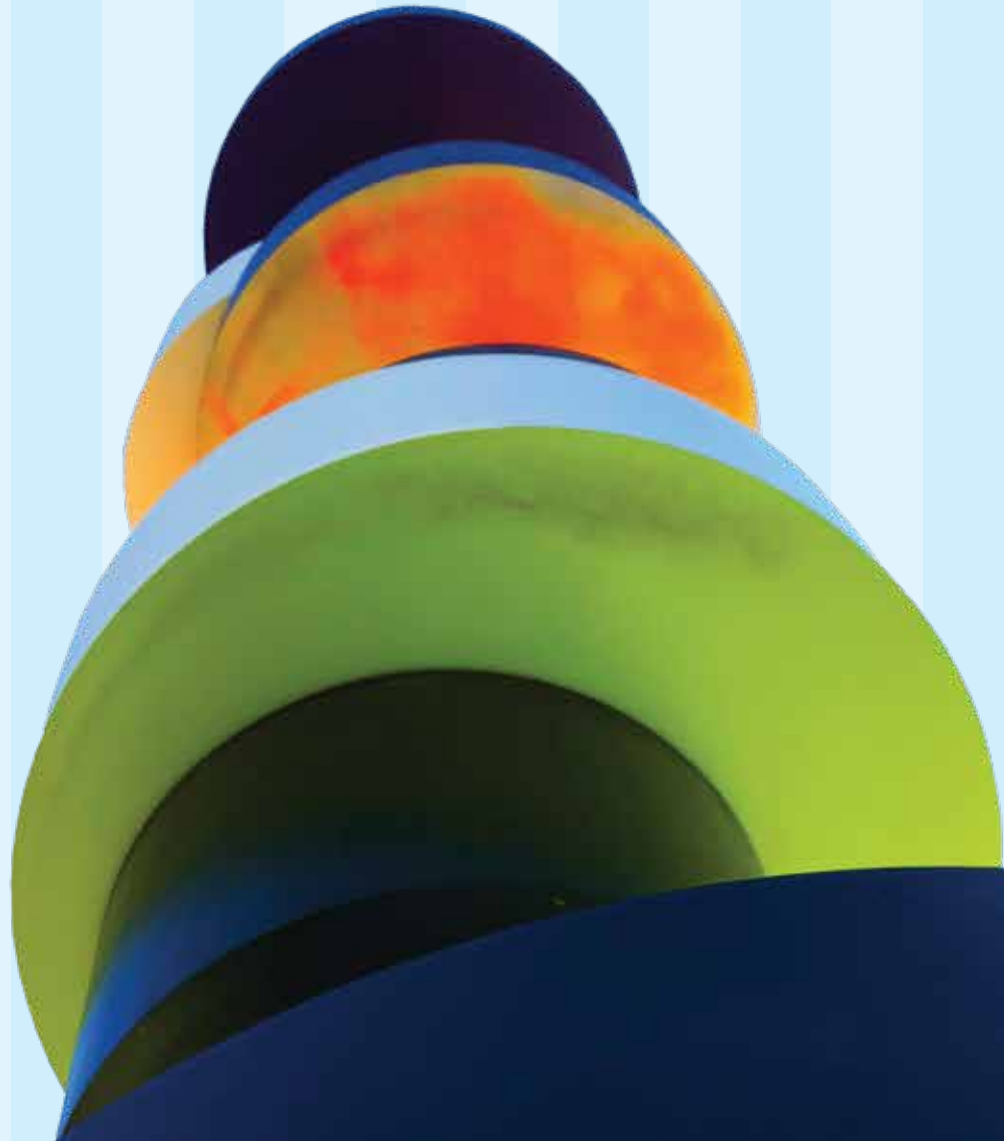


THE PINK PALM

SPRING 2019

The LGBTQ Travel Insider for Greater Miami and the Beaches



MIAMI
GREATER MIAMI AND THE BEACHES

WELCOME...

