



NEWS RELEASE

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“GLOW WITH THE FLOW” ALL KIDS INCLUDED - YOUTH ARTS IN THE PARKS FALL EXHIBIT AND PERFORMANCE TAKING PLACE DECEMBER 14TH

(Miami – December 6, 2013) - “Glow with the Flow,” the culminating art exhibit and performance of the All Kids Included – Youth Arts in the Parks Fall 2013 Session, is taking place on Saturday, December 14th, from 3-5 PM at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Avenue in Miami. This multidisciplinary celebration will include a visual art exhibit and a first-of-its-kind, glow-in-the-dark creative expression performance by children and youth with and without disabilities. [Arts for Learning](#) / Miami artists Lela Lombardo, Ana Miranda, and Jennifer Puig conceived and choreographed the unique artistic performance portion of the event in collaboration with Zot Artz - Arts for All’s internationally acclaimed artist and inventor Dwayne Szot. Audience members will become part of the fun and enjoy an exciting kaleidoscope of creative movement, song, spoken word and live free-form painting, all performed on a huge floor mural during this event which is free and open to the public.

The “Zot Artz - Arts for All” art tools, created by artist and inventor Dwayne Szot (<http://www.zotartz.com>), are one-of-a-kind products that offer individuals of all abilities an opportunity for creative expression through arts and mobility. The Zot Artz - Arts for All tools are designed so participants with limited movement or lack of fine motor skills can be successful in using what mobility they have to create, paint, draw, print and more.

Youth Arts in the Parks is presented by Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Disability Services and Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with [Arts for Learning](#) and [Project AWWOL](#) – A World WithOut Labels. Youth Arts in the Parks is an inclusive, socially-oriented arts program for children and youth with and without disabilities. This fun and educational program teaches kids of all abilities visual arts and creative expression in a social setting, led by professional artists/art teachers, certified instructors and disability experts.

To download an event flyer go to http://www.miamidadearts.org/YAP_Fall_2013_Culminating_Event_Invite_12.14.2013.pdf. For more information regarding this event or the All Kids Included - Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids initiative, please contact Francine Andersen, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs (305) 375-4634 / fran@miamidade.gov. For information about the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and its programs please visit our website at www.miamidadearts.org.



It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The facility is accessible and sign language interpreters will be available. To request materials in accessible format and/or any accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Francine Andersen at 305-375-4634 fran@miamidade.gov at least five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).

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About Arts for Learning: *Arts for Learning (A4L) is an arts-in-education nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing teaching and learning through the arts and community cultural resources. As one of Miami's leading sources of arts-in-education services, A4L provides quality arts-based programs that connect the arts to other core-curriculum subjects to support academic achievement and child development. All A4L programs teach life and communication skills, support literacy and problem solving skills, foster self-discovery, and build self-esteem. A4L's comprehensive services include teacher professional development, multimedia classroom resources, and community arts instruction and programming. These services are delivered to over 13,000 students in more than 100 schools, early learning centers, after-school programs and summer camps throughout Miami-Dade County.*

About Project AWWOL: Project AWWOL's mission is to redefine and reframe the response to the needs of people with all levels of abilities; empowering individuals to create a community that is inclusive and accommodating to all of its members. Project AWWOL takes a holistic approach to learning, making content practical, current, and appropriate; integrating yoga, massage, breathing, the arts, and other modalities into all of our programs.

About Dwayne Szot: Dwayne Szot, founder and president of Zot Artz, is just the right combination of artist, engineer, and big brother to excel at helping children with disabilities experience the joy of making a mark and creating art. Szot grew up in a mid-western foster home with a foster brother and sister who had Cerebral Palsy. Other children and adults with disabilities lived in the home, and Szot observed and respected the special challenges they faced. He credits that experience for giving him the courage and motivation to create the "painting wheelchair," one of Zot Artz' most popular art tools, to help children with disabilities create art. As a youth, he spent hours fixing machines with his foster father – welding, bolting, and making do with what was available. "It developed a can-do attitude as well as a fascination with machines and mechanical design," says Szot. Szot's education focused on art, starting with commercial and graphic art in high school. Winning graphic arts contests helped him attend the Kendall College of Art and Design at Ferris University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He received a master's degree in fine art from the Cranbrook Academy of Art. His collegiate study of art combined his love for machines and art. He designed and built machines that he used to apply color to huge surfaces including building walls, roofs, and even a frozen lake. Having studied how a machine could extend his ability to make a mark, and remembering his foster siblings' struggles, Szot was inspired to create a mechanical device that would extend a disabled person's ability to make a mark. The result was the first "painting wheelchair." He worked with special education departments, hospitals, and residential facilities, creating art tools and bringing art to children, but it frustrated him that when he left with his adaptive tools, their art opportunity left with him. He founded Zot Artz to create adaptive art tools and make them available to teachers, therapists, residential providers, hospitals, parks, and other facilities who could offer art experiences to children. Zot Artz currently has a complete line of adaptive tools that make the creation of art possible and fun for children with and without handicaps. Szot also facilitates art experiences using his special Zot Artz tools.

About Youth Arts in the Parks: Youth Arts in the Parks is part of the "All Kids Included - Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids" (AKI) program. AKI creates inclusive arts and cultural programs so that kids of all abilities and their families can participate fully in the arts. AKI is an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and in part through grant funding provided by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County by making strategic investments in their future.

About the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs: The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council develop cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and our residents and visitors who are their audiences. The Department directs the Art in Public Places program and serves its board, the Art in Public Places Trust, commissioning, curating, maintaining and promoting the County's art collection. The Department also manages, programs and operates the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, a campus of state-of-the-art cultural facilities in Cutler Bay, as well as Miami-Dade County Auditorium, Joseph Caleb Auditorium and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, all dedicated to presenting and supporting excellence in the arts for the entire community. Through staff, board and programmatic resources, the Department, the Council and the Trust promote, coordinate and support Miami-Dade County's more than 1,000 not-for-profit cultural organizations as well as thousands of resident artists through grants, technical assistance, public information and interactive community planning. The Department receives funding through the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, The Children's Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida through the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Other support and services are provided by TicketWeb for the Culture Shock Miami program, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, the South Florida Cultural Consortium and the Tourist Development Council.