and asked me if I'd be interested," she said.

Moon gives a lot of credit to Gordon-Wallace, whose "very thoughtful way of communicating is very organic. She is able to execute that kind of energy with everyone she speaks to."

That, coupled with the experience and knowledge of producer Cathy Byrd of Fresh Art International, who has been producing podcasts in Miami for years, make it a winning combination.

"Cathy has been running contemporary art podcast series in Miami for decades now and she was a great partner to bring on for this project," said Moon.

Moon is also excited about the group



Your Momma's Voice in the Back of Your Head by Najja Moon. Episode 5

of artists chosen and was thrilled to have been thought of for this initial initiative. "There are so many OGs in this group, I think the more conversations we have with each other the better," she said.

Those artists include Devora Perez, Marvin Weeks, Asser Saint-Val and Jared McGriff, who were all featured before Moon, and Robert McKnight, who will be featured on September 20.

As with so many cultural events, in-person went by the wayside during the pandemic but these virtual events, Moon says, "are a great way to inherently reach more people. In the future I hope they continue to exist as supplementary things to in-person events which have no replacement, but virtual events can greatly complement them."

Virtual also fast-tracked plenty of changes in the workplace in terms of accessibility, particularly public talks



3 Miami Central by Robert McKnight. Episode 6

or concerts that were lacking a certain amount of translation. "But now, the expectation is to consider accessibility in a way people never thought about before," Moon said.

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau is on the same wavelength, having already determined that they'll continue doing the podcast series. This year's series launched in April and runs through September.

In the first part of 2022, they'll begin planning next year's guest list, again from April through September, which for the moment they'll loosely call their Summer Series.

"This will definitely be an annual event because we've gotten great feedback and have already been approached by some artists who want to be on in 2022," said Kinnard.

After 2022, they hope to move the series into a greater podcast arena and take it to another level. The possibilities are endless.

Visit the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau's Art of Black Miami website, ArtofBlackMiami.com, to listen to Episodes 1 through 5 and find Episode 6 broadcasting on September 20.*



Ocean Waves II by Shan Shang Sheng, PortMiami

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Miami-Dade's Art in Public Places program is one of the most dynamic in the country, with more than 820 works in public parks and buildings

by Shayne Benowitz

MIAMI'S ARTS HOTSPOTS

Greater Miami & Miami Beach's reputation as a world-class arts destination is shining brighter than ever. Since 2002, Miami Beach has hosted Art Basel, staging the biggest contemporary art fair in the Americas every December. The Wynwood Arts District has cemented itself as a premier destination for both street art and cutting-edge contemporary galleries, while Little Haiti is emerging as the next big arts neighborhood. The Pérez Art Museum Miami opened in 2013 on the shores of Biscayne Bay inside a landmark building designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects Herzog & de Meuron, providing Miami with an unprecedented platform to showcase contemporary

art of the Americas through both its permanent collection and temporary exhibitions.

