

Knight Foundation names 2017 finalists for Knight Arts Challenge grant



Six Broward and six Palm Beach County finalists are vying for a share of \$2.5 million in Knight Arts Challenge grants, the Knight Foundation announced Monday. (Knight Foundation / Courtesy)



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On Monday, the Miami-based Knight Foundation selected 107 South Florida-spun ideas for its 2017 Knight Arts Challenge, an annual grant rewarding the region's strongest arts projects.

Broward and Palm Beach counties racked up six finalists apiece, including prominent art spaces Young at Art Museum in Davie, Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach, Upper Room Art Gallery in Fort Lauderdale and Theatre Lab in [Boca Raton](#).

The finalists are vying for a chunk of the \$2.5 million in grants from the Knight Foundation, which whittled its list down from a field of 1,000-plus applications.

The organization will announce grant winners during a public ceremony on Dec. 4 at a to-be-announced Miami venue. That event will be preceded by a series of October and November celebrations marking the grant's 10th anniversary.

Other Broward nods went to Aifos Agency, a marketing group touting Caribbean art and culture with a monthlong concert series at Hollywood ArtsPark; BlackFlorida, a portrait series from Johanne Rahaman, [who photographs black family lives in Pompano Beach](#) and Miami; Eccentric Displays, from Pompano Beach spoken-word poet Eccentric Richardson, who will bring poetry workshops to prisons; and YMCA of South Florida, which will invite African-Americans from Fort Lauderdale's Sistrunk neighborhood to share stories, songs and poetry over a barbecue meal.

In Palm Beach County, nominees include the West Palm Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, which aims to build a “sculpture park” with artist Lily Yeh in the city’s Northwood Village neighborhood; PureHoney Magazine, a monthly publication from Palm Beach County music scenester Steev Rullman, who aims to expand **his annual block party Bumblefest**; Sofia Valiente, whose Foreverglades photo project profiles South Florida’s pioneer families; and the Glades Community Media Project, a documentary following four struggling high-school students in rural Pahokee.

Miami-Dade County picked up the other 95 nominations. Contenders include Buskerfest Miami, an annual showcase of music performances in Miami’s public spaces; and the Plantain, a satirical, Miami-centric news website presenting “Miami Irregardless,” a new web series featuring vignettes about the “funny and sad aspects of Miami life.”

For the full list of winners and their proposed arts projects, go to KnightArts.org.

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