

GO RIVERWALK



FORT LAUDERDALE'S CITY MAGAZINE

A PUBLICATION OF RIVERWALK FORT LAUDERDALE • SINCE 2003 • VOL.22 NO. 12 DECEMBER 2025



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Nick Scalzo

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& DRINK
VENDORS

Countdown to 2026

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 • 4:30 PM - 1 AM

SW 2ND STREET AND SW 5TH AVENUE

**FAMILY
ACTIVITIES**
4:30 - 8:30 PM

**KIDS COUNTDOWN
& DRONE SHOW**
7 PM

**LIVE MUSIC
& DJ**
5:30 PM - 1 AM

**COUNTDOWN
TO 2026**
Midnight

parks.fortlauderdale.gov/nye

COOLERS AND GLASS BOTTLES ARE NOT PERMITTED AT THE EVENT.



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE





GO RIVERWALK

FORT LAUDERDALE'S CITY MAGAZINE

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Go Riverwalk is Fort Lauderdale's City Magazine covering arts, entertainment, business and lifestyles. Go Riverwalk is a Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale publication and publishes 12 times a year to inform, inspire and connect residents, readers and leaders with the people, places, happenings and events that make Fort Lauderdale one of the world's best places to live, work and play. © Copyright 2025. Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. All rights reserved. No part of Go Riverwalk December may be reproduced in any form by any means without prior written consent from Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale and publisher S.MARK Graphics. Publisher accepts no liability for the accuracy of statements made by the editors or advertisers. The waves device and Go Riverwalk are trademarks of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. © Copyright 2025.

16TH Annual



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026 • 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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For event updates visit GoRiverwalk.com/Seafood

For sponsorship or vendor opportunities contact Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale
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To be the catalyst in building and nurturing Riverwalk & the
Riverwalk District as a vibrant community connected by the New River.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department and
the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee, Inc. present

2026 KING HOLIDAY *Celebration*

CONTINUING THE DREAM



MONDAY, JANUARY 19 - FORT LAUDERDALE

PARADE BEGINS AT 9:30 AM

Departs from Sistrunk Blvd. & NW 5th Ave.
Ends at Carter Park

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Begins immediately following parade until 3 PM
Carter Park, 1450 W. Sunrise Blvd.

Join us as we honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at this annual march
for non-violence. For complete details, visit kingholidaycelebration.com.



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JUST LISTED! ASHLEY | \$2,395,000
3 BEDROOM + 3.5 BATH

Luxury Living at its finest! Perched on the 31st floor with over 2600sqft of redesigned space & panoramic views of the ocean, intracoastal, river & city. Top of the line upgrades! Porcelain tile floors, redesigned ceilings & more.

UNDER CONTRACT BRADFORD
2 BEDROOM + 2 BATH

Direct River Views from Every room! Beautifully appointed Bradford floor plan with an expanded 49-foot glass balcony overlooking the water. Polished marble floors, neutral pallet kitchen with Poggenpohl cabinetry.

JUST SOLD! ASHLEY
3 BEDROOM + 3 BATH

South East Corner Right on the River! This modified split floor plan features custom built-ins, Poggenpohl cabinetry, 2 terraces & unobstructed river views! 3 assigned parking spaces & storage cage.

JUST SOLD! BRADFORD
2 BEDROOM + 2 BATH

High floor Bradford south model! Marble and wood floors throughout, custom Built-in Office. Poggenpohl kitchen, floor to ceiling glass throughout. Outstanding ocean, Intracoastal and river views!



JUST LISTED! 2 BEDROOM 2 BATHS | \$615,000

Extended Gated Terrace right on the Pool Deck! This modernized Two Bedroom Two Bath Residence features a Tropical Terrace perfect for a Garden! Porcelain Tiles Throughout, Upgraded Kitchen, Move in Ready!

JUST SOLD! 2 BEDROOM 2 BATHS

Priced to Sell! This upgraded unit features tile floors throughout, New Stainless Appliances, New HVAC, Treelined Terrace, Split bedroom Floor Plan and Parking on the same level!



UNDER CONTRACT LEXINGTON | 2 BD 2.5 BA

Perched on the 29th Floor, Overlooking the Vibrant City Lights and Glistening River, this Two bedroom Two and a Half Bath Split Floor Plan Features Two Terraces, Marble Floors, Open Living Areas, Floor to Ceiling Glass throughout, Spacious Primary Suite and Custom Closets.

JUST LISTED! SOHO | 2 BD 2 BA | \$825,000

High Floor Soho model with custom renovations! Beautiful marble floors throughout, walls of glass in every room, bringing the sparkling city views right to you! Renovated baths with new vanities, freshly painted, Italian chandeliers, custom window treatments and more!

JUST LISTED! SOHO | 2 BD 2 BA | \$815,000

Sparkling City Views! Marble Floors Throughout, Floor to Ceiling Round Walls of Glass, Eastern Exposure, Split Bedroom Floor Plan, Granite Kitchen with Stainless Appliances, Marble Baths with Glass Enclosed Rainfall Shower and Deep Soaking Jacuzzi Tub! Located in the Center of Las Olas in a Premier Building! Ultra Luxury!



JUST LISTED! 3 BEDROOM 2 BATHS | \$849,000

Total remodel! New marble bathrooms with new showers & bathtub, custom cabinets including upgraded plumbing & fixtures. New kitchen cabinets with marble backsplash, 36x36 porcelain tile flooring, electric window treatments, new balcony tiles & acoustic ceiling design in living area.

NEWLY PRICED 2 BEDROOM 2 BATHS | \$535,000

Direct River Views! Every Day is a boat Parade. Unique floor plan with 2 Bedrooms & 2 Baths PLUS a flexible Den/Office space. Every Room has floor to ceiling glass sliders leading to the river facing terrace. Tile & Wood Floors, split bedroom floor plan, massive walk-in closets. Move-in Ready!



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Call us today to schedule a showing or list your property!



JUST LISTED! SEAVIEW | \$1,100,000

Total Renovation in this South East Corner Modern Design. Features Include: New Kitchen with Quartz Counter Tops, Custom Cabinets, Stainless Appliances, Remodeled Baths, Two Terraces, Sunrise and Sunset Views! Beautifully Furnished, Offered Turn Key.

JUST LISTED! MOONGLOW | \$959,000

South East Corner Moonglow Floor Plan! Offered Fully Furnished with Two Parking Spaces! Open Floor Plan with Floor to Ceiling Glass Throughout. Beautiful Italian Furnishings. Move in Ready. Pristine Condition. Pride of Ownership is Evident.

JUST LISTED! MOONGLOW | \$919,000

Complete Renovation in the Highly Desirable Moonglow Floor Plan. Porcelain Tile Throughout, Quartz Countertops, Fully Renovated Kitchen and Baths, Motorized Window Treatments, Designer Lighting, Full Glass Backsplash, Direct River Views from An Expansive Terrace, Mint Condition and offered Fully Furnished.

JUST LISTED! MOONGLOW | \$860,000

This 15th Floor Moonglow floorplan offers Direct River Views and Floor to Ceiling Glass Throughout, Tile Floors, Open Design, Split Bedroom Floorplan. Live the Las Olas Lifestyle~ Restaurants, Shopping and the Arts. All outside your Front Door!

JUST LISTED! STARDUST | \$839,000

Amazing River Views from this High Floor "02" Stack! Completely Renovated and Ready to Move in! Custom Office with Built-Ins, Wood Floors, White Quartz Countertops, Floor to Ceiling Glass In Every Room.

JUST LISTED! SKYVIEW | \$599,000

True Chef's Kitchen in this Completely Redesigned Split Bedroom Floor Plan, Riverviews from the Terrace, 10ft Ceilings, Custom Closets, Newer AC, Bosch Appliances, White High Gloss Cabinetry, Open Modern Design, New Carpet in the Bedrooms and Freshly Painted

NEWLY PRICED SUNGARDEN | \$469,000

High Floor Direct River Views & Beautiful Sunsets! Natural Brazilian Wood Floors Throughout, Granite Kitchen, Hunter Douglas Motorized Window Treatments, Floor to Ceiling Glass in Every Room, New AC and Washer & Dryer.

JUST SOLD! SEAVIEW

South East Corner, Three Bedroom and Two Bath Residence Featuring Two Terraces with East and West Exposure. This high floor unit offered Tile floors Throughout, Direct River Views and Sunrise and Sunset Balconies.

JUST SOLD! STARDUST

Total Remodel! 2 Bedroom 2 Bath Split floor plan with 10ft ceilings. River & Gardens views. Birch Wood Floors & motorized shades.



JUST LISTED! GRAND PENTHOUSE

3 BEDROOM 3 BATH | \$3,595,000

Ultimate Luxury! Fabulous GRAND PENTHOUSE in the center of Las Olas. Totally Remodeled with No Expense Spared. Everything is Designer! South East Exposure with Soaring Ceilings, Walls of Windows, Expansive Ocean & City Views from Multiple Terraces. Over 3100 sqft of Premium Finishes, Custom Tray Ceilings & Moldings, Exotic Hardwood floors, Custom Built-Ins & Window Treatments.

