

CITY CORNER



Artist Celeste Roberge of Gainesville, Fla., assembles her sculpture, *Coquina*, on Sample Road.

Coral Springs Sculpture Returns to Sample Road

The City of Coral Springs has installed eight sculptures in its downtown area for this year's "Sculpture on Sample" exhibition. Produced for the enjoyment of city residents and visitors and to enhance awareness of downtown redevelopment, the exhibition will continue through April. During that time, Coral Springs residents and employees have an opportunity to influence which artworks will be purchased by the city. Comments about any or all sculptures can be entered at www.coralssprings.org and sent to the Public Art Committee. In March 2008, the committee will select one or two works for purchase.

The City of Coral Springs Public Art Program began with the first "Sculpture on Sample" in 2005. Since then, seven sculptures have

been purchased for display on Sample Road, Sportsplex Drive and Cypress Park. Other artworks will be installed in 2008 at the City Gym, Whispering Woods Park, University Drive and Riverside Drive. All these artworks are funded by fees paid to the Public Art Trust Fund by private developers. Property developers may choose to purchase artworks rather than pay the art fee. The first two artworks commissioned by owners for their new developments were installed in 2007 on Sample Road and Wiles Road.

Lauderhill Opens Arts Office

Evidence of Lauderhill's much publicized "Renaissance" can be found at the Arts Office Lauderhill, located at 5450 NW 19th St. Emerging and established artists will work, exhibit and teach out of the 2,500-square-foot storefront in Mission Lake Plaza.

Several community projects are already in the works. The Arts Office has assisted local artists in gaining invaluable international

exposure and will expand these programs in partnership with Lauderhill Sister Cities International. Tonietta Walters, executive director of the Arts Office, explains, "Since initial talks in 2005, there has been a continued program of exchange with Suzano, São Paulo, Brazil. In May, several of our artists participated in TAO em Brasil at the Suzano Cultural Center." Professional development of artists will also be a focus of the office, through participation in such programs as an Artist as Entrepreneur Institute offered by the Broward Cultural Division. Additionally, the artists will interact with the community through workshops and classes.

Resident artists who will work out of the office initially include Tonietta Walters, sculptor and digital artist; Vaughn Tucker, painter; Simone de Bernard Mas, jeweler and metalsmith; Teresa Ford, painter; Maura Casanovas, digital artist; and Jaime Ferreyra, photographer.

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Tree Wave, 2007, by Alabama sculptor Christopher Fennell



Polynesia

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part of this chain of islands in most contexts.

Working to provide educational opportunities to learn about the culture and help preserve it through a traditional perspective and also embrace its modern interpretation, the Polynesian Cultural Association has held an annual festival locally in which these subtleties can be shared and cherished by the migrated population and those Americans and visitors interested in learning new ways of life.

This year's festival takes place from noon to 8 p.m. on May 3 – during

Asia and Pacific Island Heritage Month – at Hagen Park in Wilton Manors. The night-time hours allow for the grand finale of the fire dancers to be seen in all their foreign beauty. A spontaneous dance by The Elders is likely to break out in mid-afternoon amidst local fare of chicken cooked with coconut milk, very spicy pork and lots of rice. Taro, a heavy root vegetable, is a staple ingredient in many dishes and the Samoan Noodle is a staple in the Samoan diet. Arts and craft vendors bring materials from Samoa, Tahiti and Hawaii and demonstrations include lei-making, weaving palm baskets, playing the ukulele and how to hula.

The Polynesian Cultural Association also offers dance workshops and demonstrations in the summer and spring months. Members are invited to schools and libraries for special workshops on history, islands and culture and offer occasional dance workshops for adults on the intermediate and master level, to give an understanding of the moves, the drumming, the language of the hands and the language of the hips.

In a time of diversity and comingling of ideas and cultures, we can take solace from a group of islands on the other side of the world, who bring us spiritual and peaceful senses and beauty in dance. Scottish novelist Robert Louis Stevenson and post-impressionist painter Paul Gauguin found a home in these islands, both in their life and in their death. This group of more than 1,000 islands, settled by a migrating group of Austronesians, is a world away in simplicity, subtle spiritual values and deep aesthetic arts and culture.

For more information or to get involved in the Polynesian Cultural Association, call (954) 938-9010, or visit www.polynesianshow.com.

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Samantha Rojas is a freelance writer for the Broward Cultural Division.

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Hollywood CRA Offers Trolley

Visitors staying on Hollywood Beach through April 27 can catch a scenic ride to and from the Historic Downtown District and the Hollywood Beach Broadwalk aboard an air-conditioned trolley. The "HOT Express Beach and Downtown Circular Trolley" is offered by the Hollywood Office of Tourism (HOT) and the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency. The service runs on Thursday and Friday from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Saturday from noon to 1 a.m.; and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m.

CRA Beach District Executive Director Gil Martinez said the trolley service is designed to enhance the visitor experience, foster redevelopment interest in Hollywood Beach and direct new business to the Central Beach Business District and Historic Downtown District. For information on the HOT Express, call (954) 980-9777 or visit www.VisitHollywood.org.

In other Hollywood news, the CRA was honored recently by the Florida Redevelopment Association with the prestigious 2007 President's Award for "Best Capital Projects/ Beautification" for the innovative ArtsPark at Young Circle, which opened in March 2007. ★