

WE ARE LISTENING

When we truly listen, we must be willing to change. And we are listening as we plan for the next chapter in our evolution as your performing arts center. Before we officially launch our five-year strategic plan, I want to learn more from our community. Last month, we held the first in a series of community conversations, supported by our esteemed district commissioners. These "listening sessions" give us a chance to hear from you as we work together to define the future of arts and culture in Miami. I invite you to attend and share your thoughts with us. Click [here](#) to see a list of our next community conversations.



Adrienne Arsht Center President and CEO Johann Zietsman. Photo by PS Photography and Films.

PERFORMING ARTS BREAKS BARRIERS FOR 130 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

130 students performed as a part of the Arsht Center's Accessing the Arts residency in their final showcase! For eight weeks, students from all over Miami-Dade County Public Schools worked with teaching artists in theater, movement and music. The Arsht Center provides an inclusive residency that merges the performing arts into the classroom for students with disabilities in partnership with Arts4All Florida and Miami-Dade County Public Schools-Department of Exceptional Student Education. We applaud all of the amazing performers!



Children performing in the Accessing the Arts program. Photo by Justin Namon, ra-haus.

SHINE BRIGHT LIKE A DYMON!

We are thrilled to share that AileyCamp Miami Alumnus Dymon Smith has been accepted to the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and the NYU Class of 2023 with a full scholarship that will support her passion for dance! Since 2012, when Dymon attended AileyCamp Miami, she has always excelled, making herself available to other campers when they needed help in the studio and even returning to camp in 2018 as a mentor for campers who wanted to continue a career in dance. Congratulations Dymon, keep shining bright!



Former AileyCamp Miami Director Ethel Calhoun and AileyCamp Miami Alumnus Dymon Smith at the AileyCamp Miami 10th Anniversary finale.

THE POWER OF A TEACHER'S INFLUENCE

Arsht Center Director of Production Curtis Hodge and his team oversee everything from lighting and audio to stage sets and rigging for more than 400 productions every year. He credits his high school teacher, Bruce Brown, with introducing him to a career in the technical arts 35 years ago at Dillard High in Fort Lauderdale. In May, Hodge returned the favor and hired Brown as production stage manager for "Rock Odyssey," a musical presented by the Arsht Center for all fifth-graders in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. "He's the reason I got into technical theater and now it's come full circle," Hodge said.



Arsht Center Director of Production Curtis Hodge, a 1985 Dillard High graduate, with his mentor, Bruce Brown, who retired in 2016 as artistic director of Dillard's performing arts magnet program to start his own stage management and lighting design firm. *Photo by Jodi Farrell.*

WE ARE YOUR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Last month, I invited you to be part of the Arsht Center's five-year strategic plan. Over the next months we will continue asking and listening to better understand who we are to you and how we can fulfill our potential as your performing arts center. What do we mean to you? And what would you like us to be recognized for? Click [here](#) to answer these two questions.



Adrienne Arsht Center President and CEO Johann Zietsman. Photo by PS Photography and Films.

JUANES AND BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL FIRED UP MORE THAN 1,100 GUESTS AT ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

1,100 Miami music lovers danced to the exhilarating sounds of multi Grammy Award-winning sensation Juanes and Tony Award-winning Broadway legend Brian Stokes Mitchell at the Center's star-studded 13th Anniversary Concert. Thank you to the many Miamians who turned out to celebrate!



Colombian guitarist, singer, songwriter and winner of multiple Grammy Awards, Juanes. Photo by [WorldRedEye.com](#).

TEACHERS ARE ROCK STARS!

Miami-Dade County Public Schools teachers were rock stars for the night as the Arsht Center treated more than 30 educators to a pre-performance reception and free tickets to *School of Rock!* Three outstanding music teachers – Steven Plater of Southside Elementary, Nicole Vasconcelos of South Dade Middle School and David Cruz of South Miami Senior High, all nominated by their students and colleagues – were recognized for their impact in their students' lives.

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David Cruz, Nicole Vasconcelos, & Steven Plater were honored at the Arsht Center's *School of Rock* Teacher Appreciation Night. Photo by [WorldRedEye.com](#).

400 FOLLOW A CARNIVAL BEAT TO SUPPORT MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS

400 attendees had an exuberant evening at *Party on the Plaza*, the Arsht Center's first gala after-party on the Thomson Plaza for the Arts. The celebration paid tribute to Miami's Caribbean carnival traditions with island-inspired food, DJ International Stephen, DJ NickyMix and dancers from Peter London Global Dance Company. Proceeds benefitted the Miami Diaspora Fund which supports the commissioning and presenting of multicultural artists.



Party on the Plaza was chaired by philanthropists Carla and Marlon Hill, with host committee members Rodney Adkins II, Gemma Berry, Jamal Charles, Wendy Francois, Rochelle Gapere, Jasmin Grant, Steve Jackson, Monica Kirkland, Peter London, Kevin Michael, Eveline Pierre and Tiffany Rosen. Photo by [Eyeworks Productions](#).