NEWLY PRICED

GRAND PENTHOUSE

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH | \$1,125,000

Opportunity Awaits! High in the Sky, this Grand Penthouse Residence is over 2,000 sqft of Outstanding Ocean & City Views! Marble Floors, Open Kitchen, Marble Baths, Custom Lighting & Floor to Ceiling Glass Sliders leading out to an Expansive Terrace. 2 Parking Spaces Included!

JUST LISTED! 1 BEDROOM 1 BATH | \$439,000

Modern and bright! Newer AC and appliances, wood floors with carpet in the bedroom, additional storage cabinets built-in, bathroom has both tub & walk in shower, furniture, fixtures & equipment (turn-key) package available* fantastic building includes rooftop amenities: pool, jacuzzi, gym, sauna, theatre, club room and grille.



LAS OLAS BY THE RIVER

JUST LISTED! 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH | \$449,000

Total Renovation in this Two Bedroom Two bath/ Split Bedroom Floor Plan with Tranquil views over Smoker Park. Fully Furnished, Turn Key-Ready to Move in! Glossy White Floors in Living Areas, Wood Floors in Bedrooms, Modern White Cabinetry and Quartz Countertops in Kitchen, New Doors, Motorized Window Treatments, Glass Enclosed Showers & Baths, Open Concept Floor Plan for Modern Living! Pristine Condition!



HOLIDAY SUNSHINE

SEASONAL MAGIC COMES ALIVE ALONG THE RIVERWALK



As the holiday season quickly approaches, it's a time to give thanks for the good fortune of living in such a wonderful city — one with an award-winning Riverwalk at its heart.

Each year, the Riverwalk and its adjoining parks come alive with events that capture the spirit of the season. Light Up Lauderdale, a beloved signature celebration, has kicked things off with live music, games and an appearance by none other than Santa himself.

Then comes the iconic Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade, winding its way down the New River and through the Intracoastal Waterway in a dazzling display of lights and music.

We're lucky to live in a city that offers so much vibrancy year-round — from cultural events and outdoor activities to an ever-growing dining scene that now includes new restaurants from around the country alongside long-time local favorites.

As temperatures drop elsewhere, we can be especially grateful to spend the season here — surrounded by sunshine, community and the company of friends and family. ☺

The cooler weather brings opportunities for more events. Here's a list of upcoming Riverwalk events in 2026:

16TH ANNUAL RIVERWALK STONE CRAB & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday, Jan. 3 | 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Esplanade Park

1ST ANNUAL PIZZA FEST AT THE PARK

Saturday, Feb. 7, and Sunday, Feb. 8 | 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. | Esplanade Park

In partnership with Pumarola/Emily's Garden | www.pizzafestival.us

10TH ANNUAL RIVERWALK CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, Feb. 21 | Noon to 4 p.m. | Esplanade Park

19TH ANNUAL RIVERWALK MUTTS & MARTINIS

Saturday, March 21 | Esplanade Park

SMOKE ON THE WATER BBQ FEAST

Saturday, May 16 | Esplanade Park

4TH ANNUAL RIVERWALK TACOS & TEQUILA FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 18 | Esplanade Park

For more information on upcoming Riverwalk Signature Events, visit www.GoRiverwalk.com/signature



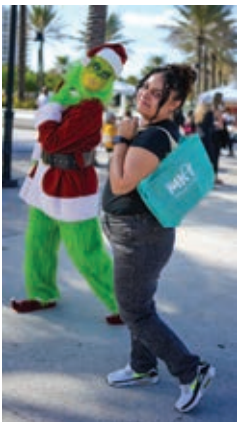
SEAS & GREETINGS



Celebrate the magic of the season oceanside as Las Olas Oceanside Park unveils its month-long **Seas & Greetings Holiday Weekends** under swaying palm trees and sun-filled skies. From December 6 to 21, the LOOP adds a tropical holiday twist over three themed weekends, kicking off with a two-day **Grinchmas on the Beach** (Dec 6 & 7), an immersive **Candyland Family Day** (Dec 14), and wrap the month up with a bow over **Seas & Greetings: a Tropical Wonderland** (Dec 20 & 21).



Each weekend brings festive activities for all ages including photo moments with Santa, live holiday music, make-n-take crafts, yoga sessions, Letters to Santa, and a rotating cast of holiday characters for unexpected moments of joy. Families will meet stilt-walking Nutcrackers, Princess Lolly, cheerful elves, and the beloved Christmas Mermaid, all mingling throughout the park to bring the season to life.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE MKT

Just steps from the ocean, The MKT becomes a festive open-air shopping destination throughout December. Visitors can browse a thoughtfully curated lineup of local makers offering handmade goods and unique stocking stuffers perfect for holiday gifting, and fuel up on a wide variety of artisan made foods. Shoppers also receive a free market tote with any purchase, and each weekend one lucky guest will discover a surprise gift tucked inside - an added touch of merriment as the community supports small and shops local.



With seasonal décor, whimsical installations, and cozy corners for capturing holiday photos, Seas & Greetings at Las Olas Oceanside Park is where Fort Lauderdale Beach shines brightest.

HIT-FILLED FINALE



Rounding out the year with a final wave of live music, the Friday Night Sound Waves Backstage Pass series presents three standout tribute concerts on Fort Lauderdale Beach. December opens with a diva double dose - **Blondie & No Doubt** (Dec 5), followed by the rock anthems of **Bon Jovi** (Dec 12) before wrapping up with **Man in the Mirror: a Tribute to Michael Jackson** (Dec 19) to close out an electrifying season.

SAVE THE DATES

GRINCHMAS • Dec 5 & 6

Kick off the season with **Santa**, the **Grinch** and **Cindy Lou Who**. Saturday brings the debut of **Max's Mutt Parade** with FTL Dog Moms, benefiting the Humane Society, one of the weekend's **Grow Your Heart fundraisers**. Visitors and MKT shoppers can also partake in a free **Namaste & Naughty Yoga** Class, write Letters to Santa, snap pics in a Who House, and enjoy holiday jazz. Sunday adds **Miss Tracy Sings** toddler class, kids crafts and more.



CANDYLAND • Dec 14

It's a candy-colored celebration as The LOOP hosts **Candyland Family Fun Day**, bringing the classic board game to life along the beachfront. From 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., kids of all ages can enjoy candy-themed inflatables, meet game-inspired characters, and create sweet take-home gifts and make holiday crafts. Guests can also explore bright Candyland photo sets perfect for capturing memories. View all details at theloopflb.com





IMPROVING THE RIVERWALK

FROM WAYFINDING SIGNS TO SIDEWALK GAMES, THINGS ARE HOPPING DOWNTOWN



Once again we are in the holiday season and finishing some major events and preparing for some very cool upcoming recurring and new ones. We wish you a happy holiday season from all of us at Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. Take a few minutes to walk on Riverwalk during this season and enjoy the festive decorations and lighting.

We continue to work with the City of Fort Lauderdale establishing a shade structure at Tunnel Top Park to enhance the use for outdoor events. We have coordinated with a private individual to install additional sculpture art in Esplanade. The sculpture has been selected and is going through the city process. Installation should begin during the first quarter of the year.

We have also been helping coordinate with other downtown stakeholders to provide interactive wayfinding displays throughout downtown and other parts of the city. This proven technology will be a game changer for our residents and visitors and provide a possible revenue stream back to the City for its operation. It will also be the first of its kind in Broward County — once again, Fort Lauderdale is stepping forward in a positive way.

Through a starter grant from Broward County, Riverwalk will continue to have a local artist paint hopscotch art in additional parks. Currently there are two in place, and it is our hope to find additional sponsors to help do another five.

We are greatly looking forward to the opening of Huizenga Park and all of the things planned by the Downtown Development Authority for that location. In the heart of downtown, this green oasis will bring a first-class location to our urban core. Stay tuned for the great announcements that will be coming! Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy a variety of amenities at this location as we again draw attention to our growing downtown. We thank the DDA for their vision and creativity to bring this project to fruition with the dedication of their staff to shepherd it through.

May your holidays be merry and bright and shared with those you love. 

