

# ArtStART

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL** - The Millennial generation is learning earlier through non-traditional techniques to apply life skills, business principles and creativity. The days of advancing through high school years and then going to college to have a life experience is not a reality for this generation. A life as an artist is more than creating the art; it requires a complete set of business and project management skills to be successful.

Cheryl Brown is providing these skills to Broward County high school students through a program called "ArtStART". This program was created by Brown from her passion to give back to the community. This is her way of growing the local art culture. Brown is a local professional ceramic artist whose studio is located at Art Trax Studios & Gallery in FATVillage Art District. She believes that the way to keep the talent in the community is to show them how to sustain the community through her program. Brown mentors the student's through the art process; developing presentations, creating the art, curating and putting together the exhibit with multiple artists.

The program has 11 emerging artists from the Dillard High School Center for the Arts and Emerging Computer Technology magnet program. The 11 ArtStART artists are Ruth Burotte, Briyana Butler, Clonia Charite, Mariana Espinosa, Corey Lovett, Maria Mancini, Piero Penizzotto, Lara Pinheiro, Kevin Santana, Johanna Sapicas and Cesar Valero.

The students will debut their 33-piece collection this Thursday, Feb. 20th with an opening reception and will join with the other FATVillage Artisans on Saturday, February 27th at ArtTrax Studios and Gallery for Art Walk. The reception will feature the Dillard Center for the Arts' Chamber String Quartet, concessions benefiting DCA Art Program, and an artful "Photo Booth" to support the ArtStART Program.

In the voices of each of the artists, an artist's statement and a sneak peak of the presentation of their work is provided. Congratulations to Cheryl Brown, ArtStART, the 11 emerging artists and all that support young minds in growing and keeping the community.



**Cory Lovett, Fine Art** - "I have many stories to tell and art is how I can tell them. Art is like my mediator to get my inner voice out."



**Mariana Espinosa, Fine Art** - "Art is what allows me to express myself and bring something new to the world."



**Lara Pinheiro, Photography** - "Photography is the art of observation."



**Maria Mancini, Fine Art** - "I create art in order to be able to tell stories visually."

Funding for this project is provided in part by the Broward County Board of Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.



**Briyana Butler, Digital Design** - "My primary goal is to stay true to the initial meaning of design."



**Clonia Charite, Photography** - "When I was a youngster, I spent my time observing my surroundings and honing my eyesight to see farther."



All are welcome to attend the reception Preview & Exhibition Thursday, February 25th, 6-10 pm Saturday, February 27, 6:00-10:00 pm



**Cesar Valero, Photography** - "We live in a world where we get stuck on the past and overbear future plans."

Art Trax Studios & Gallery  
535 NW First Avenue  
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**ART ON AIDS/HIV**

**Broward County has the highest AIDS Rates in the USA!**

Artists of all ages have a message to share in helping eradicate this epidemic that is affecting our community.



**Kevin Santana, Photography** **Ruth Burotte, Multimedia** - "I thought about how every individual person has their sary in life. I find art to be a own emotions and views that creative and insightful business are purely subjective."



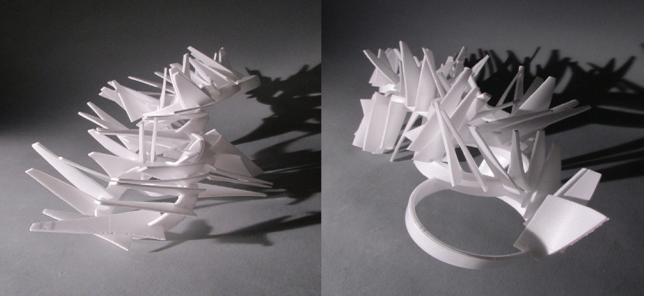
Movie stars and athletes say #BlackLivesMatter means stopping HIV. According to HIVPositiveMagazine.com



**Piero Penizzotto, Photography** - "I believe that with my perspective of the world I can create interesting and thought-provoking films."

"Oscar-winner Mo'Nique (here with Julian Walker) from the film "Blackbird", says homophobia is destroying Black lives. "It's time for us to say, 'Let's make it a better place and accept people for who they were made to be.'"

'Despite stereotypes, this epidemic is not limited to gay and bisexual men. Though African-Americans make up only 12 percent of the U.S. population, they account for nearly half of new HIV infections. The rate of new infections among African-American women is 20 times that of white women. An estimated 56 percent of Black transgender women are HIV-positive.'



'Racism, poverty, and homophobia are key factors in this epidemic. And their mixture is volatile. Many Black communities already lack essential resources like education and health care, and the stigma attached to being LGBT or having HIV prevents many from getting tested, using HIV prevention methods, getting treatment for HIV after testing positive, and accessing health care resources overall.'

SOURCE: [HIVPlusMagazine.com](http://HIVPlusMagazine.com)

**Johanna Sapicas, Photography** - "I like to make art that relates to fashion and fashion trends,"