Spring has sprung in Greater Miami and the Beaches, and our destination is ready to celebrate Pride. April promises to be full of excitement with a week-long celebration starting April 1st with the raising of the Pride Rainbow Flag at Miami Beach City Hall and "Flipping the Switch" that will illuminate buildings throughout Miami in rainbow flag color. The week's festivities will culminate on April 7th with the 11th Miami Beach Pride Parade and the Pride Festival Village in Lummus Park. But Pride doesn't end there... make sure you experience the first Wynwood Pride coming June 2019!

This issue of The Pink Palm is filled with pointers on how to spend a weekend if your BFF's in Miami and Miami Beach, highlighting the amazing Samsara Cabaret at the Faena Hotel and the super-cool ARTECHOUSE exhibit. We also pay homage to the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots by highlighting HistoryMiami Museum's *Queer Miami: A History of LGBTQ Communities*. This amazing, not-to-be-missed exhibition is curated by Miami native Dr. Julio Capó Jr. who is currently an Associate Professor at University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Make sure you catch the Arva Jain profile where she tells us just how she came to love Miami, and in turn... well — we LOVE HER! And finally, join us in celebrating our bustling transgender art community and a host of organizations that often work in tandem to foster the arts, as well as support the trans community. See you in Miami!

Stop by and visit the LGBT Visitor Center for local and visitor information. Feel free to use the Michael Anthony Lucas Computer Center and our free Wi-Fi.

LGBT Visitor Center

1130 Washington Ave., 1st Floor North, Miami Beach, FL 33139
305/397-8914 • GoGayMiami.com

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri: 9 A.M. – 6 P.M. // Sat & Sun: 11 A.M. – 4 P.M.



305/673-4440
GayBizMiami.com

The Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (MDGLCC) is the largest not-for-profit corporation in the county for gay and lesbian businesses. MDGLCC offers the Pink Flamingo Hospitality Certification by training and certifying hospitality service professionals on issues related to gender and orientation, and giving them tools to respond appropriately to all people. This is essential for creating environments where all visitors and employees are welcome.

For a list of Pink Flamingo Certified Hotels and Businesses in Greater Miami and the Beaches, please visit GayBizMiami.com

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Miami celebrates its transgender community and arts.

This publication was produced by the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau with the support of the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.



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For information about Greater Miami and the Beaches, visit MiamiandBeaches.com.

WEEKEND WITH THE BOYS!

Want a gay weekend away with your BFFs? Find out why Miami and Miami Beach should be at the top of your list!

by IAN MALONEY



Who among us doesn't need a weekend get away with your gays? A boy's weekend in the sunshine is the perfect place to catch up and reconnect with your BFFs and make sure you get all the Vitamin D you can handle!

Here is a boy's weekend itinerary that will take you from South Beach to Wynwood in search of that famous Miami nightlife while mixing in a healthy dose of culture and sunshine to make a quick visit unforgettable.

FRI // KEEP IT LOCAL IN MIAMI BEACH

Check-in time: Hotel options abound in Miami and Miami Beach

Decide the vibe that your group is feeling, then check out our list at VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com. You can customize your search to easily find any needs.



Samsara Cabaret at Faena Hotel

First Stop: Samsara Cabaret at the Faena Hotel

Head over to the Faena Hotel where Samsara Cabaret is guaranteed to blow your mind! With over the top vocal performances, high-flying acrobatics and enough skin to titillate and excite everyone, the Faena has spared no expense to bring an amazing, original show to life in their theater. Take a selfie with the Woolly Mammoth on the hotel's patio for a #FoundInMiami moment!

Night Cap: Twist it is!

Finish your first night in Miami Beach with drinks and dancing at Twist, a Miami Beach mainstay, voted one of the top ten (#8) gay bars in the country. There is NEVER a cover at Twist, but with seven bars there is sure to be plenty to look at until the wee hours of the morning.

Insider's Tip: Head to the Gaythering for their Bears & Hares Friday night party with late night happy hour starting at 10 p.m. Don't worry if you aren't a bear or a hare, the party welcomes everyone and the drinks are just like we like our men — strong!