Hopscotch-painted sidewalk at Hardy Park

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ANDARE
RESIDENCES

DESIGN BY *pininfarina*

DESIGNED TO MOVE YOU

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New York Residents: THE COMPLETE OFFERING TERMS ARE FOUND IN A CPS-12 APPLICATION AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFEROR. FILE NO CP25-0034 for Tower 1 and FILE NO. CP25-0058 for Tower 3. The offeror is the Developer named below. The St. Regis Residences Bahia Mar, Fort Lauderdale, referred to for ease of reference as The St. Regis Residences, is a community of three towers including Tower 1 of condominium residences developed by PRH/TRR BM Tower 1, LLC; Tower 2 of condominium residences developed by PRH/TRR BM Tower 2, LLC; and Resort Tower 3 which includes a condominium within a portion of a building or within a multiple parcel building developed by PRH/TRR BM Condo, LLC. For ease of reference PRH/TRR BM Tower 1, LLC, PRH/TRR BM Tower 2, LLC, and PRH/TRR BM Condo, LLC are each a "Developer" and collectively the "Developers." The St. Regis Residences are not owned, developed, or sold by Marriott International, Inc. or its affiliates ("Marriott"). The Developers use the St. Regis marks under a license from licensor, Marriott, which has not confirmed the accuracy of any of the statements or representations made about the projects by the Developers. The Developer uses the trade names, marks, and logos of licensor, The Related Group®, which licensor is not a Developer of any tower. Artist's conceptual renderings of exterior or site plan and depicting water, marina, surrounding buildings, or landmarks, are modified with some surrounding buildings and landmarks omitted. Sketches, renderings, or photographs depicting lifestyle, amenities, food services, resort services, finishes, designs, materials, furnishings, plans, specifications, or art contained in this brochure are proposed only. The St. Regis Residences are developed on a site that is near water, but water access is not guaranteed. No specific view is guaranteed. Each tower will be governed by an association and be part of a master association, which will require payment of master association assessments in addition to regular association assessments. Some amenities described require payment of fees in addition to assessment payments. Consult the Prospectus of the Developer for the Tower in which you desire a unit to understand the offering, the amenities, the proposed budgets, terms, conditions, specifications, fees, unit dimensions, size calculation method, site plans, estimated budgets for all associations, and to learn what is included with a purchase and by a payment of all assessments. 2025 © by PRH/TRR BM Tower 1, LLC, PRH/TRR BM Tower 2, LLC, and PRH/TRR BM Condo, LLC, with all rights reserved. ®



RIVERWALK MEMBERSHIP

Members of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale express their support and join us in our mission of building a vibrant community. Riverwalk supports Downtown's diverse, mixed-use community of arts and entertainment establishments along with business, residential, judicial, educational, and marine interests.

TO JOIN, VISIT WWW.GORIVERWALK.COM/MEMBERSHIP



TRUSTEE

DERRICK GRUNER

🗣️ "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." – *Winston Churchill*

Community involvement has always been important to me. In faith we are taught to be good stewards, and meaningful stewardship necessarily includes community. My personal stewardship journey began when I was the youngest vice president in the history of our local chamber of commerce and continued through terrific programs like Leadership Jacksonville (Class of 2005), Leadership Miami (Class of 2009) and Leadership Los Angeles (Class of 2014). It has included sitting on the board of directors for youth offender intervention non-profit Inside-Outside of Jacksonville, serving on the board of directors of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and continues today in my second year of service on the Riverwalk board of directors.

I discovered Fort Lauderdale's own Riverwalk by an accident of serendipity. A frequent cyclist, the paths are part of a scenic route from my South Bank neighborhood to the beach. It was some time before I realized that the Riverwalk is more than mere physical infrastructure, it is in fact an organization that by its very definition is the steward of our community's most iconic aspect beyond the beach. Being drawn to the Riverwalk organization's mission of stewardship as consistent with my own, I joined and soon began volunteering. The Riverwalk organization is comprised of like-minded souls who are not here for profit but are passionate stewards of a vital asset and tireless in their efforts to create a vibrant community. So, when I am asked after hours of volunteering in the blazing South Florida sun at a Riverwalk event why I do it, the answer is simple: this is how we make a life!

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS



CORPORATE

Lori Janicki
Morningstar Storage

Alexa and Britt Lanier
Two Men and A Truck

TRUSTEE

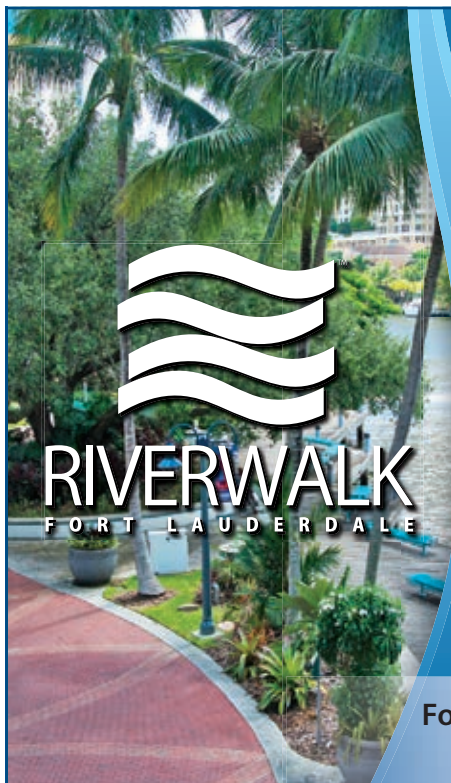
Patience Cohn
Lori Wheeler
Marine Industries Association of South Florida

Ann Fox
Richard J. Fox Foundation

Natalie Hirschberg

INDIVIDUAL

Steve Einhorn
Alice Harry
Larry Mele
Kathy Salerno



MEMBERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE!

When you become a member of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, you are not just showing your support for a valuable community asset, you also receive some great benefits in return. These benefits include invitations to exclusive receptions held at unique locations around the city and a listing in Go Riverwalk magazine. Members also receive discounts on hotels and attractions across the U.S.

**Support Riverwalk and you
support your community!**

For more information, go to www.GoRiverwalk.com/membership
or call (954) 468-1541 or email membership@goriverwalk.com



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POWER MIXER AT THE LOBBY ON NEW RIVER

On Oct. 27, Riverwalk again ventured south of the river for the final Power Mixer of the year at The Lobby on New River (formerly Masa & More). Riverwalk Trustee and Executive members and Corporate Partners enjoyed an evening at this unique venue, a new neighborhood hangout at the intersection of downtown and Rio Vista, situated right along the Riverwalk.

Thank you to our sponsors, FitFactor Training and Dynamix for their support of the evening, and to our host, Rob Wild, for welcoming the Riverwalk community into his establishment.



Rob Wild, owner of The Lobby on New River



Paulo Andalaft and Mike Johnston of sponsor FitFactor Training



Derrick Gruner and Mike Johnston



Arash Jamali and Ben Dalaei



James Garry, Ann Fox and Jim Farrick



Ashley House, Renee Johnson and Dave Beckey



Tim Tsambourlianos, Lou Doherty and Ben Dalaei



Sponsor Paulo Andalaft addresses members



Nick Scalzo, Margarethe Sorensen, John Reinking, Suzanne Busser and Mark Budwig



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FIRST ANNUAL DOWNTOWN DAY OF THE DEAD

Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale and Damn Good Hospitality partnered to present the First Annual Downtown Day of the Dead Celebration on Nov. 1 in the heart of Downtown Fort Lauderdale. Attendees enjoyed an evening filled with traditional Mexican music, cuisine and crafts, and colorful face painting provided by Glory Entertainment Events. The centerpiece of the event was a lively stroll through downtown Fort Lauderdale and the Riverwalk featuring costumed participants and traditional puppets, highlighted by new larger-than-life puppets arranged by Las Olas Capital Arts and painted by Heather Neiman and Stephanie Leyden. Adding to the excitement, Mayor Dean Trantalis and Mexican Consul General Eliel Campuzano Mendiola addressed the crowd, officially proclaiming the launch of Downtown Day of the Dead as a new Fort Lauderdale tradition.

Thank you to our sponsors: City of Fort Lauderdale, Revolution Live/Backyard, Florida Blue, Rick and Flo Celender, Las Olas Capital Arts, Two Men and a Truck, Broken Tee Craft Vodka, Swiggle, Tequila Supremacia, Producer Mezcal, Morningstar Storage – Fat Village, Kamora, S.MARK Graphics and Go Riverwalk Magazine.



Monica Cataluna with "Lolita"



Liquor sponsors: Modelo, Kamora Coffee Liqueur, J Street Imports, Broken Tee Craft Vodka, Tequila Supremacia and Producer Mezcal



Sponsor: Florida Blue



Photo booth by sponsor Swiggle



Pinky's Tacos





PHOTO BY ELIZABETH GIANCARI

Lohn Luca and Christina Abate



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH GIANCARI

Si Señor Mariachi Band



PHOTOS BY DIEGO MALDONADO

Jarred John, Genia Duncan Ellis, Mexican Consul General Elie Campuzano Mendiola and Mayor Dean Trantalis



Sponsor: Two Men And A Truck



Tijuana Productions



Santo Dulce



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH GIANCARI



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH GIANCARI

Face painting by Glory Entertainment Events



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH GIANCARI

Chris Adams and Sophie Schooley



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH GIANCARI

Mayor Dean Trantalis



LIGHT UP LAUDERDALE

On Nov. 6, Riverwalk and the City of Fort Lauderdale hosted Light Up Lauderdale (Get Lit) in Esplanade Park. Attendees enjoyed music by the Fort Lauderdale Symphonic Winds, a kids' zone with pony rides and bounce houses, a picture booth with Santa, and a tree lighting ceremony. Light Up Lauderdale and the Riverwalk holiday lights are sponsored by the City of Fort Lauderdale with additional support from Rick and Flo Celender and Swiggle.



