The Arsht Center’s award-winning arts education program, Kitty Hawk, emphasizes the importance of STEAM careers for 26,000 Miami-Dade middle schoolers

Miami, FL – October 2019 – The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (@arshtcenter) announces the third season of Kitty Hawk, an Arsht Center Learning Through the Arts initiative that aims to fuel students’ interest in pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering, arts or mathematics — collectively known as STEAM.

The program bridges the STEM gap through the arts with a musical performance, an accompanying curriculum and a series of hands-on workshops for seventh graders in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The Kitty Hawk structure seeks to inspire, motivate and encourage students through the support of South Florida aviation partners.

Kitty Hawk takes flight Oct. 7 with a two-week musical performance produced by the Center that brings to life the story of Wilbur and Orville Wright’s historic first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in 1903.

The Musical
The original, Broadway-style production created by the Center is a musical adventure with themes of ingenuity and persistence. It is written by playwright Tom Bryant, with music and lyrics by Erik Della Penna and artistic direction by Nathan Allen, founder of The House Theatre of Chicago.

“By integrating the arts into STEM education, the Arsht Center has designed a STEAM initiative that has the power to unleash imagination in young students,” said Johann Zietsman, Arsht Center President and CEO. “Exposure to artistic experiences opens young minds to infinite possibilities and, in the long run, leads to a more inclusive, diverse and creative workforce.”
Beyond the Stage
Prior to the performances, a professional development workshop for M-DCPS middle school teachers equips them with lesson plans to carry enthusiasm from the show back into their classrooms for continued learning. In spring 2020, following the musical performance, 100 seventh graders will participate in a series of hands-on STEAM workshops and aviation-themed field trips. Students will learn to build and code drones in the after-school programs at South Miami Middle, Hialeah Gardens Middle and Georgia Jones-Ayers Middle School before culminating with a drone aerial ballet competition at the Arsht Center.

During the 13-week series of workshops, students will be guided by aviation professionals, multi-disciplined artists and STEM educators. Through a partnership with Florida International University, college-age assistants will help man the workshops and serve as mentors.

Supporters
Kitty Hawk relies on the collective generosity of foundations, individuals and corporations that support the Arsht Center’s vision for strengthening education through the integration of the arts. The program is supported in 2019-2020 by Betsy and George Sherman; Mary Spencer; The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation; The Boeing Company; Green Family Foundation; Airbus; World Fuel Services; Peacock Foundation; The Kirk Foundation; Spirit Airlines; Greenspoon Marder; ATR; Wells Fargo; The Ansin Foundation; 630 Aerospace; Alaris; AAR; South Florida Aviation Maintenance Council; Greater Miami Aviation Association; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.
To download high-resolutions versions of the photos above, click here.

@ArshtCenter #ArshtCenter #KittyHawk

*All programs, artists, ticket prices, availability, dates and times are subject to change without notice. Visit arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information.

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.

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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 400 events each year across its flexible, state-of-the-art performance spaces. The Center programs several Signature Series, including the largest jazz series in South Florida, a major annual Flamenco Festival, and a robust program of new theatrical works as well as free programming for the community and an arts education program that serves nearly 60,000 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 arshtcenter.org for more information.