



Contact Deborah Magdalena
P 305-960-2969
E littlehaiticulturalcomplex@gmail.com

Little Haiti Cultural Complex Celebrates Haitian Flag Day With The Screening Of “Peace Flags In The Wind: Drapo Lape In Haiti”

“Peace Flags in the Wind: Drapo Lape in Haiti” is a short documentary film which highlights the creation and inspiration of a unique, world traveled peace flag exhibit and installation.

This Peace Flag mission began in Mr. Joseph Vasile's Miami middle school art class in January 2010 with 200 students and 600 flags. Huge transformations were visible in his students and he decided to expand the flags outside the classroom resulting in a short documentary. The material for this international traveling art installation *Peace Flags in the Wind* is a non-traditional one. It's not canvas, sculpture, or clay... its people.... of all races, sizes, cultures, religions, disabilities, political beliefs, and ethnicities and their beautiful individuality, originality, and imagination that lies within each and every one of us organically.

Thanks to this film one can experience the stories and creation of 1,300 flags after Haiti's 2005 earthquake by children at the COHEF summer camp. This special interaction not only produced flags but it birthed a Creole song which will tell many generations to come about its inception.

In addition, this short documentary film gives a preview of other flags created in four continents. “Drapo Lape In Haiti” captured the moment this installation was brought to Little Haiti Cultural Complex, in partnership with Easter Seals, Arts After School program for the first time in the fall of 2014. The children were taught about the history of the Tibetan Prayer Flags, Haitian Peace Flags, culminating with the students creating their own Little Haiti Peace Flags.

Each individual creates their own peace flag representing earth's elements similar to the Tibetan Prayer flags concept. Each flag created is different from the next but strung together; they all stand connected as one united unbreakable string and piece of art, sending all their individual messages simultaneously.

Since their inception the flags have traveled to four continents with over 9,500 flags being created. Eight American states have issued Proclamations declaring *Peace Flags in the Wind* Day in their respected states. Including Montgomery, AL, where the *Peace Flags in the Wind* was featured at the famed Rosa Parks Museum.

“Little Haiti Cultural Complex is excited to premier this special short documentary film on such a significant day such as Haitian Flag Day. Regardless where you are from, one can't help but be moved by these colorful and powerful flags.” Deborah Magdalena LHCC Programs Coordinator

Special screening with the director followed by a Q&A at 11:30am. Ongoing screening throughout the day on May 18 from 10:00 AM– 9:00 PM. “Peace Flags In The Wind: Drapo Lape In Haiti” exhibit and installation show dates are May 7 – June 30.

Please visit littlehaiticulturalcenter.com for business hours

WHAT: “Peace Flags In The Wind: Drapo Lape In Haiti” – With Director Q&A
WHEN Monday May 18, 2015 11:30am
WHERE Little Haiti Cultural Complex – Theater 212 NE 59th Terrace Miami
COST FREE



212-260 NE 59th Terrace Miami, FL 33137 305-960-2969
lhcc@miamigov.com
www.littlehaiticulturalcenter.com

ABOUT LHCC

The Mission of the Little Haiti Cultural Complex (LHCC) is to provide a space that brings together people and ideas to promote, showcase and support Afro-Caribbean culture in South Florida." The Little Haiti Cultural Complex offers a unique opportunity for residents and visitors to gain exposure to Afro-Caribbean culture, entertain and develop a new talent, and expand their knowledge of the arts. We are committed to providing activities for the community that promotes imagination, creativity, and positive experiences for children and adults throughout the year.

ABOUT CARIBBEAN MARKET PLACE

The staple of Little Haiti Cultural Complex, this is a modern replica of Haiti's famous iron market and an architectural marvel designed by famed architect Charles Pawley. After undergoing a lengthy renovation to transform this cultural gem into a community staple for unique arts and crafts, Caribbean culture, special events, and community events, the highly anticipated reopening positions the Caribbean Marketplace as a vibrant addition to the Little Haiti Cultural Complex. The 9,500-square-foot space includes refreshment and concession area, gift shops, arts and crafts, retail vendors and space available for private events

ABOUT JOSEPH VASILE

Mr. Vasile has been a dedicated art educator for the past decade. Mr. Vasile is the founder of "Peace Flags in the Wind" and was envisioned in Vasile's art-classroom four years ago as a way to connect art with peace, love and compassion for all humanity. For Vasile's teaching efforts he is PPMH 2013-2014 "Teacher of the Year", a two time Teacher of the Year nominee, top five finalist out of 26,000 teachers for 'Teacher of the Year' for Miami Dade County Public Schools, and a Region IV finalist. Mr. Vasile won Teacher recognition from Scholastic Art Awards at a ceremony at Lincoln Center in New York City for being an outstanding art teacher. One of his students won a national award and out of 114,000 finalists, Vasile's students was one of the 1,400 chosen at the national level. Eight states have honored Mr. Vasile declaring a "Peace Flags in the Wind" Day in some of the biggest cities in the United States.



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