Michelly and Sebastian Moody



Mayor Dean Trantalis and Vice Mayor and District 1
Commissioner John C. Herbst



Michelle and Ace Alvarez



City Manager Rickelle Williams and Interim City
Attorney D'Wayne Spence



Carrie Mercado and Chico



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'TIS THE SEASON

LIGHT-UPS AND COLORFUL HOLIDAY SIGHTS ABOUND

I cannot believe that the holiday season is upon us! One of my favorite activities as commissioner is attending the magnificent holiday light-ups that occur every year in the various locations throughout the City. Ring in the season with dazzling light displays, holiday concerts, delicious treats, a jolly family zone and so much more.

The months of November and December are a time for all members of the community to join together and celebrate. Various light-ups are held at the Riverwalk, the Galt, Sistrunk, Carter Park and, of course, Light up the Beach and Light up the Menorah! Along with these holiday displays, this year the Las Olas Association will present the 63rd annual Christmas on Las Olas celebrating Fort Lauderdale's

Urban Winter Wonderland. Held on the iconic Las Olas Boulevard, Christmas on Las Olas never disappoints with various musical performances complete with street and food vendors to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

And if the above wasn't enough holiday fun, check out the new Marina Village at Bahia Mar. In November, we held its first ever tallest Christmas tree lighting in Fort Lauderdale! Finally, what would the holiday season be without a New Year's Eve party? The City of Fort Lauderdale once again will host the Orange Bowl Downtown Countdown in Esplanade Park. The whole family can enjoy food trucks, vendors, live music and the dropping of the lit-up anchor at midnight.

Having participated in so many City holiday events and neighborhood holiday gatherings, I will tell you that there is a terrific spirit in Fort Lauderdale and it is filled with incredible people who all love our City and want nothing but the best for it. Wishing you all the best of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa all rolled into one! And, of course, a very Happy and Healthy New Year. 🎉



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

LIGHT UP The Holidays

LIGHT UP LAUDERDALE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 5:30-8:30 PM Esplanade Park 800 SW 2nd Street and along the downtown Riverwalk	LIGHT UP CARTER PARK FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 5-8 PM Carter Park 1810 W. Sunrise Boulevard
LIGHT UP THE GALT WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 5:00-8:30 PM North Beach Restaurants and Shoppers A1A and Oakland Park Boulevard NE 32nd Street & NE 33rd Street from A1A west to NE 33rd Avenue	MENORAH LIGHTING CELEBRATION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 6 PM Las Olas Oasis/Park 3000 E. Las Olas Boulevard
LIGHT UP THE BEACH WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 5:00-8:30 PM Las Olas Ocean-side Park 3000 E. Las Olas Boulevard	KWANZAA UJAMAA MONDAY, DECEMBER 29 2-5 PM President Park 1812 NW 6th St
LIGHT UP SISTRUNK FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 5-8 PM Sistrunk Boulevard from NW 9th to NW 11th Avenues	For more details, visit parks.fortlauderdale.gov/lightup JOHN HENRI HERRMANN & SONS City of Fort Lauderdale Light Up The Holidays

SPRING THEATER CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 31

SING! DANCE! ACT! LEARN! PERFORM!



The Broward Center offers classes for **KIDS**, **TEENS** and **ADULTS**. Our classes are designed to encourage artistic expression and teach new skills in a fun and nurturing environment. Scholarships are available thanks to the generosity of the Ronald Plotkin Scholarship Fund and David Kilmnick Scholarship Fund.



SPRING BREAK
**Theater
camp**
2026

5 DAYS OF FUN...ONE AMAZING SHOW!

March 16-20, 2026 • 9am-4pm

Grades 2-8 | \$325

Teen Program (Grades 9-12) | \$170

SHOW DATE: MARCH 20



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registrar@browardcenter.org



LOOKING TOWARD 2026

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT SHAPES BROWARD'S FUTURE

Here in Broward County, our economy continues to prove what we've long believed: a diverse region with world-class infrastructure, entrepreneurial grit and a steady inflow of talent can navigate uncertainty and still move forward. As we look toward 2026, I'm optimistic — cautiously so — about our trajectory.

Start with the fundamentals. Passenger traffic through Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) remains a powerful barometer of our visitor and business economy. FLL handled 35.2 million passengers in 2024, placing it among the nation's busiest hubs and reinforcing Greater Fort Lauderdale's status as a gateway for tourism and commerce.

At Port Everglades, the story is similar. The port's latest impact report estimates roughly \$28.1 billion in annual economic activity — up about 6 percent year over year — driven by cruise, cargo and fuel operations that ripple through local jobs and small businesses.

These assets anchor our prosperity, support thousands of families, and keep Broward on the map for global trade and leisure travel.

Labor market conditions have cooled from the blistering pace of 2022–2023 but remain solid by historical standards. Recent readings put Broward's unemployment rate a little above 4 percent, which is near the state and national averages. That's consistent with a mature expansion: slower but still growing.

Population trends continue to work in our favor. Net immigration to South Florida — especially from the Northeast, Midwest and abroad — has been a powerful tailwind for our workforce, housing market and consumer spending, with Broward adding dozens of residents on a net basis each day.

Our sector mix also gives us resilience. Hospitality and leisure remain vital, but the County's economy has broadened into professional and business services, life

sciences, marine industries, aviation/aerospace, tech and logistics. Recent company relocation information underscores this diversification and the pipeline of corporate expansions and relocations that continue to choose Broward for talent, connectivity, and quality of life.

That said, we have work to do. Housing affordability and insurance costs are real constraints for families and employers. Infrastructure — roads, transit, water and resilience projects — must keep pace with growth. And we can't take our competitiveness for granted; neighboring metros are courting the same companies and talent we are.

So what do I expect in 2026?

First, a “soft-landing” style year: growth that's positive but moderate, with unemployment hovering in the low- to mid-4 percent range and visitor volumes steady to slightly higher as global travel normalizes and cruise capacity expands. Second, continued strength in health care and life sciences, professional services and logistics tied to FLL and Port Everglades. The Port's recent recognition among top global performers in container port efficiency signals ongoing competitiveness for cargo. Third, population inflows should remain net positive, supporting consumption and small-business formation — even if the pace cools from recent highs.

To convert a good outlook into great outcomes, we should focus on five priorities:

1. Accelerate workforce pipelines — especially in health care, skilled trades, logistics and tech — through stronger employer-education partnerships.
2. Advance attainable housing by aligning local policies, financing tools and permitting efficiency to add supply at a range of price points.
3. Double down on infrastructure and resilience — the backbone of our future competitiveness and insurance stability.
4. Keep growing our international profile. Leverage FLL's route network and Port Everglades' cruise and cargo strengths to attract investment and visitors.
5. Champion small business. Access to capital and technical assistance are the fastest ways to turn population inflows into broad-based prosperity.

Broward County's story has always been about momentum. With pragmatic policy, public-private collaboration and a relentless focus on execution, 2026 can be another year where we don't just ride the wave — we shape it. 





FINDING THE JOY IN COOKING

LEARN HOW TO COOK WITH LENORE NOLAN-RYAN

Cooking can be intimidating. Timing is everything, there's so much prep work, and if you burn something, you have to start all over. It's no wonder many people simply never learn how to cook, but it doesn't have to be that way. That's why self-taught chef Lenore Nolan-Ryan started her own cooking school and invites people to not only learn how to cook but also find a newfound joy in making themselves and their loved ones a meal.

Long before Nolan-Ryan became a professional chef and caterer, however, she was a little girl falling in love with cooking in her mother's kitchen. "My first memory of cooking is when I was four years old. I'm standing on a chair with my Campbell Soup apron and hat on, and I'm stirring something with my mom, who was a fabulous cook. She would always say, 'Lenore, just open the refrigerator, with a smile on your face, a little bit of this and a little bit of that, and it will always turn out right. If it doesn't, make a reservation.' So, I grew up being fearless in the kitchen," she said.

It was this sense of fearlessness that pushed Nolan-Ryan, who was living in Indianapolis at the time, to start her own catering business. Then a few years later, after what was meant to be a trip to San Francisco turned into a more permanent stay, she opened her own place called Ryan's that she ran for 20 years. But after 24 years of calling the West Coast home, she decided to return to her home state of Florida, where she created what would one day be the Lenore Nolan-Ryan Cooking School and Catering.

"After so many years being away from family, you start to realize you missed all the holidays and all the birthdays. It was really time to come home. So, here I am in Fort Lauderdale, and there was a little place called Gina's Italian Takeout. I thought this was a great little place. So, I bought it, changed

the name on the sign, moved my catering company, and created space for a cooking school," she said.

Today, she offers a variety of cooking classes that are lively, informative and delicious. From hands-on cooking classes open to the public to private classes, kids' cooking classes, and even corporate team building events, everyone can take the pressure off and have fun. But if you find cooking is still not your thing, fear not, because Nolan-Ryan also offers some world-class catering for all types of events.

"Catering is its own amazing part of what I do. I love my clients, and my clients love me, and that's why I love to cook for them. Because there are times in life where you simply cannot cook a meal for 30-plus people, and that's OK. That's why my tagline is, the art of entertaining is knowing who to call," said Nolan-Ryan.

