

THE SOUTH FLORIDA CULTURAL CONSORTIUM



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Stuart, Florida 34994-2234
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTH FLORIDA CULTURAL CONSORTIUM ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2017-2018 VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTISTS AWARDS

MIAMI, FLORIDA – The South Florida Cultural Consortium (SFCC) announces twelve (12) awards to preeminent South Florida artists through its 2017-2018 Visual and Media Artists Program. The Consortium, an alliance of the arts councils of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties, has recognized six individuals and one collaborative from Miami-Dade County, three from Broward County, one from Palm Beach County, and one from Martin County. The awards are conferred at either the \$15,000 or \$7,500 level. These awards are among the largest such honors accorded by local arts agencies to visual and media artists in the United States.

The selected artists are:

Miami-Dade County: Leonardo Castaneda, Rosa Garmendia, Eddie Arroyo, Cristine Brache, WE ARE NICE N EASY (Allison Matherly and Jeffrey Noble), Joseriberto Perez, and Katherine Hernandez

Broward County: Marielle Plaisir, Samantha Salzinger, Keisha Witherspoon

Palm Beach County: Rick Newton

Martin County: Linda Finch

The recipients were selected through a two-tier panel process which included the participation of regional and national arts experts. The 2017-2018 regional panel, whose adjudications are based solely on the evaluation of the artists' work as evidenced by the work samples submitted, included: Elayna Toby Singer, Palm Beach County Art in Public Places (Palm Beach); William Cordova, Artist and Former SFCC Recipient (Miami-Dade); Sebastian Perez, Lilian S. Wells Associate Education Curator, The NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale (Broward); Vickie Pierre, Artist and Former SFCC Recipient (Miami-Dade); and Chana Budgazad Sheldon, Executive Director, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami (Miami-Dade). The submissions selected by the regional panel for further consideration were forwarded for final adjudication and selection to the national panel, which was comprised of: Kate Green, Curator, El Paso Museum of Art (El Paso); Jane Panetta, Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art (New York); and Nate Young, Artist and Co-Founder & Director, the Bindery Projects (Chicago).

In addition to receiving the award, the artists take part in an exhibition hosted and organized by a visual arts institution in one of the five counties. An exhibition featuring the work of the 2017-2018

recipients will take place at the University Galleries (Ritter Art Gallery and Schmidt Center Gallery) at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL from September 15 – October 27, 2018. An opening reception will be held Friday, September 14, at 6:30 PM. The exhibition was developed in conjunction with curator Angelica Arbelaez.

The deadline for applications to the 2018-2019 SFCC Program for Visual and Media Artists is Monday, October 29, 2018. Artists interested in applying should visit <http://www.miamidadepublicart.org/#fellowship>.

The South Florida Cultural Consortium is funded with the support of the Boards of County Commissioners of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, and the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County.

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Images are available upon request

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in any Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs program or meeting, please contact Francine Andersen at 305-375-4634 culture@miamidade.gov at least five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).

The South Florida Cultural Consortium is a regional initiative in support of the arts governed by an Interlocal Agreement among the counties of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach. The Consortium's members are the local arts agencies of these five counties, including the Broward County Cultural Division, the Arts Council of Martin County, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, and the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County. The Consortium works to foster cooperation across the South Florida region to help develop and promote the work of cultural organizations and artists and the audiences that they serve. Its programs and services range from the Visual and Media Artists Program to regional arts education and cultural tourism cooperative ventures. The South Florida Cultural Consortium is one of the most successful regional arts alliances in the nation, demonstrating that by sharing resources and best practices, the arts can thrive across a burgeoning five-county area.

The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council develop cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and our residents and visitors who are their audiences. The Department directs the Art in Public Places program and serves its board, the Art in Public Places Trust, commissioning, curating, maintaining and promoting the County's art collection. The Department also manages, programs and operates the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, a campus of state-of-the-art cultural facilities in Cutler Bay, as well as Miami-Dade County Auditorium, Joseph Caleb Auditorium and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, all dedicated to presenting and supporting excellence in the arts for the entire community. Through staff, board and programmatic resources, the Department, the Council and the Trust promote, coordinate and support Miami-Dade County's more than 1,000 not-for-profit cultural organizations as well as thousands of resident artists through grants, technical assistance, public information and interactive community planning. The Department receives funding through the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, The Children's Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida through the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Other support and services are provided by TicketWeb for the Culture Shock Miami program, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, the South Florida Cultural Consortium and the Tourist Development Council.