SAT // ART & ARCHITECTURE EVERYWHERE

Early Morning Stretch: Get the day started with an early morning yoga class

Try Maham Yoga at 10th Street and West Avenue in Miami Beach or if you're lucky you can join a pop-up yoga class happening at South Pointe Park located in Miami Beach's trendy SoFi (South of Fifth) neighborhood. New World Center also has a monthly outdoor yoga class.

Art Deco Walking Tour: Presented by the Miami Design Preservation League

Art Deco walking tours leave daily at 10:30 a.m. from the Art Deco Welcome Center at 10th Street and Ocean Drive in Miami Beach. This 90-minute tour will help you get your bearings in Miami Beach and will ensure you leave with a better understanding of what exactly "Art Deco" is and why Miami Beach has one of the largest collections of Art Deco buildings anywhere in the world. LGBTQ version of the tour available every second Saturday of the month.

Beach Day: Catch some rays

Spend the afternoon on the iconic 12th Street and Ocean Drive "Gay Beach" in Miami Beach! Check out VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com for other gay beach options in Miami.

Dinner & Culture: Exploring Wynwood

Miami's avant-garde art scene is anchored in Wynwood, an old industrial neighborhood that has been completely overhauled with art galleries, public art spaces, delicious restaurants and a vibe to match other artist enclaves around the world. The area is located in the City of Miami about eight miles west of South Beach.

R House Wynwood is a dining must if you are in the neighborhood. R House serves up farm-to-table delicacies worthy of an Instagram post or two! Reservations are highly recommended. After dinner check out Wynwood Walls or just wander the streets admiring the murals that have popped up on virtually every single wall in the neighborhood.



Insider's Tip: Miami Beach's iconic Score Nighclub now exists as a "pop up" club. Check Score out on social media or their website to find out where the party is during your visit. For any late night munchies check out the 11th Street Diner beside Twist or get your Cuban fix at Puerto Sagua at the corner of 7th Street and Collins Avenue.

SUN // WRAP IT UP RIGHT

Early Morning Workout: Sand it down

Get the boys up early and jog to Muscle Beach in Lummus Park (9th Street on the Beach) to work out Miami Beach style — in the bright sunshine, right in the sand!



ARTECHOUSE

Morning Art: ARTECHOUSE (Art+Tech+House)

For your daily dose of culture this morning, head over to ARTECHOUSE between 7th and 8th on Collins Avenue in South Beach for a state of the art exhibit called *XYZT: Abstract Landscapes* by French artists Adrien M & Claire B. This traveling installation consists of 10 digital exhibits projected on various screens or the floor that encourage visitors to interact by touch and movement. In the words of ARTECHOUSE's founder and art director Sandro, "Certain things words just cannot describe ... they must be seen and experienced." This is, without a doubt, one of those things!

Every Queen Needs a Palace: A brunch like no other

For the past 31 years, Miami Beach's drag queens have held court at the Palace, which has undergone a major change for the better after moving two blocks south to its new digs at 1052 Ocean Drive. Sunday Brunchic at the Palace is legendary and is THE place to be on Sunday Afternoon. Showtime is 2 p.m. (there is also an 11 a.m. show) and includes unlimited mimosas and a pitcher for the table. Get the camera and your \$1 bills ready, 'cause these queens are ready to work! After the show, wrap up the weekend high above the Palace. Head up to the new pool bar on the 6th floor and enjoy the calming ocean breeze along with plenty of eye candy. 🌸



QUEER MIAMI:

A HISTORY OF LGBTQ COMMUNITIES

HistoryMiami Museum launches a new exhibit which runs through September 1, 2019.