If you need some help from the chef herself in your own kitchen, she has her own cookbook coming out later this year titled "Love is the Main Ingredient." 



LENORE NOLAN-RYAN COOKING SCHOOL & CATERING

Owner: Lenore Nolan-Ryan

Number of employees: 5

Phone: (954) 491-2340

Address: 3311 N. Ocean Blvd., Fort Lauderdale

Website: www.lenorenolanryan.com





EXCLUSIVE VIEWS

ENJOY THE SIGHTS FROM THE WATER TAXI HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR



The sights and sounds of our vibrant city make Fort Lauderdale a year-round, world-class destination. One of the best ways to enjoy all that our city offers is by water. For residents and visitors alike, hopping on an iconic yellow Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi is a preferred way to do it.

Offering year-round service, Water Taxi serves as relaxing transportation between Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach and Hollywood. With 30-plus stops and hop-on, hop-off convenience, passengers can take in the sights along the New River and Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) en route to and from their destination.

The Water Taxi experience is great any time of the year, but it really comes alive during December. That's when the special Holiday Lights tours kick off. For one month each year, these special tours depart from The Riverside Hotel/Stranahan House Museum for a one and one-half hour round-trip cruise along the ICW and adjoining canals.

Each tour offers holiday cheer with themed drinks and live music as the boat passes by multi-million dollar waterfront homes decked out in holiday lights and decor. The route varies each year to maximize views of the most elaborately decorated homes. According to Jordan Campbell, marketing coordinator at Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi, many homeowners are inspired to go all out with their waterfront holiday decor to ensure their homes are included on the Holiday Lights route.

But the homes aren't the only things decked out for the holidays. Each double-decker boat used for the nightly tours is also ready with its seasonal finest. The captain and crew are in festive attire, hundreds of lights adorn each boat's interior and exterior and there is even a fully decorated holiday tree onboard.

The annual Holiday Lights tour is a favorite among visitors and local residents and tours sell out every year. The family-friendly activity is especially popular with area residents entertaining out of town guests over the holidays. Companies also enjoy the experience by holding annual holiday parties on board. Each boat has a capacity of 100 guests per tour, so even large corporate outings can be accommodated.

There are two daily departures, the first at 6:30 p.m. and a second at 8:30 p.m. This year, tours run nightly from Dec. 4 to Jan. 4, with the exception of Dec. 24 and 25 when there are no tours. There are also no tours on the evening of the annual Winterfest Parade, this year on Dec. 13.

While there may not be any tours on the evening of the Winterfest parade, Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi doesn't take the night off. They celebrate the Winterfest fun by decorating a boat or two and joining the parade. They also charter boats to others for use in the parade. Water Taxi provides a captain and crew and also offers decorating services if charter customers don't want to manage that on their own. 

WANT TO GO?

Water Taxi Holiday Lights Tours

TICKETS: \$45 for adults, \$15 for children; children under the age of 3 ride free

DEPARTURE TIMES: 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; each cruise lasts approximately 1.5 hours

DEPARTURE LOCATION: The Riverside Hotel / Stranahan House Museum

Drink tickets will be available for pre-purchase when buying adult tickets online.





2026 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

DATES AND DEADLINES TO KEEP IN MIND

All qualified Florida residents are eligible to receive a Homestead Exemption on their homes, condominiums, co-op apartments, and certain mobile home lots. To qualify for Homestead Exemption, you must own and make the property your permanent residence on Jan. 1 of the year for which you are applying for this valuable exemption. Pursuant to Florida law, all assessments and exemptions are based upon the status of the property on Jan. 1. If you acquired the property as your permanent residence in 2025 and have not applied for Homestead Exemption, you can apply for 2026 exemptions at any time — there is no need to wait until 2026 to file your exemption application. You can easily apply online at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/HomesteadExemption>.

The timely deadline to file for all 2026 exemptions is March 2, 2026. You must make the property your permanent residence by Jan. 1, 2026, to qualify; however, you have until

March 2 to timely file your application with our office. The late filing deadline for all 2026 exemptions is Sept. 18, 2026.

Once approved, your Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. If you have already applied and been approved for Homestead Exemption at your current property, you do not need to reapply for this exemption. You will receive a Homestead Exemption renewal card next month to keep for your records.

While Homestead Exemption is the most common exemption, there are additional exemptions available to qualified applicants. Here is the link to all the additional exemptions for your review: <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead>

If you have any questions about Homestead Exemption or any other exemptions, please call (954) 357.6830 or email me at martykiar@bcpa.net. 



PHOTO BY JASON LEIDY

VOCAL VIRTUOSOS

PERFORMERS MAKING A NAME FOR THEMSELVES IN FORT LAUDERDALE

WRITER MADELAINE K. BOYER

For decades, Fort Lauderdale has been known for its rich performing arts scene that draws in crowds year-round to witness the best of the best in music, dance, and theater. With numerous dynamic performance spaces featuring world-class entertainers, there's something for every performing arts lover to enjoy. But for all the national and international performers who showcase their skills on stage, many grew up right here in Fort Lauderdale or currently call the city home. That's why it's important to shine a spotlight on the local singers and musicians who not only perform in Fort Lauderdale but also call this great city home.

SEBRINA MARÍA ALFONSO

Sebrina María Alfonso has made a name for herself as a female conductor in South Florida, seeking to bring world-class symphonic music to communities throughout the region. The Key West native always had a passion for music from a young age, so it wasn't a surprise to anyone close to her that she pursued a career in music as soon as she could.

"I was kind of always interested in music. I have pictures of me at one year old, sitting at the piano, and then I got into the choir at church, and eventually started playing instruments in elementary school," she said.

Eventually, she studied horn and piano at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she also earned her master's degree in music, before going on to do her doctoral studies in conducting at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore.

From there, she began conducting professionally in her hometown of Key West and even founded the Key West Symphony, where she performed for 28 years. However, her drive to start her own symphony stemmed from the fact that, then, women weren't afforded the same opportunities to be conductors. "At the time I was coming (up), women just weren't given the same opportunities. That's why I started my own symphony, but I wasn't the only one," she said.

"In fact, many orchestras that were started at that time were often started by women because that was the only way we could be conductors. So, I'm really happy to see now that more women are being hired for major orchestras."

Today, Alfonso performs with the South Florida Symphony Orchestra, which she founded in 1997 and has grown into one of the largest professional orchestras serving Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties.

She also initiated the Symphony in the Schools program, which works to increase children's early exposure to classical music and has reached more than 130,000 under-resourced students to date. But that's not all — because of Alfonso's work with the South Florida Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra became the first "Partner for the Arts" for The Parker.



PHOTO BY STEVEN SHIRES

ADAM DAVID

Adam David started singing when he was eight years old and playing guitar at 11, when his interest was piqued by his musically inclined relative.

“I have an uncle who always played, so every time he was over at the house, he always played and sang for me. So, that was probably the first time I was influenced by music. Eventually, I started trying to write my own little songs,” he said.

It wasn't until he started attending the Broward Arts Camp and performing with other kids his age that he started to enjoy the idea of performing. Fast forward 20 years to now, where he has been performing locally in Fort Lauderdale for about eight years. However, this small-town musician could never have expected to be on a global stage and competing against other musicians on *The Voice*, especially after auditioning previously and not making it.

“I had auditioned for *The Voice* two other times, once in 2012 and again in 2017. After not making it the second time, I was bummed and wasn't planning on trying out ever again. But I kept getting emails every year about the next round of auditions. So, something in me just said, ‘Why not try one more time?’ 30 minutes after I finished my online audition, I got an email saying I made it through,” he said.

He didn't just make it on season 27 of the show. He won.

Since winning, however, his life hasn't changed all that much. He still performs locally at venues in Fort Lauderdale with his band, the Adam David Band. But now, the musician has the reassurance that he's made the right choice doing what he loves.

“You don't come off winning a show like that and go right into having your whole life laid out. But I learned a lot, and the entire experience helped me grow as a musician,” he said. He is also passionate about giving back through his work with the addiction treatment center Recovery Unplugged, where David sought treatment for addiction and helped him achieve sobriety for the last six years.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ADAM DAVID



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CANDE RIVERS

CANDE RIVERS

Cande Rivers is yet another local performer who has had singing in her bones since childhood. Growing up in Chicago, she began singing at the young age of five years old while sitting around the dinner table with her nine older siblings.

"I grew up singing but didn't start performing in front of a crowd until I started singing in my church. I was on the praise and worship team with my sisters. We actually used to have a little girl group called God's Girls, and we would travel throughout the United States singing," Rivers said.

Her singing career took a pause when she enlisted in the Navy after high school, before being honorably discharged in 2010. From there, she attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, where she studied theater. Shortly after graduating, she relocated to South Florida and was a part of the Valerie Tyson Band for six years.

Eventually, she broke out on her own performing as a solo artist throughout South Florida, releasing singles like "Fight It," and is working on releasing her first CD, "The Epiphany of Sex, Spirit, and Sanity."

