

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT:
Liliana Hernandez-Constenla
305-375-5829/ lilianh@miamidade.gov**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
AND ARTS FOR LEARNING MIAMI CELEBRATE FIRST CREATIVE
ARTS SUMMER CAMP FAMILY NIGHT FOR YOUTH OF ALL ABILITIES*****Culminating Exhibit and Performance on July 2, 2015 at 6:00 PM***

(Miami, June 30, 2015) - The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and Arts for Learning/Miami will present a “Family Fun Night” to celebrate the culmination of the first Youth Arts in the Parks Creative Arts Summer Camp. This special exhibit and performance showcasing the creative work of students with and without disabilities will be held Thursday, July 2, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the West Kendall Regional Library, 10201 Hammocks Blvd., Miami, FL 33196. The program is free and open to the public.

Youth Arts in the Parks is an inclusive, socially-oriented, sequential arts instruction program for children and youth ages 6-17 with and without disabilities (youth with disabilities are welcome up to age 22). This fun and educational program teaches kids of all abilities multidisciplinary arts and creative expression in an out-of-school social setting, led by professional artists, art teachers, certified instructors and disability experts.

Begun as a Saturday morning visual arts program in southwest Miami-Dade in 2011, Youth Arts in the Parks expanded to two additional sites in central and north Miami-Dade County and added creative movement and expression in 2012. The Youth Arts in the Parks Creative Arts Summer Camp was launched for the first time this summer and ran from June 8 through July 3, 2015 at Wild Lime Park in the Hammocks. The full-day, comprehensive arts experience taught students visual arts, creative expression, dance, music, and theater, as well as yoga, fitness, sports and games. This unique model program is a collaborative partnership among the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Disability Services and Arts for Learning/Miami, the Miami affiliate of Young Audiences.

“Our original goal with the Youth Arts in the Parks Saturday program was to provide high quality arts instruction where kids with and without disabilities could learn side-by-side from exceptional teaching artists and make friends at the same time,” said Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs’ Chief of Arts Education, Francine M. Andersen. “With that goal accomplished and in response to overwhelming demand from families for a summer camp, we built upon the extraordinary success of our award-

winning Saturday classes and created a truly inclusive, immersive, and affordable summer arts experience located in a very under-served area of Miami-Dade County.”

Youth Arts in the Parks is part of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs’ “All Kids Included – Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids” (AKI) initiative. AKI creates inclusive arts and cultural programs so that kids of all abilities and their families can participate fully in the arts. AKI’s purpose is to increase the number of quality arts experiences accessible to children with disabilities and their families, and to promote the benefit and importance of inclusionary arts and cultural programs both in school settings and the community.

For more information about Youth Arts in the Parks, please visit:

<http://miamidadearts.org/education/youth-arts-parks>.

For more information about All Kids Included – Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids, please visit:

<http://www.miamidadearts.org/education-outreach-access/all-kids-included-accessible-arts-experiences-kids-aki>

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Media Note – Hi res photos of children participating in the Youth Arts in the Parks Creative Summer Camp activities can be downloaded from the link below:

<http://www.miamidadearts.org/content/2015-youth-arts-park>

Youth Arts in the Parks was developed by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs as part of its “All Kids Included - Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids” (AKI) program. AKI is an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and in part through grant funding provided by The Children’s Trust. The Children’s Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County by making strategic investments in their future.

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.

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).