

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact
Ily Goyanes

305.763.6689 | ily.goyanes@gmail.com

AWARD-WINNING SPOKEN SOUL FESTIVAL HELD AT ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER IN HONOR OF ITS 10th YEAR; THREE DAYS OF INSPIRATION WITH SSF COMMUNITY PROGRAM, ARTS FESTIVAL, AND WOMEN'S BRUNCH

MIAMI, FL (MARCH 2, 2017) – Art lovers rejoice! This year's Spoken Soul Festival (SSF) is set to be the biggest and baddest in its ten year history! With help from its new sponsor, the world-renowned Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County, SSF 2017 is set to reach an unprecedented level of hype—and that's saying a lot for an event that has received multiple proclamations from the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County, as well as awards and recognition from the *Miami New Times*, the WomensArts Foundation, and many other media outlets and organizations across the United States.

SSF is a 3-day event that promotes and celebrates community outreach and women artists in honor of Support Women Artists Now (SWAN) Day. The Festival starts off on Friday, March 24th, with the SWAN Community Program, an uplifting event in which SSF artists engage with members of the community via art-related workshops and activities. On the second day, throw out the rule book as fifteen women artists unite to present and perform everything from visual art to spoken word to music at the SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase. The Festival ends on an inspirational note on day three with the Vanessa Baez Memorial Women's Brunch (VBMWB) which celebrates “everyday women with extraordinary courage” as well as swag bags, prizes, and of course, a delectable brunch. This year's featured guest speaker is Felecia Hatcher – founder of CODE Fever and Black Tech Week.

SWAN Spoken Soul Festival Vol. 10
March 24-26
spokensoulfestival.com

This year the Women's Brunch will be held at the highly-renowned and local favorite, Soyka Restaurant in the trendy East Side, and both the Community Program and the Spoken Soul Showcase are being held at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, the architectural jewel of Downtown Miami.

To ring in the decade with even more panache than usual, this year's Spoken Soul Showcase will feature SSF alumni for the first time ever, making it one of the most exciting showcases in SSF history. The variety of performances and exhibits, feel-good vibe, and boundless positive energy of the SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase must be experienced to be believed.

Witness vocalists and poets tear up the stage, painting, photography and film exhibits, and DJs wreck the tables, all while mingling with the artists and performers themselves. The Spoken Soul Showcase leaves an indelible impression on the hearts and minds of all who attend, resulting in high levels of anticipation for each and every new SSF, but this year will truly be one for the books, so do not miss out.

*For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Ily Goyanes 305.763.6689 | ily.goyanes@gmail.com
###*

SPOKEN SOUL FESTIVAL 2017: SWAN Day Miami Schedule of Events

SWAN COMMUNITY PROGRAM

FRIDAY March 24 | 3 PM – 8 PM

Every year SSF has chosen a community organization that would benefit from arts programming as part of the Spoken Soul Festival's SWAN Community Program. Past organizations include ASPIRA Muchachos & Muchachas Conference, Boys & Girls Club, DASH Film Club, Miami Art Studio & Artoconecto, SafeSpace, and Little Haiti Cultural Center's After School Program. To mark the 10th year of SSF, this year's Community Program will serve the entire city. Artists and the SSF production team will provide Miami's multi-cultural and diverse community with a much needed platform to create a dialogue about people's similarities versus their differences, culminating in a kaleidoscope of emotions, an art installation to be featured at the SWAN Spoken Soul Showcase the following day. This playground of thoughts and creativity will be led by over 60 Spoken Soul Festival alumni performing and visual artists, and feature performances, interactive visual arts activities, DJs, and more. Engage with various local youth, arts and women's organizations; and enjoy arts and women-based panel discussions and Q&As with local vendors.

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

1300 Biscayne Blvd. (Peacock Foundation Studio @ The Ziff Ballet Opera House)

Free Admission

SWAN SPOKEN SOUL SHOWCASE VOL 10: SWAN DAY MIAMI

An Evening Celebrating Women Artists

SATURDAY March 25 | 6 PM – 10 PM

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 aficionados. Take in performances by vocalists and spoken word artists, and explore the work of photographers and visual artists—15 featured women artists in total. Featured artists this year are all SSF alumni, such as filmmaker Omilani, who will be screening her short documentary, "Latinegra," about the black Latina experience; and vocalist and radio personality Lyricists Stichiz, from iHeartradio's 103 The Beat, who will put on a performance the likes of which you've never seen. This free and open to the public annual event progressively pushes women featured artists to BRING IT, resulting in a truly unique event.

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

1300 Biscayne Blvd. (Peacock Foundation Studio @ The Ziff Ballet Opera House)

Free Admission

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 memory 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 complimentary swag bags for attendees. This year's featured guest speaker is Felecia Hatcher – founder of CODE Fever and Black Tech Week. Visit spokensoulfestival.com for more information, the full menu, and to purchase tickets.

Soyka Restaurant @ 5556 NE 4th Court, Miami, FL 33137

Admission, brunch, and swag bag: \$45 to \$60 per person

RSVP required

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from individuals, corporations and local, state and national foundations.

###

About the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Set in the heart of downtown Miami and designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Since opening in 2006, the Arsht Center, a 501C3 non-profit organization, has emerged as a leader in presenting innovative programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity as well as a catalyst for billions of dollars in new development in the downtown area. Spotlighting legends and serving as a launch pad for local artists to make their mark on the international stage, the Center presents nearly 500 events each year across its eight flexible, state-of-the-art performance spaces. The Center programs 12 signature series, including the largest jazz series in South Florida, the biggest flamenco festival on the East Coast, and a robust program of new theatrical works as well as free programming for the community and an arts education program that serves nearly 30,000 children each year. As Miami's new Town Square, the Arsht Center also houses Brava by Brad Kilgore, a fine dining restaurant; the Café at Books & Books in the historic Carnival Tower and a weekly Farmers Market.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.

About Spoken Soul Festival

The mission of the Spoken Soul Festival, a three-day event, is to produce an annual festival that will help advance the careers of a variety of women artists including poets, fine artists, photographers, filmmakers, and designers. The festival gives talented female performing artists and craftswomen from South Florida a free venue to showcase their talents. We provide three months of free publicity by featuring them in our festival publicity campaign. We hold workshops for at-risk youth and for women where they have opportunities to learn about careers in the arts and create their own work, and we provide networking opportunities at our brunch and throughout the festival. In addition to the events, thanks to a special grant from **WomenArts**, our website provides a promotional and informational forum for women artists and the arts community as a whole. SSF website features Spoken Soul TV, Spoken Soul Radio, FREE event listings for events by women, for women or about women, year round digital features for our alumni artists and stronger visibility as well as content provider for our community partners and sponsors.

Visit www.spokenoulofestival.com

About SWAN Day

SWAN Day/Support Women Artists Now Day is an international holiday designed to showcase the power and diversity of women's creativity. Be a part of *SWAN Day* by creating or participating in a local event or online activity that celebrates women artists! There have been over 1,500 *SWAN Day* events in 36 countries in the first nine years of this new holiday.

Visit www.swanday.org for more information