



## VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Pinecrest to hold Fine Arts Festival followed by Jazz Performances - link to pictures and bios included*

**Pinecrest, Fla.** – Pinecrest Gardens will be the stage for the South Motors Fine Arts Festival where 65 artists will exhibit their works among 14 acres of native forested wetland, tropical hardwood hammock and native cypress slough hammock from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 11 and 12. Pinecrest Gardens is located at 11000 Red Road.

Each artist was carefully selected to show at South Florida's premier juried fine arts festival from a pool of close to 100 painting, mixed-media, jewelry, sculpture, photography and wearable art artists.

World-renowned Cuban artist Humberto Benitez will be among the artists to display his work in the festival. His Cuban-themed art is a feast of passion, sensuality and indulgence brought to life by the colors of the tropics. Silhouettes, musical instruments and landscapes of Cuba seemingly move on the canvas.

"I let the canvas detect the movement," said Benitez, who never sketches before painting and has created works as large 13 feet tall and 14 feet wide.

Other exhibitors are coming from as far as California and the Midwest.

Joan Drizin is traveling from Indiana to show at the Fine Arts Festival. She uses rusted steel, unpolished glass, rough rock and other recycled materials to create geometric outdoor art. Each sculpture is created by welding, cutting and bending iron which translates into a one-of-a-kind whimsical piece with an edge.

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Homegrown and up-and-coming artist Phil Fung, whose work has been featured by President Barack Obama and Vogue Magazine, will also be exhibiting in the arts fair. His art spotlights world leaders, comic book characters and landscapes with colorful mastery and a style that is unmistakably Phil Fung.

Local food vendors will take guests on a tour around the world. There will be authentic eats from Colombia by Chef Fanny Gonzalez. Yummy Chori will be offering a traditional Argentine parillada complete with blood sausage, sweet breads and prime cuts of beef. Cuban Mexican fusion chefs Sonia and Jimmy Borja will be serving up their one-of-a-kind fusion cuisine. Traditional Greek goodies from falafel to gyros and baklava will also be served by chef George Kasselakis of Greek Flame.

After the fine arts festival Saturday and Sunday there will be jazz performances in the Pinecrest Gardens Banyan Bowl, which is a state-of-the-art venue covered by a geodesic dome in the center of the botanical gardens.

Saturday steel drum virtuoso Leon "Foster" Thomas will be performing. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. with a light menu and full bar catered by Macy's. The performance is at 8 p.m. and cost is \$20 or \$25.

Sunday following the festival, there will be a **free** performance Sunday by the FIU Jazz Student Combo starting at 6 p.m.

You can **download pictures** of each of the artists' works, Leon "Foster" Thomas and the FIU Student Jazz Combo at <http://ge.tt/1FD8U9C1?c>

Admission is free and there will be overflow parking at Palmetto Senior High, Palmetto Middle School and Pinecrest Elementary with free shuttle service to Pinecrest Gardens.

*Attached are the bios for fiber artists Karen Sconyers and Phyllis Jean Bodie, and jewelry artists Joyce Nelson and Alex Barbeau.*

*Artists named in this release are available for interviews.*

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