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REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR YOUTH ARTS IN THE PARKS FOR KIDS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES

New Theater/Improv program to be held at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

(Miami – January 12, 2016) – Registration is now open for the spring session of the nationally award-winning “All Kids Included - Youth Arts in the Parks” program, presented by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and Miami-Dade County Park, Recreation and Open Spaces Disability Services, in partnership with Arts for Learning/Miami. [Youth Arts in the Parks](#) is an inclusive, socially-oriented sequential arts instruction program for children and youth with and without disabilities that takes place on Saturday mornings, beginning January 30, 2016, with a parent orientation on January 23, 2016. The sessions run through April 16, 2016. A culminating event with an exhibition and performance by the participating students will be held on April 23, 2016.

Participants can choose from a variety of arts disciplines at four different locations, including visual arts, creative expression or the new theater/improv program to be held at the [African Heritage Cultural Arts Center](#).

WHO: **Children and youth with and without disabilities, ages 6-17.** Youth with disabilities are welcome up to age 22. Participants must be residents of Miami-Dade County.

WHAT: **Youth Arts in the Parks** is an inclusive program where youth can have fun, make friends, make art and be creative! No prior art, creative expression, or theater/improv experience is required. This fun and educational program teaches kids of all abilities visual arts, creative expression, or theater/improv in an out-of-school social setting, led by professional artists/art teachers, certified instructors and disability experts.

WHERE: Classes will be held at the following locations:

Visual Arts – Camp Matecumbe, 13841 SW 120 Street, Miami

Visual Arts – Highland Oaks Park, 20300 NE 24 Avenue, Miami

Creative Expression – Miller Drive Park, 5510 SW 94 Court, Miami

Theater/Improv – African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22 Ave, Miami

WHEN: Orientation: 10 AM, Saturday, January 23, 2016 at each program location. Classes are held Saturdays from 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM and run through April 16, 2016.

COST: First child - \$40, Siblings - \$20. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch - \$20. Must show proof at time of registration.

Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority consideration is provided to students from the “Youth Arts in the Parks” waiting list.

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 creates inclusive arts and cultural programs so that kids of all abilities and their families can participate fully in the arts and is 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.

For more information and to register visit <http://www.miamidadearts.org/education/youth-arts-parks-0>.

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).

Follow us on social media @MiamiDadeArts and #AllKidsIncluded #YouthArtsintheParks

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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.