Today, she calls Fort Lauderdale home and performs at numerous events, including at the fourth annual Imagination Unchained: Juneteenth concert last year at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, and more recently, at her free concert at Casa Calabria restaurant in Fort Lauderdale.

Even though performing is a large part of what she does professionally, Rivers also offers vocal coaching and singing lessons for those looking to hone their skills.

"First, I'll do a consultation, and we'll draw up a plan based on what their end goal is. Depending on what skill level they are at vocally, I usually meet with them anywhere between two to six vocal lessons, which focus on both cardio and breathing exercises to strengthen their vocal muscles, and then we move on to the singing lessons," she said. The singer and vocal coach has also added entrepreneur to her resume with her new store, Venus Life Boutique, where she sells locally made jewelry, art, accessories and more from women artisans. 



Leave Something Behind, So They Can Go Forward.

Join the 75 for 75 Legacy Challenge

To celebrate 75 years of helping children grow up healthy and strong, Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation has launched the 75 for 75 Legacy Challenge. **We're looking for 75 people who want to make a lasting difference**—by including a future gift to Nicklaus Children's in their will, trust, or retirement plan.

When you document your legacy gift, **a 10% matching donation will be activated**—immediately amplifying your impact at no cost to you.

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Be one of the 75. Join the Legacy Challenge and help build healthier tomorrows for generations.

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Contact Megan Brahimi, Senior Director, Gift Planning

Megan.Brahimi@nicklaushealth.org | myimpact.nicklauschildrens.org/legacychallenge

WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE

LAUNCH PARTY AMONG WINTERFEST SEASON OF ACTIVITIES

WRITER LYNN PEITHMAN STOCK



Events surrounding the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade are in full swing, all leading up to the main event on Dec. 13.

The Launch Party was held Oct. 25 and limited tickets are available for the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Black Tie Ball on Dec. 6 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida.

The parade itself will sail down 12 miles of the New River with the Parade Public Viewing Area located in east Fort Lauderdale at Las Olas Intracoastal Promenade Park on the Southeast corner of Las Olas Boulevard and the Intracoastal Waterway. Tickets include festival activities, interactive games, stage entertainment, vendors, photo opportunities with Santa Claus and mascots. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$35 for children 12 years and younger. Admission for children age three and under is free. [GO](#)



Boaters in the parade: Aireeze, 3.0 Sailfish and Dunn Deal



Christopher Bielski, Donelle Zunker and the Fort Lauderdale Harbor Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa Crew



Dawn and George Diehl



Michael and Robyn Vines – Gray Robinson PA



Alberto LoMonaco, Traci LoMonaco, Harlowe Battaglia, Matt Usher, Fabiana Ferrante and Paola Torres



Robert Garza, David Founds, Pia Dahlquist, Lisa Scott-Founds and Kristene Lunblad



DeAnn Hazey, Andrea Cunningham, and Alyssa Lovitt



Robyn Vines and Lisa Scott-Founds



Derick Ali and Juliet Roulhac



Lee Sheffield, Alice Harry and Kim Butler

WANT TO GO?

SEMINOLE HARD ROCK WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE

PRESHOW: 5:30 p.m.

PARADE AND FIREWORKS: 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Along the New River in Fort Lauderdale

WEBSITE: www.winterfestparade.com



Where Flavor Meets Philanthropy

JA Uncorked returns January 31, 2026!

One of South Florida's premier food and wine experiences, featuring gourmet bites, top beverage partners, live entertainment, raffles, and a lively silent auction — all in support of Junior Achievement of South Florida. Step into the glamour of the Roaring '20s, savor the flavors, and raise your glass for a great cause!

www.JASouthFlorida.org

Buy Tickets








WWW.PIZZAFESTIVAL.US

First Annual

PIZZA FEST

AT THE PARK

Celebrating **the art of pizza** in the heart of Fort Lauderdale

Fresh pizza, cooking classes, kid's activities, and more!



February 7th & 8th, 2026
11am - 7pm



Esplanade Park
400 SW 2nd St, Fort Lauderdale




A TASTE OF SOUTH AMERICA AND BEYOND

CASA PLAYA HIGHLIGHTS LATIN FARE

WRITER MADELAINE K. BOYER

Fort Lauderdale is a standout destination for some of the best Latin American cuisine from around the globe. But Casa Playa is one beachside restaurant offering a diverse variety of Latin-inspired dishes, cocktails and more. Walking up to the restaurant, guests are greeted by a breezy and bright atmosphere filled with music and laughter. Plus, with lots of outdoor seating areas and open floor-to-ceiling windows, diners can enjoy the beautiful South Florida weather both inside and outside.

Casa Playa really sets itself apart with its menu. With a focus on combining bold Latin American flavors with fresh coastal ingredients, the restaurant offers many delicious dishes from numerous Latin countries, including Peru, Argentina, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico. It's this variety that allows guests to try well-known dishes like its guacamole costeno served with fresh homemade green plantain chips, which pairs perfectly with its refreshing and delightfully tart guava margarita or a classic Cubano mojito.

In keeping with its coastal theme, the restaurant invites diners to dive into the brisk waters along the Argentinian seaside and try its Argentinian red shrimp entrée. This delicious dish, which features cold water wild shrimp caught off the coast of Argentina, is sautéed in a light white wine garlic sauce with cherry tomatoes, white rice and tostones, has an unexpected depth of flavor. If you're looking to try something a tad unusual but oh so scrumptious, its Chilean sea bass en leche de coco is a great choice.

The delicate Chilean sea bass fish fillet is pan-seared and served with a coconut milk and white wine sauce alongside white rice and asparagus. At first glance, the dish can seem somewhat intimidating, but the flavors tantalize your taste buds with the unexpected combo of the creamy coconut milk, white wine and finely diced peppers and onions that work in perfect harmony.

If you're not keen on seafood, Casa Playa also has many steak and pork-centric dishes such as its melt-in-your-mouth lechon asado with its slow oven-roasted mojo-marinated pork or its Ropa Vieja that shows off its slowly braised Cuban-style shredded beef.

You must leave room for dessert when visiting Casa Playa because its end-of-the-meal offerings will cap off an already outstanding meal. The restaurant only has a few different choices when it comes to something sweet, but two dishes that put a twist on classic Latin American desserts are so phenomenal. For fruity dessert lovers, its passion fruit mousse is a sweet, tangy and creamy delight that is even topped with passion fruit seeds, which offset the smooth texture of the mousse with a nice crunch.

For those looking for a more decadent dessert, however, look no further than its indulgent take on a classic flan. Its choco flan pairs a layer of caramel-coated flan on top of a slice of chocolate cake. It's a pleasantly surprising take on the typical flan dessert that makes it hard to ever look at regular flan the same way again.

No matter what dishes you partake in at Casa Playa, guests can expect to experience an assortment of Latin countries' traditional dishes with a twist without ever having set foot outside of Fort Lauderdale. 



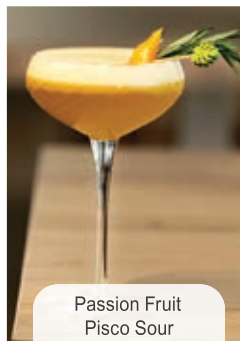
Casa Playa



Lomo Saltado



Spanish Mussels



Passion Fruit
Pisco Sour



Ceviche de La Playa

WANT TO GO?

Casa Playa

LOCATION: 401 N. Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale

PHONE: (954) 376-5512

WEBSITE: www.casaplaya.com

PARKING: STREET PARKING

COST: \$30 to \$50

THE VIBE: Airy and vibrant

10TH

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RAIN OR SHINE

RIVERWALK CHILI COOK OFF



SAVE
THE
DATE

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026 • 12 - 4 P.M.
ESPLANADE PARK**

Amateur and professional chefs will descend upon downtown Fort Lauderdale to compete to find out who makes the best chili in town!

