



RHYTHM BY THE RIVER returns

The second annual **Rhythm by the River: A Festival Celebrating Black Voices** returned to Esplanade Park in March with non-stop music from some of the most innovative musicians from South Florida. Presented by Baptist Health and JM Family Enterprises, the free festival delivered with a line-up of high energy performances, spoken word poetry, workshops, crafts, food trucks and more. Opening the day was Gia Wyre with her soulful R&B sound, and the energy just kept going with Troupe Fall, The Smoogies, Sizwe C & the Experience and Casely, whose original music ranged from hip-hop to acoustic. The Art Prevails Project, led by Darius V. Daughtry, delivered impactful storytelling about the Black experience.

Thanks to a partnership with Cox Media Group, Rodney Baltimore (HOT 105.5) and K. Foxx (99 JAMZ), kept the beats going as co-hosts. “This year, we did an open call to South Florida artists to bring new voices to the festival stage, and it brought more than 30 new artists to our attention,” said Jill Kratish, Broward Center’s Director of Programming. “It was just inspiring to see these artists connect with the audience in powerful ways.”



There was something for everyone at this multi-generational event, which saw all ages enjoying a perfect day in the park. The Baptist Health Activity Zone featured face painting, bracelet making and painting on canvas squares to create a collective mural. Courtney Fussell spoke on behalf of Baptist Health at the event, sharing that “Baptist Health also recognizes the healing power of the arts with programs such as ‘Arts in Medicine’ and ‘Arts in Design’ to foster the work of dozens of visual artists and artisans from all over the world.”

Workshops in the Porter Riverview Ballroom offered poetry-writing, drumming and different dance styles, with adults and kids all taking part. Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Pamela



K. Foxx of 99 JAMZ and Courtney Fussell of Baptist Health

Beasley-Pittman watched Pablo Malco’s upbeat dance class, then took the stage before the final act of the afternoon, sharing her excitement.

Festivalgoers also had a chance to learn about the Art Prevails Project, Black Violin Foundation, the Developing Dreams Foundation and Broward UP, or register to vote. Others took the chance to network about job openings in the arts, performance opportunities and new collaborations.

“It has been an honor to support the Broward Center for many years, as we share common values of helping to bring positive change throughout the community,” said Lisa Davis, JM Family’s Director of Community Impact. “This year’s Rhythm by the River was an exciting way to highlight innovative Black voices in Broward County and help foster a deeper learning and respect for the diverse cultures that make up our community.”



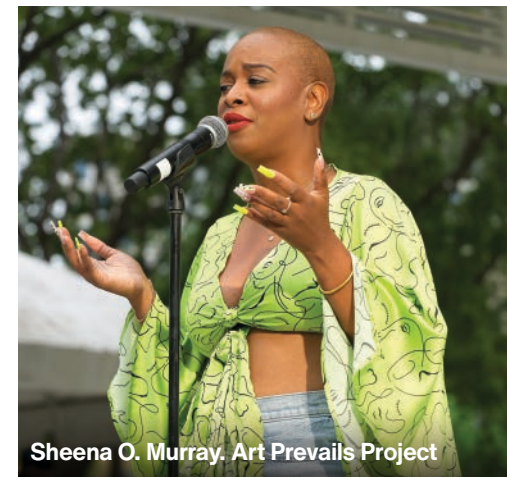
Pablo Malco Dance Workshop



Darius V. Daughtry Poetry Workshop



Kelley Shanley and Commissioner Beasley-Pittman



Sheena O. Murray, Art Prevails Project



Gia Wyre and her band

Presented by



The festival is part of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts’ Arts for Action: Black Voices initiative, co-presented by Baptist Health and JM Family Enterprises, Inc., which focuses on how the arts and artists can be a force for change in addressing critical issues of social justice and racial equity. To learn more, email artsforaction@browardcenter.org.