by IAN MALONEY

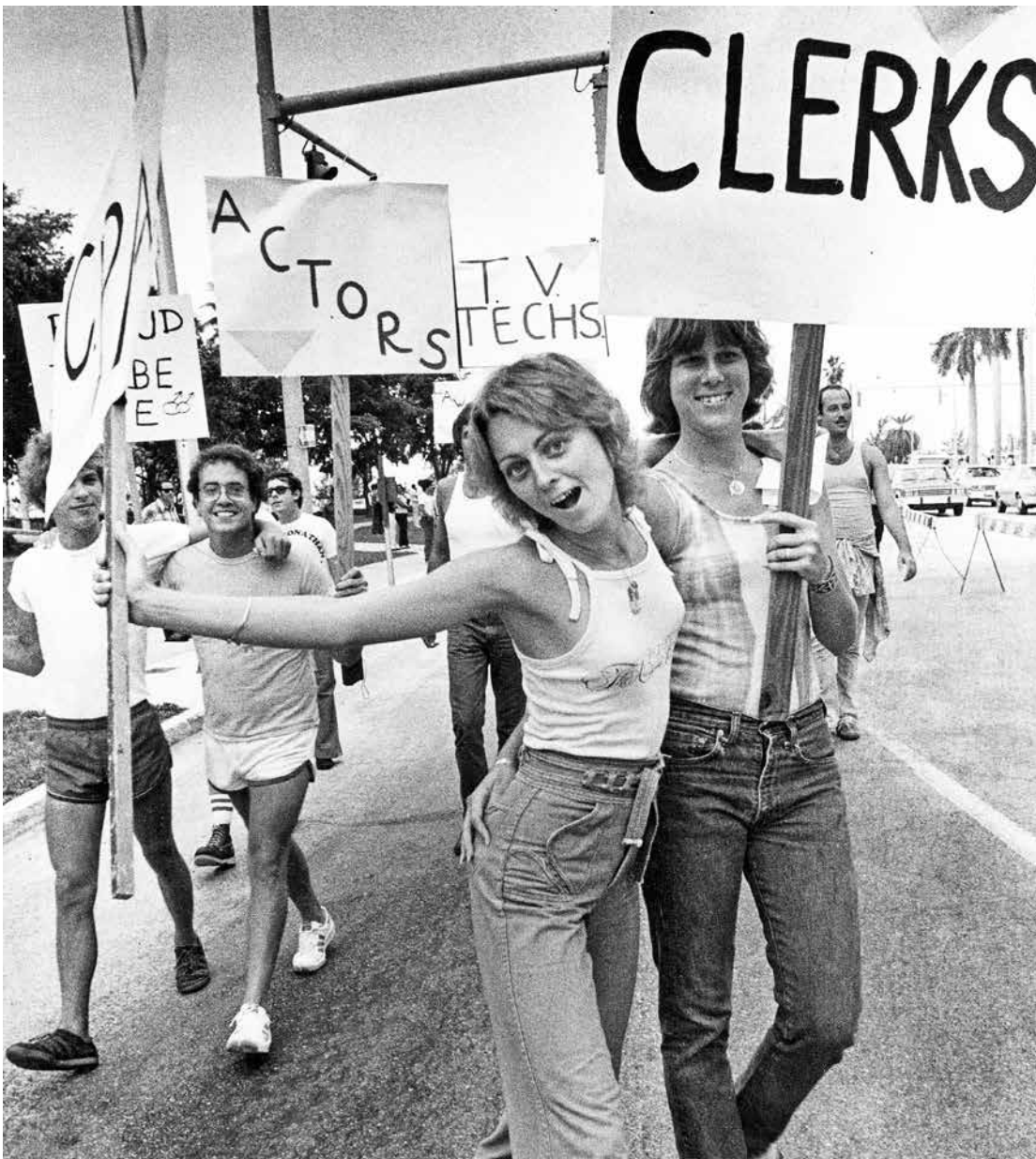
HistoryMiami Museum will honor LGBTQ history and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots with the launch of a new exhibit called *Queer Miami: A History of LGBTQ Communities*. HistoryMiami is the area's preeminent history museum, telling the story of Miami's people and the events that have made those people who they are. *Queer Miami* opened March 16, 2019 and runs through September 1, 2019.

