Umbrella Sky Art Installation arrives to Downtown Coral Gables this July

By: Community News | July 3, 2018

This July, Giralda Plaza will be transformed into a vibrant and colorful art experience with the installation of the Umbrella Sky Project. Starting Friday, July 13th and continuing over the next two months, hundreds of umbrellas will gently sway over the newly transformed Giralda Plaza, the pedestrian promenade located at the 100 block of Giralda Avenue.

Coral Gables is the first city in South Florida and the

third city in the U.S. to host the Umbrella Sky art project, an internationally recognized public art display that has graced streets around the world, including Paris and Lisbon. Umbrella Sky in Coral Gables is made possible through a partnership between the City of Coral Gables, the Coral Gables Community Foundation and the Business Improvement District of Coral Gables.

"This captivating art project is a great example of our commitment to increase art and cultural experiences in the City Beautiful," said Coral Gables Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli. "Umbrella Sky will undoubtedly drive more people into our Downtown, but we hope they stay to dine and shop while here."

"We're thrilled to bring "Umbrella skies" to our City Beautiful," said Mary Snow, Executive Director of the Coral Gables Community Foundation. "Complementing the revitalization of Giralda Plaza, we're excited to further enhance the city's cultural landscape with this energetic project."

Umbrellas are fitting for the Coral Gables Community Foundation as the organization serves as an "umbrella" charitable organization to enhance the quality of life for those who live, work, learn and play in Coral Gables.

"Umbrella Sky showcases our purpose in our community in a symbolic manner. Just like these umbrellas offer coverage, we service the charitable needs of Coral Gables," Snow said.

Umbrella Sky is the creation of Portuguese Company, Sextafeira, which means Friday in Portuguese.

Last year, the City of Coral Gables introduced the famed kinetic artwork of Carlos Cruz-Diez along crosswalks in front of City Hall and the Coral Gables Museum. Venice in the Gables, a public arts initiative, is now on display in downtown Coral Gables with eight-foot-tall replicas

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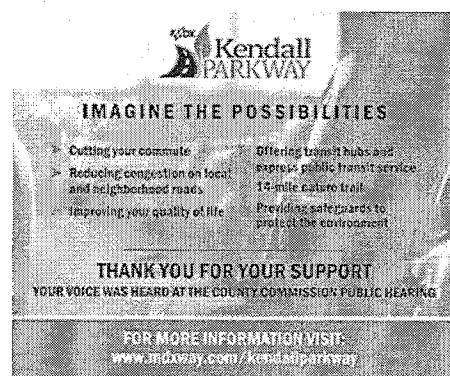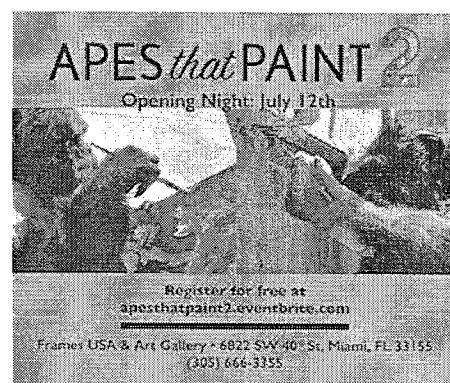
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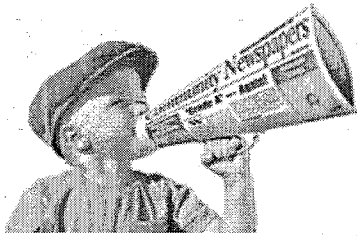
Florida Trend Once Again

of Venetian mooring posts all uniquely painted by local artists. Coral Gables continues to nurture, expand and enhance art and culture with every new exhibit.

Join us as we celebrate the launch of this colorful installation!
Friday, July 13th
6 pm
Giralda Plaza, 100 block of Giralda Avenue

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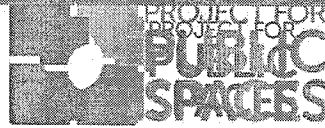
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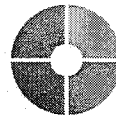## GREAT PUBLIC SPACES ⌄

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UMBRELLA SKY PROJECT

AGUEDA, PORTUGAL

Contributed by Project for Public Spaces on August 13, 2015

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT?

The Umbrella Sky Project began in 2011 as a part of the city of Águeda's famous annual Ágitagueda Art Festival in Portugal. Each year, during the hot

summer months of July, August, and September, a handful of the city's narrow streets gain colorful umbrella canopies that provide shade for the pedestrians passing through. Rooftop cables are strung with numerous parasols that help cool the roadways in a creative and cost-effective way, and the sea of umbrellas forms a unique geometric pattern overhead as well as changing shadows on the roadway below. Programming like outdoor workout classes give this shaded area an added layer of functionality, enabling high-energy and

fitness activities despite high summer temperatures.

Since the project began, these pop-up shade structures have become an annual summertime installation and they have developed a cult following around the world. Creators of the Umbrella Sky Project, Sextafeira, have also launched offshoots of this work in other cities such as Lisbon, where they have added to the streetscape by stringing multicolored balloons over urban alleyways. As with all of their projects, the polka-dot shadows that shine down onto the street below add more color to people's lives in everyday settings.
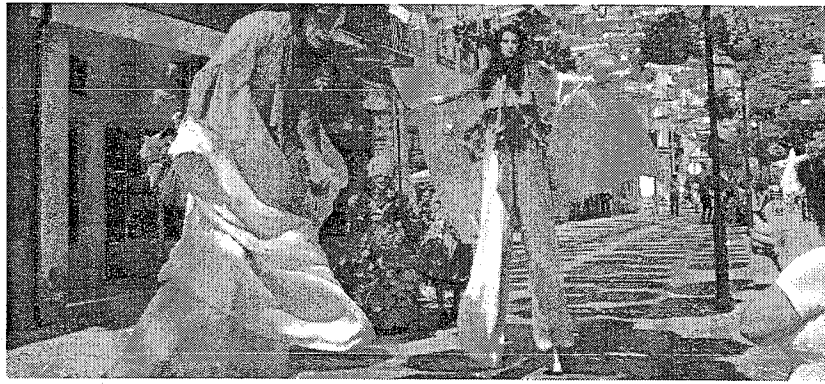
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The installation turns the street into a venue for special events

Bright colors add whimsy to the street

Corrections or additions? Email info@pps.org

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