300 YOUTH INTERVIEW FOR THE 11th AILEYCAMP MIAMI

More than 300 Miami middle school students, aged 11 to 14 years old, gathered at Knight Concert Hall on April 27 to interview for 100 coveted spots in this summer's AileyCamp Miami at the Arsht Center. Boys and girls filed onto the Swanee and Paul DiMare Stage to begin their day with a dance warm-up followed by personal interviews with one of 25 volunteer community members. This marks the 11th year of AileyCamp Miami, a full-scholarship, six-week personal development program that has positively impacted the lives of 1,000 young people.



Youth auditioning for one of the coveted AileyCamp Miami spots. Photo by Eyeworks Productions.

SIX LOCAL CHILDREN PERFORM WITH FLORIDA GRAND OPERA

When the Florida Grand Opera's *Werther* hit the stage this month, six South Florida schoolchildren performed alongside international opera stars and a cast of nine. Three girls and three boys – ages 8 to 14 – formed the children's chorus and performed as the siblings of Charlotte, a central character in this story of unrequited love. "Singing, acting and focusing on their responsibilities during the performance, and observing adults who are doing the same, is an experience they will not forget," said Katherine Kozak, Children's Music Coach.



L-R front row: Jake Gardner (adult), Dhillani Premarate, Max Leighton, Mia Martinez. L-R back row: Kirstyn Agra Lowry, Pablo Fernando Pupo, Fernando Julian Pupo. Photo by Lorne Grandison for Florida Grand Opera.

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY FELLOW IS A CLASSICAL MUSIC SUPERHERO

Ryan Roberts, an Oboe Fellow at the New World Symphony, became a bit of a classical music superhero when he came to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's rescue. During the first half of their season performance at the Arsht Center the English horn player fell ill, and with *Scheherazade* scheduled for the second half, CSO needed to act fast. They called on Ryan who stepped in at the very last minute as substitute and helped close out a sublime night of classical music. Ryan's talent got its due last month, when he was named the new English horn player of the New York Philharmonic after competitive auditions. Bravo, Ryan!



Photo by Kevin Roberts, courtesy of New World Symphony.

MEET DOROTHEA GREEN

The Arsht Center welcomed a new family name to its campus in April with the naming of the Dorothea Green Theater inside the Ziff Ballet Opera House. The new named space recognizes a generous \$2.5 million grant from the Green Family Foundation to increase access to arts education for Miami-Dade County children. Find out more about Dorothea Green and the Green Family Foundation's vision for Miami [here](#).



Dorothea Green with her daughters, Andrea Jarrell and Kimberly Green, and her husband, Ambassador Steven Green. Photo by WorldRedEye.com.

ARSHT CENTER CEO: I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Think forward to 2025. How will we fulfill our potential as your performing arts center serving Miami's vibrant community? We are launching the first phase of a five-year strategic plan, and since I believe the Arsht Center belongs to you, I am interested in your feedback. What do we mean to you? And what would you like us to be recognized for? Click [here](#) to answer these two questions.



Adrienne Arsht Center President and CEO Johann Zietsman. Photo by PS Photography and Films.

CELEBS TOAST FLAMENCO SUPERSTAR SARA BARAS

Thousands of flamenco fans flocked to the Arsht Center's 12th annual Flamenco Festival Miami to enjoy the sizzling footwork of superstar Sara Baras. Sara's famous friends, including multiple Grammy Award-winning singer Alejandro Sanz, celebrated Sara's Miami performances. Other guests included Miami Consul General of Spain D. Cándido Creis Estrada; Emmy Award-winning TV host Raul De Molina; Univision personalities Borja Voces, Jesus Brocamontes and Nicolas Colate Vallejo-Nagera.



Sara Baras backstage with flowers and a note from Alejandro Sanz. Photo courtesy of Sara Baras.

MIAMI CITY BALLET'S TALENT SOARS FOR 1,200

Over 1,200 people filled the Ziff Ballet Opera House for an engaging, family-friendly performance of Miami City Ballet's first act of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as part of the Arsht Center's free Family Fest series. With full costumes and sets, the company was thanked with a standing ovation after the hour-long performance.



Kids love Miami City Ballet's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They're racing to see the show! Photo by Eyeworks Production.

VISUAL ART AT THE ARSHT CENTER

Art isn't only on the stages at the Arsht Center. Paintings and four new works by Miami-based artist José Bedia have been featured in the lobby and first tier of the Knight Concert Hall all season as part of the Center's VisualMiami@Arsht program. "Watering Past Ground" complements Bedia's previous artistic collaborations with the Arsht Center, which include terrazzo floor murals and etched balcony railings as part of historic Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places commissions incorporated into the Arsht Center's construction.