Queer Miami is curated by Miami native Dr. Julio Capó Jr. who is currently an Associate Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. After completing his PhD at Florida International University in 2011, Dr. Capó wrote *Welcome to Fairyland: Queer Miami before 1940* and has emerged as one of the few voices dedicated to studying Miami's queer history. Now, he's bringing that history to life. "It's an exciting — and most necessary — time to tell these stories," said Capó. "One of the greatest challenges in studying LGBTQ history is that our lives and experiences are so often purposefully erased

from history books and archives. As this exhibit will show, our LGBTQ community, of which I am also a proud member, has persisted and persevered in Miami since its inception." He added "often the national narrative of LGBTQ history is told through experiences of people in cities like New York, San Francisco, or Chicago, which of course are also very important, but events that took place in Miami helped shape the trajectory of a national movement in remarkable ways. This year, as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion that helped launch a new era in gay organizing and reform, I hope this exhibit shows the significance of seeing an event like Stonewall as one event among many of other such moments of LGBTQ resistance and empowerment that existed both prior and after that moment."

The Stonewall Riots mark one of the first times the country's LGBTQ community publicly fought for their rights and they are remembered as one of the seminal events in LGBTQ history. In late June 1969, New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a bar that served the LGBTQ

community in the city's Greenwich Village neighborhood. For the first time, patrons of the bar along with other members of the community fought back and attacked the police who were arresting them simply for being gay or dressing in drag. At the time, it was illegal in NYC to serve alcohol to gays and lesbians and it was illegal to dress as a member of the opposite sex. That night, instead of slinking into the shadows, a riot broke out, the bar was torched and history was made! The fight continued the next night when police refused to release several members of the community who were arrested. A year later, the riots were remembered as Christopher Street Liberation Day and a group of survivors and activists marched from the remains of the bar up along 5th Avenue to Central Park. What started as a few dozen people, grew to several thousand by the time the group made it to the park. The riots and the commemorative march each year grew into the modern Pride movement and the fight for LGBTQ rights had officially begun.



ABOVE: Couples holding signs displaying their professions in Miami's first LGBTQ parade, 1978. Tim Chapman, photographer. Tim Chapman Collection, HistoryMiami Museum. OPPOSITE PAGE Left: LGBTQ people at an outdoor event, c. 1987. *Miami News* Collection, HistoryMiami Museum. Top Right: Man holding sign that reads "Gays in History" while walking in Miami's first Gay Rights Parade, 1978. Tim Chapman, photographer. Tim Chapman Collection, HistoryMiami Museum. Bottom Right: Anita Bryant speaking at the podium during a Gay Rights debate, 1977. Tim Chapman, photographer. Tim Chapman Collection, HistoryMiami Museum.

"It's an exciting — and most necessary — time to tell these stories"

Queer Miami will be HistoryMiami Museum's featured exhibition throughout 2019. Displayed in the museum's 5,000-square-foot gallery, will be topics such as: policing and criminalization, community development, advocacy and activism, immigration and the AIDS crisis, and what the future holds for Miami's queer community. Visitors will be able to see memorabilia from some of Miami's oldest gay bars, photographs of rallies and marches, archival material from Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign, historical footage and original video interviews from the people involved in creating Miami's LGBTQ communities. Interactive components will encourage visitors to contribute their own story to the exhibition.

The exhibit will be the first of its kind for HistoryMiami Museum, which is spotlighting

LGBTQ communities for the first time. Through their affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution, the museum is able to enrich the community by bringing world-acclaimed Smithsonian exhibits to South Florida. HistoryMiami Museum has set a goal to safeguard and share Miami stories to foster learning, inspire a sense of place, and cultivate an engaged community, so this exhibit on the area's queer history is not only needed, but is important for the museum to highlight. "We are thrilled to show Miami's LGBTQ community of today and the journey to this present moment," said HistoryMiami Museum Executive Director Jorge Zamanillo. "This exhibit is unique because the story is still being told and changing every day. We're inviting visitors to tell their own stories and be a part of history."

