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Award-Winning Spoken Soul Festival Celebrates 8th Year of Activism, with SWAN Community Program; Art, with the SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase at Little Haiti Cultural Complex; and Food, with the Vanessa Baez Memorial Women's Brunch Taking Place at Rusty Pelican

MIAMI, FL (MARCH 15, 2015) – The Spoken Soul Festival, named the “Best Place To Meet Intelligent Women” by the *Miami New Times*, is back and better than ever. The three-day festival, inspired by SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day, explodes with performances and art exhibits during the SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase on Saturday, March 28.

For eight years now, SSF founder and director Deborah Magdalena, and SSF's talented production team, made up of filmmaker Omilani, artist Niki Lopez, photographer Susan Alvarez, and brunch director Amy Baez, have provided local women artists with increased exposure via SSF's signature event, the SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase. Thirteen artists will be presenting their work at this year's event, making it one of the most expansive showcases in the Festival's history.

The thirteen South Florida artists hail from backgrounds as diverse as their work, including Peru, Canada, the Philippines, Africa, and more. Expect the best local spoken word artists, photographers, vocalists, a DJ, and visual artists. Also exciting, this year, for the first time ever, the Showcase is featuring a dancer and fashion designer.

Featured artists include couture designer Constance Blackman Lee, DJ Daniella, poet Desiree Karnis Reavis, photographer ak cespedes, poet Keliyah, vocalist Kinetic, artist Michelle A. Montero, dancer JoAnna Ursal, spoken word artist Momo Manalang R., artist Sharon Akili Alexander, photographer Shirah Stern, vocalist Stichiz, and artist Jacqueline Colomé.

The variety of performances and exhibits, the energy, and the overall positive vibe of the SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase must be experienced to be believed. Art aficionados kick back as vocalists and poets tear up the stage, walk around soaking in the paintings and photography on display, and sip on complimentary Santos Sangria and Prime Wines, all while being able to mingle with the artists and performers themselves.

Marie Vickles, resident curator of the Little Haiti Cultural Complex, where the event is being held this year, says, "The Spoken Soul Festival is one of the best annual art events in Miami that celebrates and recognizes the creative force of women artists."

MEGA 94.9 radio personality, Chanel, who is serving as MC this year, agrees, saying, "I'm always thrilled to be able to donate my time to an event that uplifts women. To be asked to host SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase Vol 8. SWAN Day Miami, an event that highlights women artists, is truly an honor."

SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase Vol. 8
Little Haiti Cultural COMPLEX | 212-260 NE 59th Terrace, Miami, FL 33137
March 28 | 6 PM – 10 PM

On Friday, the day before the Showcase, the featured artists take part in the SWAN Community Program as a way of giving back to the community. This year, SSF featured artists will assist nonprofit Traidisyon Lakou Lakay produce its Spring Fest Showcase at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex for elementary and middle school students.

Every year SSF concludes with the Vanessa Baez Memorial Women's Brunch, held on the Sunday after the Showcase. VBMWB attendees will be treated to a delicious breakfast at Rusty Pelican, as well as the much sought after SSF swag bags, which usually include a few “artful” surprises.

Inspired by SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day, SSF provides support for women artists in Miami-Dade County. Due to its effectiveness in promoting women artists, SSF's SWAN Day Miami was named one of the “Top 5 SWAN Events in the World” by WomenArts foundation. The nonprofit festival has been awarded a 2015 grant

from WomenArts, and support from the City of Miami and the Little Haiti Cultural Complex, which together provided the venue for this year's Showcase.

For more information, contact Ily Goyanes via email: igo@ilygoal.com or phone: 305-763-6689.

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SPOKEN SOUL FESTIVAL 2015 – SWAN Day Miami Schedule of Events

SWAN Community Program

FRIDAY March 27 @ 12 PM – 4 PM

Every year SSF chooses an organization in the community that could benefit from arts programming. Past organizations include ASPIRA Muchachos & Muchahcas Conference, Boys & Girls Club, DASH Film Club, Miami Art Studio & Artoconecto, SafeSpace, and Little Haiti Cultural Center's After School Program. The SSF 2015 featured artists and production team are coaching and helping nonprofit Traidisyon Lakou Lakay produce its Spring Fest, a special Haitian folklore, music, dance, and arts showcase for elementary and middle school students.

Little Haiti Cultural Complex @ 212-260 NE 59th Terrace, Miami, FL 33137
Free admission
Open to the Public

SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase Vol 8: SWAN Day Miami

An Evening Celebrating Women Artists

SATURDAY March 28 @ 6 PM – 10 PM

The Showcase will feature performances by vocalists, spoken word artists, a fashion designer and a dancer, as well as the work of photographers and visual artists – the work of thirteen featured women artists in total. As the Festival's signature event, the Showcase provides a evening of live musical and poetry performances, art and photography exhibits, and the chance to meet and mingle with the artists and other art lovers.

Little Haiti Cultural Complex @ 212-260 NE 59th Terrace, Miami, FL 33137
Free admission
Open to the Public

***Vanessa Baez Memorial Women's Brunch**

SUNDAY March 30 @ 11 AM – 2 PM

The official closing event of SSF, the Women's Brunch celebrates everyday women with extraordinary courage, in memoriam of Vanessa Baez. For the past 10 years, women have gathered together to remember the life of one woman in the spirit of celebrating all women. VBMW is a day of inspiration, sisterhood, love, and laughter that features a live auction, raffle prizes, and free swag bags for attendees. RSVP required. Visit spokensoulfestival.com for more information, the full menu, and to purchase tickets.

Rusty Pelican @ 3201 Rickenbacker Causeway, Key Biscayne, FL 33149
Admission, brunch, and swag bags: \$50 per person
RSVP required

**Early bird seating has sold out, but a few late seats are still available.*