Cuban-American artist José Bedia's exhibit is supported by the Miami Diaspora Fund, made possible in part by a grant from The Jorge M. Perez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation. Photo by Eyeworks Productions.

JAZZ STARS CONNECT WITH 180 MIAMI HIGH SCHOOLERS

180 Miami-Dade County public high school students met with three-time Grammy Award-winning artist Robert Glasper and his supergroup Reflect + Respond=Now as part of the Arsht Center's Jazz Roots: Sound Check program. Students learned about the creative process for the album *Collagically Speaking*. R + R's Atunde Adjuah gave this advice to the young musicians, "It doesn't matter what environment you go into. If you are willing to work hard, and to honor the commitments you made for yourself, you will become great at what you do."



R+R=NOW answers questions from Miami-Dade County Public Schools students at Jazz Roots Sound Check. *Photo by Daniel Azoulay.*

RISING PR PROS GET THE SCOOP

The Arsht Center's public relations team welcomed students from the Public Relations Student Society of America chapter at Florida International University for a tour and Q&A session. It was a pleasure to host such an enthusiastic group of rising PR pros!



Florida International University students get the inside scoop from the Arsht Center's public relations team. *Photo courtesy of Adrienne Arsht Center.*

Arsht Notes

Adrienne Arsht Center
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 2019

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

In honor of International Women's Day, the women of the Arsht Center gathered to take the spotlight and celebrate sisterhood on the Knight Concert Hall stage. From technical production to marketing to IT, front of house and beyond, the Center employs women in a variety of positions across all departments. Even our name is from a powerful woman – Adrienne Arsht, an international philanthropist and business leader. Today and always, we salute the women of the Arsht Center and beyond! Watch the [video](#) to see what they think makes a powerful woman.



Credit: Only 1 Studios

ALVIN AILEY'S VISION LIVES ON FOR 2,200 PARTICIPANTS IN FREE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Over 2,200 community members participated in free Arts in Education activities throughout Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's return to the Arsht Center. From a free student performance for Miami-Dade County Public School students to dance master classes for college-age aspiring dancers and community workshops for the public, the Arsht Center's Ailey Arts Education experience took Ailey dancers off the stage and into the community, fulfilling Mr. Ailey's belief that "dance came from the people, and it should always be delivered back to the people."



Free Ailey Arts in Education workshops during Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2019 engagement at the Arsht Center. Photo by Daniel Azoulay.

MARRYING THE WAITRESS IN REAL LIFE

If you saw *Waitress* at the Arsht Center then you know that actors Christine Dwyer and Matt DeAngelis play the fractious married couple Jenna and Earl in the touring musical. But you may not be aware that the "Broadway musical baked from the heart" has a behind-the-scenes love story: Dwyer and DeAngelis are engaged to be married in real life. The Boston natives are headed to the altar this summer. No word on whether pies will be served at the wedding reception.



Matt DeAngelis and Christine Dwyer with their Boston Terrier, Chowdah, at the Arsht Center. Photo by Sergi Alexander/Eyeworks Productions.

MORE THAN 100 MIAMI PHILANTHROPISTS & CIVIC LEADERS MEET THE NEW CEO

Incoming Arsht Center President & CEO Johann Zietsman received a warm welcome from more than 100 community supporters and leaders on January 22 on the Knight Concert Hall stage. Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation Chairman Tony Argiz and Adrienne Arsht Center Trust Chairman Ira D. Hall led the reception. "Given the foundation of success Johann is inheriting, we cannot wait to see what innovative, Miami-focused work he will nurture within our community during his tenure here," Argiz said.



Arsht Center CEO Johann Zietsman with Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson and Adrienne Arsht Center Trust Chairman Ira D. Hall. Photo by WorldRedEye.com.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER TURNS UP THE MIAMI HEAT

Miami Heat dancers boosted their talent in a free dance workshop presented by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Arsht Center. The workshop was part of Alvin Ailey's 60th anniversary performances at the Center where participants danced to choreography based on Mr. Ailey's masterpiece, "Revelations."



Miami Heat dancers were among the participants dancing to choreography based on Mr. Ailey's masterpiece, "Revelations." Photo by Daniel Azoulay.

150 CULTURIST MEMBERS GO LIVE – AND OFF CAMPUS – WITH DEBORAH COX

More than 150 Culturist members and music fans enjoyed an intimate Arsht Live performance by Grammy-nominated, multi-platinum recording artist and actress Deborah Cox on January 31 at Seaspice Brasserie & Lounge on the banks of the Miami River. The exclusive sneak peek into *The Bodyguard* star's newest project was the first installment of Arsht Live, which extends the Arsht Center's impact from its downtown campus into the community. Hosted by the Arsht Center's Culturist membership movement, the event raised money to support the Center's Arts Education programs, which annually serve 60,000 Miami-Dade children with free, life-changing arts learning experiences.



Deborah Cox (center) with fans, Culturists and Arsht Center board members at Seaspice. Photo by WorldRedEye.com.