The museum is closed on Mondays. Tuesday through Saturday it is open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 6 - 12 and free for children under 6 years old. 🌈

LGBTQ Annual Events

For exact dates, websites and additional information, please go to VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com



Gay8 Festival
Feb

Winter Party Festival
Feb/Mar



Miami Beach Pride
Apr

OUTshine Film Festival
Apr



Sizzle Miami
May

Out in the Tropics
May/Jun



Wynwood Pride
Jun

Aqua Girl
Sep/Oct



Celebrate Orgullo
Oct

Hialeah Pride
Oct



White Party
Nov

SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH MIAMI

What does a super-successful, gay, Indian-American businesswoman from NY find in Miami? Love. A city with heart. And a passion for making a difference.

by **A.M. DE LA TORRE**

Avra Jain is a big deal in Miami. In the 18 years that she's been living here, she has contributed significantly to the city, transforming a once dilapidated and rough-shod "red-light" stretch of Miami's Biscayne Boulevard into one of the most admired community turnarounds in the U.S.: the MiMo (Miami Modern) district. And Avra's not about to stop. She's working on transmuting and reinvigorating areas all around Miami-Dade County, from Hialeah to the Miami River. We sat down with her and dove into her take on what makes Miami her favorite city.

So what prompted this intense commitment to Miami, from the gay, 57-year old, Indian-American, Illinois native/New York transplant?

"It's a labor of love," said Avra. "I came to Miami to follow love, and I fell in love with the city." Since the 1980s, when she worked as a trader on New York's Wall Street, Avra visited Miami, with her gay and fashion-industry friends. "The gay boys always knew about the next 'in' place to be and party," she recalls. "They pulled me along — and I loved it! When my Wall Street coworkers were using their vacation days to summer in the Hamptons, I was using my vacation to winter in Miami. It was New York-Miami, Miami-New York, for many years."

And then came love.

In the early 90s, and now a New York real estate developer, Avra started a relationship with a woman who lived in Miami. As the relationship deepened, living together became the priority. There was a choice to make. Miami won, handily. "Look around," Avra says, "it's a no-brainer. We are living where the world comes — or wants to come — for vacation!"

In Miami, Avra continued her real estate development work, building a portfolio of properties, and enjoying the amazing quality of life that the city offered. "I'm not into labels, I'm all about inclusion, but as a gay woman — and for many [LGBTQ] people — Miami tops the list of places to be. We choose to live in Miami because we feel comfortable here. The feeling and lifestyle. It's sexy, and it makes you



feel healthy, relaxed — and a little more alive. It's a happy place!"

So how does a woman with a 12+ hour workday unwind, in Miami?

"I'm lucky to have a great wife and daughter and I love my life." When not traveling, Avra concentrates her precious free time on friends, family... and MiMo — her home turf.

"There's such a cool vibe in the MiMo neighborhood."

At The Vagabond Hotel, Avra's keystone restoration project in MiMo, she and her (mostly gay women) business partners have created "the kind of place where I, myself, would want to come stay, or hang out."

The super-photogenic, retro-chic, 44-room hotel is her "second home," a crown jewel in her portfolio. It's an oasis of sophistication that once hosted 1950s Rat Pack celebrities, and now attracts guests the world over, who appreciate the history, the hip design aesthetics and serene, Instagram-ready pool area. Here you'll find fashion and art industry people, friends that rendezvous in Miami from all parts of the country, families with children, and couples — gay and straight — who book the hotel for their wedding day celebrations, or, create a "home base" for their multi-day explorations of other areas of Miami or Florida.

"The MiMo area is convenient to everything. You're 15 minutes from one of my favorite beaches, on 74th Street in North Beach; 15 minutes from great golfing facilities at Normandy Isle — a public course that's one of Miami's best-kept secrets and ideal for tourists, since they rent clubs. And we're 10 minutes to the Design District, Wynwood, the

Performing Arts District — everything that's cool and happening right now. There's so much to see and do."

