

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED TO DEBUT FOUR-STORY STREET ART INSPIRED MURAL NEAR HISTORIC LITTLE HAVANA OVERLOOKING CALLE OCHO

INAUGURAL ART WALK FEATURING PROMINENT ARTISTS AND "BLIND TIME DRAWING" WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Miami Lighthouse community rallying behind the arts to raise awareness and create more opportunities for those impacted by blindness and visual impairments

Media is invited to take part in innovative "Blind Time Drawing" to experience drawing without sight

WHAT: Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is bringing together renowned national artists and its community to make a statement on Miami's historic street art scene: "It's Possible to See Without Sight." On Wednesday it is debuting an Art Walk on its campus that will showcase:

• A four-story mural overlooking Calle Ocho, by Miami twin artists **George and William Hustus**, which depicts children of different backgrounds and abilities playing together. The street art inspired mural, designed to raise awareness of blindness and the impact of unity, is painted on the southern wall of the new Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children[™] facility.

• "Blackout," by Cuban artist **Sergio Lastres**, a new piece combining paint with raised elements and braille typography that appeals to multiple senses.

• "Sight," by internationally renowned pop and graffiti artist **Romero Britto**, a painting in tribute to Gloria Blake.

• A "Blind Time Drawing" demonstration. Opportunity to experience the art form pioneered by prominent conceptual artist **Robert Morris**, which involves creating images while blindfolded, without stopping or lifting up a pencil. Sighted professional artists will be paired with visually impaired artists.

• Artworks of ceramic, clay, macramé and other media created by Miami Lighthouse art students.

The debut event is invitation only. Artists are available for interviews before and during the Art Walk.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 20, from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

WHERE: Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 601 SW 8th Ave, Miami, FL 33130

WHY: To showcase how, "It's possible to see without sight." Those living with visual impairments face unique challenges that are often overlooked, from writing certain letters of their name with ease and having access to creative outlets to job opportunities and success at school. Creating innovative programming that connects those with and without visual impairments together will raise awareness and build opportunities for success and greater independence.

RSVP REQUIRED: Contact Cameron Sisser at <u>csisser@miamilighthouse.org</u> For media interviews, artist bios, press passes and opportunities to experience "Blind Time Drawing". Since 1931, **Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired** has been Florida's premier rehabilitation organization serving the blind. The mission of the Miami Lighthouse is to provide vision rehabilitation and eye health services that promote education and independence, to collaborate with and train professionals and to conduct research in related fields. Miami Lighthouse serves over 20,000 blind and visually impaired people of all ages each year.

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Cameron Ehren Sisser

Vice President for External Relations Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, LLC 601 SW 8th Avenue Miami, FL 33130 Phone: 786-362-7515 Cell: 305-582-0445 It's Possible to See Without Sight[™]

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