

CREATIVE PINELLAS

June 2019

Prepared by:

Leigh Davis

Arts and Culture Outreach Manager

Activity Report

Akiko Kotani: *Unbound* June 6-July 28

Unbound, from the 2019 Creative Pinellas Artist Laureate, Akiko Kotani, features two large-scale installations that have never been shown together before. The exhibit, held at the Gallery at Creative Pinellas is a reflection on memory, domesticity and handiwork, time passing and moving through space. The opening reception, held on June 6, featured a conversation and Q&A with the Artist.

Lunch & Learn with Akiko Kotani: Navigating your Creative Journey June 7

Each artist's journey comes with its challenges – creative block, selling your work, applying for grants, finding gallery representation. Akiko Kotani, an internationally exhibiting artist and Professor of Art at Slippery Rock University, led an interactive strategic workshop in the Art Incubator at Creative Pinellas. Lunch & Learn series are open to the public.

Pecha Kucha 20x20: June 23

Pecha Kucha (Japanese for chit-chat) Nights have been held in more than 1,142 cities worldwide. This marked the first time this fun and fast-moving event has been held in Pinellas County. Moderated by Akiko Kotani, eight participants shared 20 slides of their art, for 20 seconds each followed by questions and creative feedback from the audience.

Sheryl Oring: *Writer's Block: On-Going*

This exhibit, by internationally known public artist, Sheryl Oring continues in the Gallery at Creative Pinellas this month. Creative Pinellas Staff has done an informal count of 20 – 30 visitors a day plus lots of selfies and photographs.

Tampa Bay Rays Print Series

- In February, the Tampa Bay Rays partnered with Creative Pinellas to recruit artists for a limited print series (their first). The third print, by artist Jabari Reed-Diop (aka iBoms), was unveiled at Tropicana Field on June 14. The posters are available for sale in the Team Store. The next poster will be unveiled in early July.
- Rays Official Website: mlb.com/rays/fans/print-series
- <https://www.tampabay.com/sports/rays/2019/06/14/rays-pride-night-extends-teams-long-support-of-lgbtq-community/>
- <https://www.tampabay.com/visual-arts/st-petersburg-artist-jabari-reed-diop-the-youngest-yet-to-be-featured-in-tampa-bay-rays-art-series-20190614/>



Arts and Culture Outreach

St. Pete Pride Festival: June 23

Creative Pinellas was invited to participate in the Pride Festival as a part of the VSPC Activation. Leigh Davis, with help from arts organizations Wordier than Thou and NOMAD Art Bus, staffed an Arts & Culture branded stand in the middle of all the action. They engaged attendees with Creative Pinellas Arts & Culture Guides, Pride themed flyers, a poetry dispenser and encouraged bubble-themed photo ops.



Arts Benedict: an Arts & Culture Breakfast series: June 26

This month's breakfast was held at the Sheraton Sand Key on Clearwater Beach. Purpose of this invite only gathering is networking and strategic thinking about Pinellas County as an arts and cultural destination. Attendees include community members from area chambers and/or businesses, government, the tourism industry, marketing and advertising, non-profit arts and cultural organizations, media and artists.

Arts & Culture Guide Distribution

Mass distribution of the Arts & Culture guides has been put on hold until the re-print/re-design, to include new arts organizations and a more user-friendly map, scheduled for late 2Q/early 3Q.

Key Meetings/Events

June 4: Tour of new Clearwater Visitors Center at 3204 Gulf to Bay Blvd, Clearwater FL.

June 12: Clearwater Regional Chamber Tourism Partner Meeting: #1 Beach, Again! Now what?, Collaborative Labs at St. Petersburg College

June 18: Meeting with Julianna Villamil, Hollander Hotel Community Outreach

June 21: Women in Tourism Meeting, Fenway Hotel, Dunedin

June 25: Meeting with Suntan Arts Center New Exec Director, Ed McHale

June 28: Meeting with Lisa Chandler, Sunsets of Pier 60 & Sugar Sand Festival

June 28: Meeting with Kelly Clark, Residence Inn/Springhill Suites Clearwater Beach

Other Programs

- Digital marketing lab at the Arts Business Incubator has now extended to every week
- Creative Pinellas Meet-ups, a monthly series of informal networking gatherings for the community. The June meeting featured Catherine Bergmann, Curator of Exhibitions with Dunedin Fine Art Center and was held at The Rusty Lyon in Dunedin.

Web and Social Media

Podcasts

- Akiko Kotani, visual artist who works mainly in textiles and the 2019 Creative Pinellas Artist Laureate
- Desiree Moore, multi-media visual artist

June Social Media:

- Facebook
 - 3,865 fans (52 new fans this month)
 - 39,400 Post Impressions
 - 800 Reactions (29% over last month)
- Twitter
 - 3,128 followers (16 new followers this month)
 - 5,788 Impressions
 - 51 Engagements
- Instagram
 - 57 New Followers (Total of 1841)
- Website
 - 7,504 Pageviews
 - 2,712 Unique Users