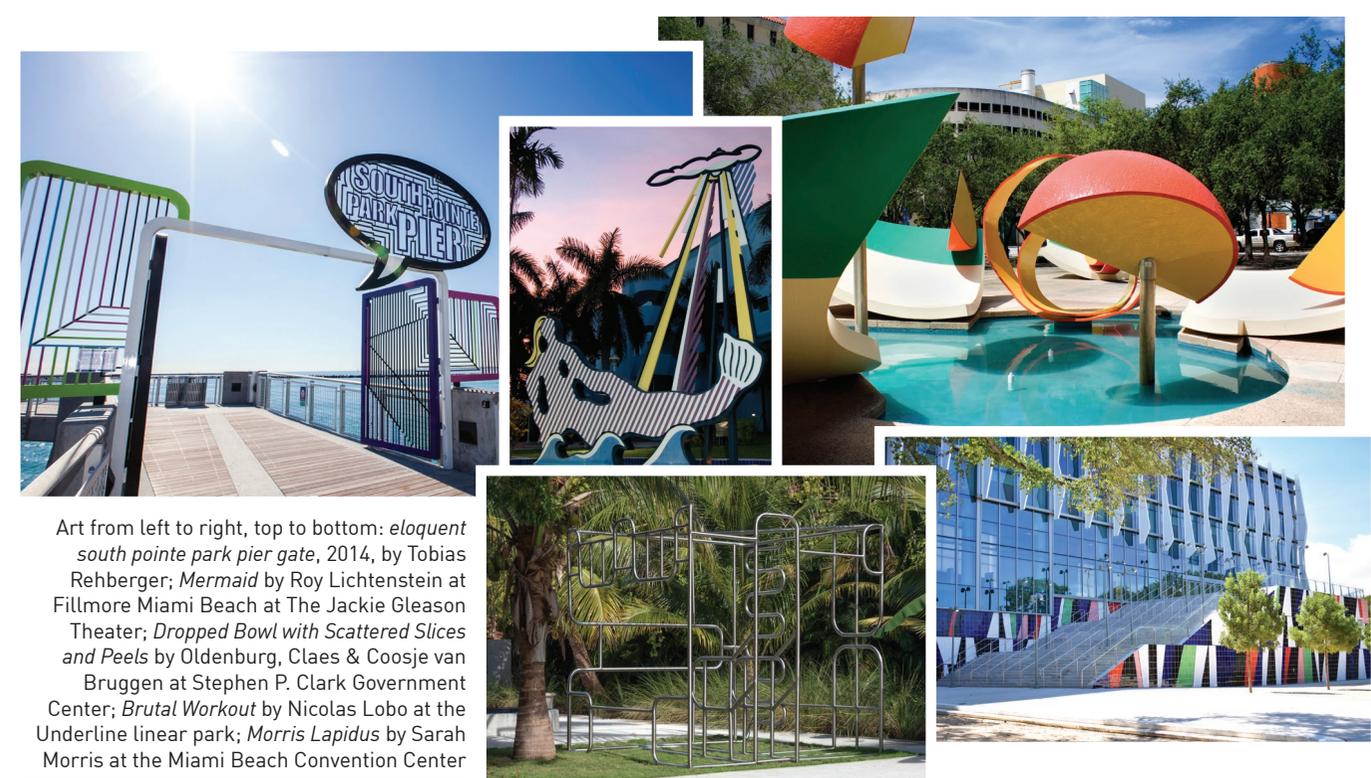
HISTORY OF PUBLIC ART IN MIAMI

Even before all of these recent developments, Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places program has been buoying the destination with art since 1973. Born from an ordinance that requires allocating 1.5 percent of the construction cost of new county buildings for the purchase or commission of art, the collection spans more than 820 works.

Established by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, it's one of the most impressive and professionally run programs in the country.

Public art is found everywhere across the county, from Homestead to Aventura, in venues that include Miami International Airport, Metrorail and Metromover stations, PortMiami, Zoo Miami, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, parks, fire stations, libraries, police stations, public housing developments, courthouses and community health centers.

The works are selected by a Professional Advisory Committee that makes recommendations on acquisitions and commissions to the program's Trust. Additionally, individual municipalities have their own Art in Public Places programs, including Miami Beach, which was established in 1984 and has sited more than 20 artworks, ranging from groundbreaking pop artist Roy Lichtenstein's *Mermaid* on the lawn of the Fillmore Miami Beach at The Jackie Gleason Theater to *Urban Deco* manhole covers by local artist-designer Garren Owens.



Art from left to right, top to bottom: *eloquent south pointe park pier gate*, 2014, by Tobias Rehberger; *Mermaid* by Roy Lichtenstein at Fillmore Miami Beach at The Jackie Gleason Theater; *Dropped Bowl with Scattered Slices and Peels* by Oldenburg, Claes & Coosje van Bruggen at Stephen P. Clark Government Center; *Brutal Workout* by Nicolas Lobo at the Underline linear park; *Morris Lapidus* by Sarah Morris at the Miami Beach Convention Center

EARLY DAYS OF THE PROGRAM

In the early days of the countywide program, much of the art consisted of two-dimensional acquisitions, while the focus for the last decade has shifted to site-specific, collaborative projects. The artists represented also range from canonical to emerging, as well as local, regional and international. Some of the collection's blue chip works include Isamu Noguchi's marble *Slide Mantra* sculpture in Bayfront Park, Keith Haring's drawings in the Stephen P. Clark Government Center and Ed Ruscha's word murals inside the Main Library.

