

ArtSouth Update



BY BOB FARNES

Executive Director

Wow! November is a busy month. Veteran's Day Parades, Speedfest, NASCAR racing and of course ArtSouth's Second Saturday. This month's exhibits have a decided international flair. Titled "journeys" the exhibit features international artist Miguel Velit fresh off the plane from China. His Faculty Gallery exhibit titled "Lima, Homestead, China 2006" features his drawings and video maps of those locations.

Aleta Burge, Vanessa Bryson and Fernando Vallejo team up to present "Luna Lumina," a series of paintings in the CCRC Gallery. These fantasy interpretations of the moon, planets and celestial skies are a must see.

Natalia Arbelaez, exhibits her "Artworks" in our ArtSpace Gallery throughout the month. This young artist displays her talent in these brightly colored pieces.

Our own Luis Nunez has been selected to exhibit his impressive talents in our state capital. He will be showing 22 major pieces in the Governor's Gallery located in the Capital Building, November through January 31st of next year. This is a huge honor and ArtSouth is very proud to claim him as our own.

Luis also won a \$100 cash prize and an honorable mention at the 2nd Annual Art Competition Exhibit presented by the City of Pembroke Pines. Fellow ArtSouth artists Mimi Dickson, Sandra Garcia and Silvana Siveira were also accepted and are showing at this prestigious exhibit.

On November 4th, The Hands On Miami project will be coming to the Laura Saunders Elementary School in Florida City to paint the murals designed, prepared and outlined by ArtSouth artists, Vanessa Bryson, Aleta Burge, Betsy Kreisberg and Rodrigo Mendoza-Cortissoz. These generous artists donated their time and talents designing and laying out the vivid colors for the Hands On Miami volunteers to fill in. They feel that the many hours of hard work are well

worth the effort if the color and excitement of these murals will help stir the student's imaginations.

ArtSouth is also hosting the National Geographic Photo Camp 2006 in November. The National Geographic Society Education Foundation, whose mission is to prepare children to embrace a diverse world, succeed in a global economy and steward the planet's resources, is sponsoring PHOTO CAMP 2006 in partnership with VisionWorkshops of Annapolis, Md., the Miami Herald, the School of Communication at the University of Miami, The Mexican American Council a Dade County partner of the Miami Dade County Public School system and ArtSouth based in Homestead, Florida.

The program is funded in part by the Ferguson-Judge Fund and the cameras have been donated by Olympus. National Geographic photographer Maggie Steber will give 16 migrant high school students from Homestead Senior High School and South Dade Senior High School, a unique opportunity to look at their city and reveal their Mexican heritage in a new way during National Geographic PHOTO CAMP 2006. From November 9-12, 2006 the students will fan out across Homestead to shoot, edit and design a portrait of the migrant community in South Florida. The final presentation will be a DVD slide show that will be shown at the Sanctuary at ArtSouth from 5:30 until 7:00 pm on Sunday November 12th.

We cordially invite everyone to visit our 3.5 acre facility for our Second Saturday Open House, Nov. 11. Tour our three galleries and visit with the artists in their studios. Gallery opening receptions are from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., where refreshments will be served. Live musical entertainment will be ongoing in the courtyard during the event. ArtSouth is located at 240 N. Krome Avenue, Homestead. For more information, please call 305-247-9406 or visit us on-line at www.artsouth-homestead.org. We look forward to seeing you there.

New Homestead Hospital in the home stretch

BY TANYA RACOOBIAN

Construction of the new Homestead Hospital is entering the home stretch as work focuses on interior finishes and beautifying the campus grounds. Nearly 85 percent complete, the 388,000-square-foot facility is the first new hospital to be built from the ground up in Miami-Dade County in 30 years.

"Hundreds of talented tradesmen are doing a great job completing the project," said Bill Duquette, CEO of Homestead Hospital. "When the new hospital is finished, the community will have a beautifully built building that will last for generations."

All of the hospital's windows and exterior doors are installed. Inside, dry-wall and ceilings are nearly complete throughout the five-story building. The floors of the main and Emergency Department lobbies are finished with multicolor terrazzo. Air conditioning is flowing throughout the building.

Patient rooms and staff work areas are being equipped with casework and wood finishes. Clinical areas are being outfitted with equipment that needs to be installed in ceilings or walls. In the operating rooms, for example, lights, monitors and cameras hang from the ceiling.

One of the most outstanding features of the new hospital is the three-story atrium. It is the core of the new building, with the admitting department, outpatient services and dining area positioned around it. Lighting in the atrium's ceiling is functioning, and the edges of the three floors that open up to the space will soon be enclosed

with glass and cast-bronze railings. Six, 20-foot high Chinese Fan Palm trees will add to the grandeur of the atrium.

Outside, landscaping has commenced and two rows of Royal Palms line the driveway to the main entrance. The 1,400-space parking lot is paved and complemented with Bald Cypress, Gumbo Limbo and Live Oak trees. Walkways and grass are being installed in the meditation garden behind the medical arts building. Tropical plants and three lakes will complete the campus landscape.

According to Duquette, while the new hospital is under construction, patients and their families can continue to expect quality care at the existing hospital, located at 160 NW 13 St.

"We've worked hard to build a culture in which quality service and clinical care make Homestead Hospital a great place for patients to be treated, employees to work and physicians to practice," he said. "The new hospital will allow us to continue providing very good care in a beautiful new facility."

The new Homestead Hospital is scheduled to open next spring. Last year's hurricanes and a shortage of skilled workers pushed the move to 2007.

"Quality construction remains our top priority," said Nelson Roque, Baptist Health construction project manager. "Building a hospital requires highly specialized skills, and we want to be sure we have the right people doing the job correctly."

To view construction progress, see the live Web cam located on the Homestead Hospital page of www.baptisthealth.net.

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