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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PERFORMANCE ART POP-UP FEATURING PAINTED SAILS AIMS TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF SIX HOMELESS FORT LAUDERDALE RESIDENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH 2022



FORT LAUDERDALE, FL-Grace Arts Center, Native Realty and the Taskforce For Ending Homelessness (TFEH) are joining forces on **Saturday, November 5th** to present the first ever Shade + Art Gateway Activation (SAGA) behind the Gateway Shopping Plaza. This art-centric pilot project will feature a rotating line-up of artistic performances in the shade of a painted sail art installation.

The goal of this free event is to entertain audiences, introduce them to a bevy of newly opened Gateway businesses, and engage support for the housing and medical needs for six (6) people living without shelter in the Gateway Community. Guests are encouraged to donate \$10 via QR code TFEH to deliver the necessary services.

The art installation comprised of hand-painted sails by local and national artists are part of the annual Street Art Regatta (STAR) project held in Fort Lauderdale each February. Nance and Underwood Sailing and Rigging and individual professional sailors will help to create the innovative shade structure which also serves as the area for dance performances, classes, and scenes from upcoming theatrical runs and new album releases. A full list of performers is available online at GraceArtsCenter.org.

In addition to the planned performances, vendors will be on hand from the Gateway Shopping Plaza and Sunnyside Up Marketplace selling a variety of goods and services including clothing, home décor, floral arrangements, homemade ice cream and more!

Donations are made directly to TFEH via a QR code and every donor is invited to attend a 2023 summer launch event for unsheltered Gateway neighbors' services hosted weekly by several organizations across the city. With the goal of each person donating \$10 at the first event on November 5th, SAGA aims to raise six months of assistance with continued support from follow-up events starting in early 2024.

The free 4-hour event will take place along NE 9 Place behind (south of) the Gateway Shopping Plaza and just west of NE 20th Avenue. Parking is recommended in the Gateway Plaza which is also free.

About SAGA:

SAGA is funded in part through a competitive national challenge grant from AARP Liveable Communities, which aims to create more vibrant neighborhoods for residents fifty (50) years and older and the general public. In addition to drawing attention to innovative solutions for homelessness tailored to a specific area of Broward's community, SAGA is an experimental project to create 'shade structures' that are artistic sculptures overhead complementing traditional tree shade making Fort Lauderdale's streets more creative, walkable, and comfortable. A series of shade structures inspired by sails (rather than actual sails) at different locations in the city are planned with significant grants and donor campaigns. SAGA also draws attention to the City's Buskers' initiative to actively position local creatives as an integral part of a vibrant urban downtown and promote nearby shows and events at theater venues.

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For more information, please contact:

Clare Vickery clare.m.vickery@att.net | 954.816.3324

Jessica Graves jessica@yachtlife.tv | 646.717.4442