NEWEST ADDITIONS

Recent cutting-edge commissions include Miami artist Nicolas Lobo's *Brutal Workout*, sited on the Underline linear park. The 10' x 10' stainless-steel structure resembles monkey bars for exercise. It's part of the first phase of the Underline, which opened in January 2021. Jim Drain, another Miami-based artist, has added a splash of color to PortMiami inspired by maritime flags with his *Bollard Project*, which runs along the sidewalk.

Another fascinating commission is

Ivan Toth Depeña's *Arc* at the Northeast Dade-Aventura Public Library. The stainless-steel sculpture was created using wind data from Hurricane Wilma in 2005, which destroyed the original library. At night, using wind monitors on the roof of the library, the sculpture's lighting changes depending on the power of the wind.

ART AT THE MALL

In Miami, you can even find amazing public works of art at shopping malls. The Arts Aventura Mall collection is available for shoppers and the general public to enjoy throughout the year, right on the grounds of one of the largest shopping malls in the country. The collection includes more than 20 museum-caliber works of art in various mediums, including sculptures and installations by acclaimed artists from around the world such as Ugo Rondinone, Lawrence Weiner and Louise Bourgeois. Local artists have contributed lively murals to the project. One of the most iconic pieces in the collection is Robert Indiana's *LOVE* sculpture, which is a favorite selfie spot. Other highlights include The Haas Brothers' "Gorillas in the Mist" and the Aventura Slide Tower

by Carsten Höller. It's important for children to be inspired by art as well. To that end, artist collective FriendsWithYou added the colorful Rainbow Valley Playground to the mix.

ART AT THE MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

The \$615 million renovation of the Miami Beach Convention Center presented an incredible opportunity for new commissions, with more than 500 artists responding to the call for proposals. Ultimately, seven artists from Berlin to Brooklyn were recommended for the original site-specific commissions, including a sculpture that resembles an arched swimming pool in the outdoor green space, a neon text installation in the main lobby, and interior and exterior murals on the walls. Another call to artists commissioned sound installations at the New World Center's Soundscape Park.

With so much art spanning the county's public places, visiting Miami can feel like a joyous scavenger hunt. Don't forget to take it all in and dig a little deeper as you're out and about exploring the destination. You may not even realize you're amid a great work of art. 🌿



EXPLORE ARTS & CULTURE IN LITTLE HAVANA

Experience Little Havana's vibrant arts and culture scene

by Shayne Benowitz & Jennifer Agress

Little Havana is a true reflection of Hispanic culture. Come here for authentic Cuban fare, a strong *cafecito*, a good cigar, Latin festivals or an intense game of dominoes, and leave feeling more relaxed and informed than ever before.

From salsa-dancing and art exhibits, to a historic movie theater, concerts and more, Little Havana boasts a thriving arts and culture scene with a distinctly Cuban flair.

For anyone planning a vacation to Miami, it's likely that "drink Cuban coffee" or "try Cuban food" is on your To Do list. More than any other place in the United States, Miami and Cuba have close cultural connections. Over the second half of the 20th century, many Cubans immigrated to Miami and their heritage is alive and thriving today. It's easy enough to sample Cuban cuisine and enjoy a morning *café con leche* in any neighborhood in Miami, but to get a true taste of Cuban culture, a trip to charming Little Havana is a must.

As you approach the heart of the neighborhood on Southwest 8th Street—known as *Calle Ocho* by locals—you may feel you've been transported to another time and place that's wholly separate from lavish South Beach hotels or modern Downtown Miami high rises. There's something quaint and neighborly



about the area. The street is lined with bakeries, coffee stands, restaurants and fruit markets, all locally owned. You get the sense that it's a tight-knit community.