Avra's priorities for what's fun in Miami have shifted since her early days as a tourist — when 12th Street Beach, the Palace, and Score in South Beach where her go-tos for meeting up with other gay friends and allies. Today, Avra's social calendar comprises — besides lots of dinners with friends ("Have I become boring?") — fundraising for numerous organizations, including the LGBTQ Task Force, the Aqua Foundation, and going to movies (OUTshine, O Cinema). "It's a great opportunity to meet like-minded people."

When going out for dinners and drinks, what are some favorites?

"BarMeli69, Via Verdi, Flavorish, Vista, Vagabond for its amazing sushi bar, Ferraro's Kitchen, and for more formal occasions, MC Kitchen. And for ethnic, I love Zaika — the best Indian food in Miami — plus Tony Chan's Water Club for Peking duck (with a water view), and Versailles for Cuban food."

The best cocktails? "The Anderson — hands-down."

With so much passion for so much of what Miami has to offer, what advice can she share with other gay women who want to visit — or maybe stay and work?

"Come, absolutely! There's so much creativity, talent and opportunity. The world is here, and all eyes are on us — they know we're special. It's authentic and feels authentic. Maybe that's why so many gay people like it here — they're authentic, can be authentic, and can live their truths. There's nowhere else I'd rather be." 🌸

TRANSGENDER ART, COMMUNITY, AND CULTURE IN MIAMI

Miami celebrates its transgender community and arts.

by IAN MALONEY



For centuries, many in the LGBTQ community have found their calling in the arts. For one reason or another, marginalized groups have been welcomed in communities where art flourishes. However, nationwide, there is a scarcity of places that give voice to the transgender community, one of the most marginalized groups in our country. Luckily, Miami is home to a bustling transgender art community and to a host of organizations that often work in tandem to foster the arts, as well as support the trans community at large. Our city may be considered the epicenter of “Art Culture” in the U.S. thanks to our famous Miami Art Week and shows like Art Basel and UNTITLED Miami Beach which has set the stage for it to welcome trans art with open arms.

Since 2014, Unity Coalition|Coalición Unida has sponsored TRANSART, a weekend-long festival highlighting transgender art in various forms. The festival is the first-ever juried art exhibition and conference featuring international transgender artists and their works. It was created and envisioned by Trans-Miami founder & Unity Coalition|Coalición Unida board member Aryah Lester and Deborah Plutzik-Briggs, Vice President for Marketing and Philanthropy at The Betsy-South Beach. Lester feels that, “TRANSART came about from the spirit of South Florida collaboration. As a trans woman of color with many talents, I looked for non-traditional ways to elevate my community and create possibilities through artistic expression.” She added, “Transgender and gender-nonconforming persons are already beset with the challenges of scarce employment, homelessness, and violence. The struggles of living a gender-varied life

within a gender binary system seems alien and detached for most. TRANSART bridges that gap with understanding and empathy translated through artists’ work. The festival creates an environment in the art and culture rich scenes in Miami, for talented artists to be showcased and given positive visibility in a world where they are often forgotten or erased. Miami has become an international hub for the arts and its enthusiasts, creating the perfect place for this historic conference.”

When asked about the impact of this festival, Unity Coalition|Coalición Unida’s Executive Director, Herb Sosa, said, “Our ability to showcase such talents and possibilities itself, is a catalyst for many to see their own potential. We have several artists who began to explore their talents as a result of coming to previous TRANSART events, and have gone on to apply and be accepted as exhibitors — this makes us very proud and hopeful for the state of the trans art community in South Florida.”

The 2019 TRANSART festival was held at the Villain Theater in Little Haiti, which is at the forefront of fostering the trans artist community in Miami. Not only did they provide the home for the 2019 TRANSART festival, the theater is also home to YAAS!, Florida’s only LGBTQ Improv ensemble, which is featured in the weekly Friday night show, TGIF. Check out VillainTheater.com for show times and a preview of the great work they are doing to not only support the trans community, but to highlight the beautiful culture of Little Haiti.