For more information and to register your team visit
www.goriverwalk.com/chili

For sponsorship opportunities contact Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale at events@goriverwalk.com

SPONSORS



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GENERAL EVENTS

DECEMBER 1-2

Symphony of the Americas

A holiday celebration
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

DECEMBER 2

Dance to the Holidays

The hit holiday spectacular for the entire family
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Christmas on Las Olas

63rd annual festival of holiday magic on the most magical boulevard
Las Olas Boulevard Association
Las Olas Boulevard
www.lasolasboulevard.com

DECEMBER 3

Allan Harris

Gold Coast Jazz
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Chelcie Lynn

Trailer Trash Tammy The Loose Lips Tour
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 4

Yuletide on Atlantic Parade 2025

Holiday parade in Pompano Beach
City of Pompano Beach
East Atlantic Boulevard
www.parks.pompanobeachfl.gov

Florida Grand Opera

Silent Night
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Charlie Berens

The Lost and Found Tour
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 5

**Light Up Sistrunk**

Get ready for dancing in the streets
City of Fort Lauderdale
Sistrunk Blvd. between 9th and 11th Ave
954-828-5365
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

Seussical: Smart Stage Matinee Series

A person's a person, no matter how small
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Breakfast for Champions of the Homeless

Broward County's community leaders to serve as celebrity waiters
Broward Partnership
Central Homeless Assistance Center
954-779-3990
www.bphi.org

Whitney Cummings

Big Baby
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Holiday Magic VIP Reception

Step into the sparkle of the season
Bonnet House Museum & Gardens
954-563-5393
www.bonnethouse.org

DECEMBER 5-6

**Seussical**

A person's a person, no matter how small
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Dark Star Orchestra

Fall Tour 2025
FTL War Memorial
www.ftlwar memorial.com

DECEMBER 6

Florida Grand Opera

Silent Night
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Florida Singing Sons

50th Annual Holiday Concert
First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale
954-563-2697
www.floridasingingsons.org

Joe Bonamassa

One of the most celebrated live performers of his generation
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Sensory-Inclusive Performance: Seussical

A person's a person, no matter how small
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

**South Florida Symphony Orchestra**

Handel's Messiah
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Whimsical Wonderland

Don't forget to wear your favorite holiday pajamas
Bonnet House Museum & Gardens
954-563-5393
www.bonnethouse.org

Cookies with Santa

Cookies and Christmas photos with Santa
Historic Stranahan House Museum
954-524-4736
www.stranahanhouse.org

DECEMBER 7

U-N-I Sound Sessions

Featuring Kenny Rivers, Blanca, Joyful Noize and DJ Fleiva
FTL War Memorial
www.ftlwar memorial.com

**Micky Dolenz of The Monkees**

Songs and Stories
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

John Mulaney

Mister Whatever
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 8

**Nurse Blake**

But Did You Die? Comedy Tour
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 9

Santa on the Beach

Santa and his elves will spread holiday cheer along the beach
City of Fort Lauderdale
Fort Lauderdale Beach Park
954-828-5365
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

We Need a Little Christmas

Featuring Debbie Wileman as Judy Garland
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 10

Stevie Nicks

Legendary singer, songwriter, and storyteller
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

The Fab Four

Tribute to the Beatles' Help! and the Hits
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 11

An Evening with Bruce Hornsby

Three-time Grammy winner
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Rey Ruiz and Ronald Borjas

Two trajectories that need no introduction
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 12

Michael W. Smith

Every Christmas
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Light Up Carter Park

Enjoy holiday cheer and fun for the entire family
City of Fort Lauderdale
Carter Park
954-828-5365
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

Vienna Light Orchestra Christmas Tour 2025

Immerse yourself in the enchantment of Christmas
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

DECEMBER 13

**Sensory-Inclusive Performance: Disney's Frozen**

Let it snow
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Sarah Brightman

A Winter Symphony
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Christmastime with Trisha Yearwood

12 Days of Christmas Tour
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade

Yacht Rock of Ages is this year's theme
Winterfest
New River and Intracoastal
954-767-0686
www.winterfestparade.com

DECEMBER 14

Menorah Lighting Celebration

Enjoy holiday cheer and fun for the entire family
City of Fort Lauderdale
Las Olas Oceanside Park
954-828-5365
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

Sesame Street Live! Elmo & Friends Say Hello

Sing, dance, and play alongside your favorite furry friends
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

**An Intimate Evening with David Foster & Katharine McPhee**

One of the most illustrious composers of our time
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Mike Tyson Presents

Return of the Mike Tour
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
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www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Winter Wonderland A Frozen Family Celebration

Festive brunch party before the performance
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

DECEMBER 18

Arts Ballet Theatre — The Nutcracker
Smart Stage Matinee Series
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Jon Pardi
The Christmas Show
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 19-20

Creed
With special guest Sevendust
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 22



Celtic Angels Christmas
Christmas and Irish favorites in an awe-inspiring show
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 23

Wheel of Fortune Live!
One of the greatest game shows of all time
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 26



The Nutcracker by International Ballet Stars
A holiday tradition — reinvented
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 27-28

Shakira
Up Close and Personal Tour
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 29

Kwanzaa Ujamaa
Enjoy holiday cheer and fun for the entire family
City of Fort Lauderdale
Bass Park
954-828-5365
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet
Share the joy of Nutcracker
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 30



Brad Williams
The Growth Spurt Tour
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 31

Noon Year's Eve
Ring in 2026 with a Midday Bash
Museum of Discovery and Science
954-467-6637
www.mods.org

Downtown Countdown
One of the best New Year's Eve celebrations in Florida
City of Fort Lauderdale
SW 2nd St and SW 5th Ave
954-828-5365
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

Oteil & Friends
Two-time Grammy winning bassist
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

JANUARY 3

16th Annual Riverwalk Stone Crab & Seafood Festival
A celebration of the South Florida delicacy and all-things seafood!
Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale
Esplanade Park
954-468-1541
www.goriverwalk.com/seafood

#AnniFLOetry / #A26
One of the greatest storytellers of all time
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY 5

The Texas Tenors
Most successful music group in the history of America's Got Talent
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

JANUARY 8

History Makers 2026
Annual fundraiser for History Fort Lauderdale
History Fort Lauderdale
War Memorial Auditorium
www.historyfortlauderdale.org

JANUARY 10

Dale Elliott Jr.
Jamaican-born comedian
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

David Nihill: Taking Tangents
Irish comedian and writer
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Eddie B.
If These Classroom Walls Could Talk Tour
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY 10-11

Chris Stapleton
All-American Road Show
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

JANUARY 11

Leo Kottke
Prolific guitarist with over 40 albums over four decades
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY 14

Tig Notaro: Out of Nowhere
Comedian, actor, writer, director, producer and podcast host
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Gold Coast Jazz
Niki Haris with the Shelly Berg Trio
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY 15



Al Di Meola
Guitar Architect Tour 2026
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT



Holiday Magic Evening Experiences
December 10-12
Live music and libations each night
Bonnet House Museum & Gardens
954-563-5393
www.bonnethouse.org

Disney's Frozen
December 13-January 4
Let it snow
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Victorian Christmas Tours
December 16-20
Step back in time into a Victorian Christmas
Historic Stranahan House Museum
954-524-4736
www.stranahanhouse.org

Les Misérables
December 16-28
Story of broken dreams, unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Rick Case 2025 Bikes for Kids Donation Drive
Through December 20
Accepting donations of gently used bicycles
Rick Case Automotive Group
www.rickcase.com



In Pour Taste
January 8-25
A comedy wine tasting experience
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

8 Juliet
January 13-25
What would happen next if Juliet didn't end it all over Romeo?
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

ONGOING



Programming for all ages:

- Arts and crafts
- Book club and storytime
- Education, literacy and writing
- Finances and career
- Technology and science
- Yoga, Tai Chi

954-357-6555
www.broward.org/library



Recreation for all ages:

- After-school and Camps
- Camping, hiking and nature
- Swimming and water recreation
- Court games and sports fields
- Running, biking and fitness

954-357-8100
www.broward.org/parks

ArtServe

Classes and Workshops:

- Adult Acting & Modeling
- Painting & Drawing
- Fitness & Tai Chi

954-462-8190
www.artserve.org



Programming for all ages:

- Tennis, Aquatics & Athletics
- After-school & Camps
- Classes & Programs
- Cultural Arts & Club 55+

954-828-7275
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

Fort Lauderdale Segway Tours
Daily | Reservation required
Take a one or two-hour Segway tour on the Riverwalk. Training Provided.
954-304-5746
www.segwayfortlauderdale.com

Guided Museum Tours
Monday-Friday | Times vary
Tours of Fort Lauderdale's oldest surviving structure
Historic Stranahan House Museum
954-524-4736
www.stranahanhouse.org



Circle of Life Experience
Self-guided tours that highlight our local natural environment
Snyder Park

Paddle With A Purpose
Third Saturday | Reservation required
Waterway and Shoreline Cleanup
Delevoe Park

Fort Lauderdale Beach Sweep
Fourth Saturday
Help keep Fort Lauderdale Beach clean!
HUB at Fort Lauderdale Beach

Edible Food Forest
Fourth Saturday
Volunteer to tend an edible urban farm
Snyder Park



FTL WAR MEMORIAL

Programming for all ages:

Times and availability varies

- Florida Panthers Open Practice
- Public skating
- Adult, Youth & Girls Hockey
- Camps & Clinics

FTL War Memorial

954-835-7080

www.ftlwar memorial.com

Interpretive Walks and Tours

Friday & Saturday

Interpretive ranger-guided programs

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

954-564-4521

www.floridastateparks.org

The MKT at The LOOP

Saturdays & Sundays

Featuring small and local vendors with live music and more!