The street is colorful, with both painted and mosaic tile murals. They depict symbols of Cuba, like tropical fruit, musical instruments, dominoes and cigars, while others illustrate Cuban legends, from poet and revolutionary Jose Marti to the singer Celia Cruz. And speaking of music, it permeates the neighborhood at all hours of the day. The sound of dominoes clacking from Domino Park is always music to the ears.

ARTS & CULTURE ON CALLE OCHO

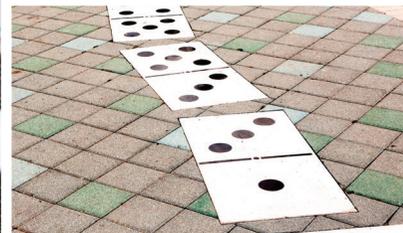
The Cubaocho Museum & Performing Arts Center is a local venue where Cuban artists, famous local musicians and intellectuals gather to play music, admire art, engage in interesting discussions about history and philosophy, or simply enjoy their Cuban culture, whether it's a hand-rolled cigar or a chilled rum drink. The brainchild of Roberto Ramos, this museum and performance venue houses one of the largest privately owned Cuban art collections in the world, including the 1937 work "La Rumba" by Antonio Sánchez Araujo, an oil



painting that spans 113 inches in length. Ramos first came to the United States with his brother in 1992, sailing from Cuba by way of a tiny wooden boat. Of the few things he brought with him, one was a painting by Cuban painter Carlos Sobrino, the 1953 "El Saxofonista," which can now be found in his Miami home. His obvious love for art, and for Cuba, became the foundation of his gallery: a place where he could showcase pieces of art, which he's collected around the world, that depict life in Cuba between 1800 and 1958.

Located on the corner of *Calle Ocho* and 15th Avenue, Miami Dade College's Tower Theater is one of Miami's oldest cultural landmarks. Art Deco in style, it first opened as a movie theater in 1926. Decades later, it became a popular spot for Cuban immigrants to watch American blockbusters in English, with Spanish subtitles, to help them understand both life in the United States and the English language. Today, the building is owned and operated by Miami Dade College (MDC), and serves as a place for people to gather for cultural exhibitions and performances, MDC-sponsored educational lectures, and films in both Spanish and English.

Futurama 1637 Art Building, established in 2011, is a creative work space in the heart of Little Havana. The space houses 12 artist studios and five offices. Monthly events include art openings, music productions and business and networking events. The mission is to advance the knowledge and practice of contemporary visual arts and culture in Little Havana through education, exhibition and public outreach programming and to provide affordable work space for outstanding visual artists in all stages of career development.



CUBAN FOOD & CULTURE

Perhaps the best way to get to know a culture is through its cuisine, and this is certainly true of Cuban food. Start a morning in Little Havana at Yisell Bakery with a Cuban coffee—either a *colada*, *cortadito*, or *café con leche*—and a *pastelito* (Cuban pastry). The *guayaba y queso* (guava and cream cheese) is a classic choice. Nearby is Los Pinareños fruit market, named for the region of Cuba that the owners are from. Peruse the fresh tropical fruit and ask for a *batido de mamey*, a sweet milkshake made from the mamey fruit. There are a number of restaurants to choose from in the neighborhood, and El Cristo Restaurant is a great choice for lunch or dinner. Try a Cuban sandwich and *croquetas* from the lunch counter or a meal of *ropa vieja* (a juicy shredded beef dish) with black beans, rice, and *platanos maduros* (sweet plantains) inside the dining room. At the end of your day or evening in Little Havana, you'll be enchanted by the friendly people and lively culture, and you'll leave with your belly full. ✨

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sobeseafoodfest.com

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iiipoints.com

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smdcac.org

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cortada.com

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abff.com

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12/2/21 – 12/4/21
artbasel.com



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arshtcenter.org

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12/10/21 – 12/11/21
northbeachbandshell.com

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12/16/21 – 12/26/21
miamicityballet.org



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1/15/22
pincrestgardens.org

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fgo.org

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