Another organization highlighting the art and artists within Miami’s transgender community is The Pioneer Winter Collective. The collective’s “Project LEAP” (Leaders of Equality through Arts and Performance) gives the LGBTQ

community, especially the youth, a way to connect with dance and provide both artists and youth a safe space to be creative. This avant-garde company founded by Miamian, Pioneer Winter, a choreographer who has master’s degrees in dance and choreography, as well as public health and epidemiology and is dedicated to “democratizing performance through unexpected bodies, unexpected places, and unexpected social change.” The collective is a natural home to trans artists. One of the featured performers, June Romero, is a trans woman and professional actress who, like Winter, is a Miami native. Pioneer Winter Collective is in residence at O Cinema Wynwood, located at 90 NW 29 Street in Miami.

Other organizations like Pridelines, Miami’s LGBTQ community center, as well as Miami Beach Pride (which dropped the “Gay” from its title to be more inclusive) have art themed events that, while not specifically for the trans community, are places where trans voices are heard and supported. Pridelines has a queer youth arts night every Wednesday at their community center and Miami Beach Pride features a free community event at the Perez Art Museum Miami. The event will take place on April 4, 2019 at 7 p.m. Pridelines also provides wrap around services to the trans community, as well as the rest of the LGBTQ community and their calendar is packed with events to bring everyone together.

Art and artists have often led social change and it is no different within the trans community. All year long, great art can be found coming from trans artists across Miami and it is important to celebrate them and to give voice to the issues that trans people face and make a difference. ✨

SPRING 2019 IN MIAMI

Making the most of your time in Miami this spring

APRIL

3/16-9/1

Queer Miami: A History of LGBTQ Communities

HistoryMiami.org

4/1-5/30

Miami Attraction & Museum Months

MiamiTemptations.com

Through 5/15

Dade Heritage Days

DadeHeritageTrust.org



4/1-7

Miami Beach Pride

MiamiBeachPride.com

4/6

Miami Riverday Festival

MiamiRiverCommission.org

4/6

SPRUNG! Beer Festival

SprungBeerFest.com

4/6-7

Blues, Brews & BBQ Festival

RedlandFruitandSpice.com

4/12-14

Miami International Agriculture, Horse & Cattle Show

MiamiCattleShow.org



4/14

South Beach Triathlon

SouthBeachTriathlon.com



4/18-28

OUTshine Film Festival

OUTshineFilm.com



4/25-28

Miami Beach Polo World Cup

MiamiPoloCup.com



4/26

Nocturne: Secret Jungle

FaenaTheater.com

4/29-30

eMerge Americas

eMergeAmericas.com

MAY

5/10-12

Rolling Loud

RollingLoud.com

5/18

Haitian Compas Festival

HaitianCompasFestival.com



5/23-27

Sizzle Miami

SizzleMiami.com



5/24-6/24

Out in the Tropics Festival

FundArte.us



5/25

The Coconut Grove Food & Wine Festival

CoconutGroveFoodandWine.com

5/25-26

Air and Sea Show / Musical Explosion

USAsalute.com/event

5/26

Best of the Best Music Fest

BestoftheBestConcert.com

5/29-6/2

Miami Fashion Week

MiamiFashionWeek.com

4/26

Nocturne: Evil Twins

FaenaTheater.com

JUNE

6/1-9/30

Miami Hotel Months

MiamiTemptations.com



6/12-16

American Black Film Festival

abff.com

6/22-23

Redland Summer Fruit Festival

RedlandFruitandSpice.com



6/21-23

Wynwood Pride

WynwoodPride.com



6/28-30

Objects In The Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear by Abel Berenguer

MiamiDadeCountyAuditorium.org

For a full list of events in Greater Miami, please visit:

MiamiandBeaches.com/events