Las Olas Oceanside Park

www.theloopflb.com

Jazz Brunch

First Sunday

Free, outdoor concert series featuring local musicians on 3 stages

City of Fort Lauderdale

Esplanade Park & Riverwalk

954-828-5365

www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov



NSU ART MUSEUM

FORT LAUDERDALE

Sunny Days/Starry Nights

First Thursday

Free admission and 2-4-1 Happy Hour

Bank of America: Museums on Us

First full weekend

Free admission for BOA customers

Free Fort Lauderdale Neighbor Day

Last Sunday

Free admission for FTL residents

954-525-5500

www.nsuartmuseum.org

Storytime in the Garden

First Sunday

Mrs. Barbara reads a story related to nature

Flamingo Gardens

954-473-2955

www.flamingogardens.org

Sensory Friendly Sunday

Fourth Sunday

Film screenings for those with autism spectrum disorder



Bank of America: Museums on Us

First full weekend

Free admission for BOA customers

Sprouting Stem

Varies

Introducing little scientists (aged 0-6)

to STEM-related topics

Museum of Discovery & Science

954-467-6637

www.mods.org

RIVERWALK RECREATION

Shippey House | 220 S.W. 3rd Ave. Fort Lauderdale | 954-526-5159



Cycle Party Tours

Daily | Reservation required

Jump aboard a 15-person

quadricycle and experience Fort

Lauderdale in an entirely new way.

www.cycleparty.com

Paddle Pub Tours

Daily | Reservation required

Jump aboard a 20-person Paddle Pub

and experience Fort Lauderdale and the

waterway in a new way.

www.paddlepub.com/fort-lauderdale



Bike Tours

Daily | Reservation required

Tours of Fort Lauderdale and

Riverwalk for all abilities.

www.RiverwalkActivities.com

Bike Rentals

Daily | Reservation required

Rent bikes to explore Fort

Lauderdale. Delivery available.

Minimum 24 hour rental.

www.RiverwalkActivities.com

Mind Arena Games

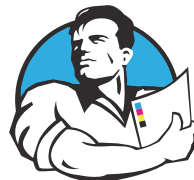
Daily | Reservation required

Immersive and engaging escape

room-style team building games for

10-150 people.

www.mindarenausa.com



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ADVERTISE IN GO RIVERWALK

FORT LAUDERDALE'S CITY MAGAZINE

WHAT WE DO!

Go Riverwalk Magazine connects our readers with all facets of Fort Lauderdale:

- A flourishing downtown
- Citywide array of social, cultural and neighborhood events
- The world-class business and professional community
- Trend-setting fashion and shopping
- Avant-garde dining options

DISTRIBUTION

1,500 magazines direct mailed to Riverwalk members and subscribers.

4,500 + copies are delivered to high-traffic locations including:

- Hotels
- Fine retail and restaurants
- High-end luxury apartments
- Downtown office buildings
- Auto dealerships
- Banks
- Restaurants
- Real estate offices
- Hair salons
- Exercise clubs
- Art galleries

THE NUMBERS!

6,000

PRINT MAGAZINES MONTHLY

10,000+

OPT-IN E-MAIL SUBSCRIBERS

76,650+

FACEBOOK FANS

19,000+

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

18,200+

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

129,850+

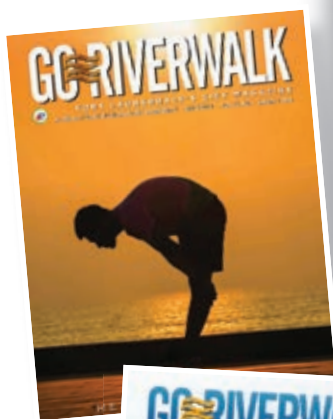
TOTAL AUDIENCE

For advertising information, contact

Mark Budwig,
Publisher

(954) 523-1980

Advertising@GoRiverwalk.com





MODS 29TH ANNUAL BANK OF AMERICA WINE, SPIRITS & CULINARY CELEBRATION

Hundreds of glasses and thousands of dollars were raised in unison to support science, education, innovation and exploration in South Florida at the Museum of Discovery and Science's 29th Annual Bank of America Wine, Spirits & Culinary Celebration held on Oct. 17.



SHANNON CLAY, ALAN SOMERSTEIN AND ABIGAIL SOMERSTEIN



MEREDITH FEDER, JOE COX, ELLIOT BORKSON AND ROSE PONTORNO



JOEY MASUCCI, LUCRETIA WEINER, KATIE MASUCCI, CLAUDETTE PAGANO, BICH-LY LUDWIG AND BEATRIZ MINACCI

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

FLOATARAMA

Presented by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, more than 250 guests attended the annual awards party on Oct. 23 at Hunters Wilton Manors. FLOatarama is an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to uplifting LGBTQ+ Youth in South Florida. FLOatarama awarded \$160,000 in grants through the nonprofit's LGBTQ Youth Fund.



ALEX MIRANDA AND SUSAN RENNEISEN



FLOATARAMA'S 2025 YOUTH FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS RECEIVE \$160,000



JOWHARAH SANDERS WITH NVEEE RECEIVES A \$15,000 FLOATARAMA YOUTH FUND GRANT

PHOTOS BY CARINA MASK

HOLY CROSS HEALTH FOUNDATION WOMEN'S WELLNESS BRUNCH

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center at Holy Cross HealthPlex, Holy Cross Health Foundation hosted a Women's Wellness Brunch on Oct. 3.



HELAINE AYERS, UISUN KIM AND HEJUNG KIM



JENNIFER WHITTINGTON, SHERI WHITTINGTON AND ALTAIR GONZALEZ



MERCEDES BOYD, JULIET INTERIANO, JESSICA CHEN, AND LAURA DENOUX

PHOTOS BY DOWNTOWN PHOTO



SAVOR THE MOMENT

Set atop one of Fort Lauderdale's iconic buildings, Tower Club is the perfect place to make meaningful connections, indulge in culinary delights, enjoy programs for all interests and host events surrounded by breathtaking views of downtown and the Atlantic Ocean.

Learn more about joining our dynamic community.

954.764.8550 | tower-florida.com

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FUNDING ARTS BROWARD

Funding Arts Broward, a privately funded membership nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the arts, launched its 23rd season with a reception at Northern Trust on Las Olas on Oct. 9.



NORBERT EUGENE, JEMILAH JONES
AND DARIUS DAUGHTRY



KERRY WALDEE, TODD MASNICKI
AND DAVID JOBIN



LUCRETIA WEINER, DARIUS DAUGHTRY, MORGAN
DEGRAF, MARTY CHILDERS AND STEVE ROTH AUS

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

ARTSERVE ANNUAL MEMBER'S SHOW

ArtServe recently welcomed guests to the opening night of its annual Member's Show, "Florida Opulence," celebrating the artistic grandeur of Florida's Gilded Age through the works of local member artists.



SHARON SWIFT, KAT SIERRA AND CHELSEA ROUSSO



CATHY MYERS AND ARTIST G. MAN WITH
ARTWORK MISS CONGENIALITY



FIN CASSON AND STACY CASSON

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ARTSERVE



PHOTO BY JASON LEIDY



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ARTIST

DONNA BALLMAN

ARTWORK

IGUANA'S WINTER FANTASY

Editor's note: Once again, Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale invited artists to submit their original artwork depicting Fort Lauderdale's Riverwalk. This year, 15 talented local artists submitted 18 different pieces in a variety of categories, including mixed media, composition, photography, art and tech, and more. Here is a closer look at our one of our honorees.

Inspiration for this piece of art

Iguana's Winter Fantasy was inspired by the many iguanas we have in our yard, and the fact that they suffer in Florida winters. We've seen many of our iguanas appear to be dead when they've just gone into their cold weather comatose state. We've learned to leave them be until they warm up again.

This painting is part of my Animal Fantasy series. I imagine what an animal might fantasize about and paint the fantasy. Here, Iggy is fantasizing about cuddling up by our fire pit with a blanket and a hot chocolate on a "cold" Florida night.

I enjoy painting animals and nature the most, and I love using lots of bright colors. In that, I am inspired by the beautiful bright colors in much of Haitian art.

Tell us a bit about your creative journey

I've always enjoyed being creative. But in ninth grade I had to choose between chorus and art and I chose chorus, even after I won my eighth grade art award. I always told my daughters to live life with no regrets. I told them my biggest regret was not taking more art classes. Seven years ago, for Mother's Day, they bought me a package of art lessons at De Vita Academy, and I've been there almost every Friday afternoon since.

Now I'm retired, but as a lawyer I found taking the classes to be destressing. I still do. I like to say it's better and cheaper than therapy. We can paint whatever we like and Tom De Vita coaches us through when we're stuck or need inspiration.

Our classmates are also supportive and helpful.

Painting or doing anything creative helps switch off those stressful thoughts. I would encourage everyone in a stressful position to create art as a means of reducing stress and making the world a bit more beautiful.

CU



 MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE

CBS PRESENTS



PAJAMA PARTY AND HOLIDAY SPECIAL

November 29

December 6

December 13

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(10 a.m. Screening)

mods.org/holidaypaws



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DECEMBER 31 • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Ball Drop at 12 p.m.

Free with Museum admission. Register at mods.org/nooneyears.

401 SW 2nd Street • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312 • 954.467.6637

mods.org    @modsftl



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BOAT PARADE

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**THIS IS
HOW
WE DO IT**



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A QUICK SCAN AWAY!**



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DECEMBER 12**



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