

DELIGHT &
ANNUAL DEVOUR
BENEFIT DINNER.



Welcome to DELIGHT & DEVOUR!

How sweet it is to welcome you all to a celebratory evening honoring **Sarah Arison**, a visionary arts leader whose boundless generosity and commitment to the arts and artists has transformed the creative landscape of Miami and beyond. Sarah, we are so grateful for all the ways you nourish the next generation of creatives and the arts organizations that enhance our lives.

We are also deeply grateful to our **Honorary Chairs Jorge M. and Darlene Pérez**, and **Co-Chairs Marianne and John Devine, Diane and Werner Grob, Kristina Newman-Scott**, and **Debra and Dennis Scholl**, whose enthusiasm, support, and belief in the transformative power of art have made tonight possible.

As always at Locust Projects, artists are at the center of everything we do. Tonight we enter a wondrous, sugar-spun world from the imagination of **Tara Long**, an emerging Miami artist and musician. Her first major solo exhibition, Tara's all-encompassing creative confection invites us to **delight in the unexpected** and **devour every sweet moment**.

Alongside the culinary artistry of **Le Basque**, the night includes an ethereal musical score produced exclusively for Tara by Illangelo & Angelfire and captivating performances including **YoungArts dancers and musicians** unfolding as a multisensory treat — a celebration of creation, collaboration, and community that promises delight, and a little bit of mischief!

Tonight is more than a dinner; it's an expression of what **Locust Projects** is about: ambitious experimentation, risk-taking, and shared experiences. With your support, we continue to be an incubator for bold new art and ideas — a place where artists can imagine freely and create works that push their practice and informs new directions.

To our donors, sponsors, staff, and volunteers — thank you for the countless ways you help us **MAKE ART HAPPEN**.

With heartfelt gratitude — and a bit of a sugar high — thank you,
Lorie Mertes | Executive Director

“There isn’t one
aspect of our lives
that isn’t touched by
an artist.”

**Sarah
Arison**

DELIGHT & ANNUAL DEVOUR BENEFIT DINNER

HONORING
**SARAH
ARISON**

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DARLENE PÉREZ**

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VP of Arts, Knight Foundation

DELIGHT & DEVOUR BENEFIT DINNER EVENING PROGRAM November 14, 2025

Welcome to a celebratory evening honoring Sarah Arison and celebrating Miami visual artist and musician Tara Long and the premiere of her all-encompassing installation *LA ESQUINITA*, for an unforgettable decadent collision of art, food, performance and sound!

6:00PM

COCKTAILS

EXHIBITION ON VIEW:

TARA LONG
LA ESQUINITA
(Little Corner)

7:00PM

DINNER

8:00PM

REMARKS | TRIBUTE

Lorie Mertes, Executive Director

Debra Scholl, Past Board Chair with **Juan Alonso**, Board Member

AUCTION | CHALLENGE

Dennis Scholl, Founding Board Chair

Proceeds from tonight's benefit dinner support Locust Projects' **Mission** and **Education Programs**.

DELIGHT IN THE MIRE

PERFORMANCE BY TARA LONG

Presenting excerpts from *Delight in the Mire*—a performance by Tara Long envisioned to take place within her *LA ESQUINITA* installation—that will unfold around the Main Gallery’s monumental cake. Through movement, sound, and archetype, a heroine navigates anxiety, desire, and transformation, exposing how consumption binds body and land, and how consciousness can turn indulgence into liberation.

Score produced exclusively by Illangelo & Angelfire

CAST

Maiden | Anjuli Castano
Innocence | Marianna Angel
Anxiety | misael soto
Hero | Marilyn Loddi
Court Jester | Hattie Mae Williams | YoungArts Alumni 1999

LIVE MUSICIANS

Dani F. Amaro | Vocalist | YoungArts Alumni 2016
Stéphane Clément | Trumpet | YoungArts Alumni 2019
Rodrigo Rodriguez | Flute | YoungArts Alumni 2022

CREW

Creative Director | Yamil Rodriguez
Production Manager | Suzy Rieger
Wardrobe | Nichole Chimenti
Make-up/ SFX/ hair | Layla Bessiso

An Ego Death production

SPECIAL THANKS

YoungArts

Masterful execution
is always something
to celebrate.



**Northern Trust is proud to support Locust Projects and
congratulates Sarah Arison for her leadership,
dedication and spirited community involvement.**

See all the ways we can support you.

Juan Alonso
Senior Vice President, Wealth Management
joal@ntr.com



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HAGERTY | Garage + Social

YoungArts The National Foundation
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SPECIAL THANKS

Fredric Snitzer Gallery
Debra & Dennis Scholl

* as of print date



HONORING SARAH ARISON

Locust Projects honors

Sarah Arison for her visionary philanthropy and belief in how art enriches our lives on a daily basis. Her principle that art is not a luxury, but a necessity is what drives her support of the arts and those who create it. Locust Projects has been a fortunate beneficiary of Arison and the Arison Arts Foundation for many years thanks to her vision and leadership.

Sarah Arison is President of Arison Arts Foundation, a private grant-making organization that supports emerging artists and the institutions that foster them. She was immersed in the arts from a young age by her grandparents, visionary philanthropists Ted and Lin Arison, who founded Arison Arts Foundation, YoungArts, and the New World Symphony, among their many philanthropic endeavors.

Arison is active across a broad cross-section of national arts organizations. She is President of the Board of the Museum of Modern Art, and Chair of the Board of YoungArts; she serves on the boards of MoMA PS1, American Ballet Theatre, The Kitchen and Aspen Art Museum; she is a trustee of Lincoln Center, New World Symphony and Serpentine Americas Foundation. Arison has also ventured into film producing, supporting projects that shed light on lesser-known aspects of the arts.

CELEBRATING TARA LONG



Locust Projects celebrates **Tara Long**, a Miami-Born and based multidisciplinary artist whose work spans performance, installation, video, digital interactive projects, software development, and oil painting.

Rooted in her exploration of self-identity as a response to early orphanhood trauma, Long creates various personas to magnify facets of her identity through

which she navigates captivating narratives of resilience, mythology, transcendence, and connection.

Her work has been featured at the Museum of MOMA PS1, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, Oolite Arts, and Spinello Projects. As a musician and singer, she is also known for her avant-garde music project and alter-ego, Poorgrrrl, and longstanding contributions to the III Points Music Festival.

Long received her BFA from Parsons School of Design in New York in 2003 and her MFA from the University of Hartford. She is currently a resident artist at the Bakehouse Art Complex.

Long's Locust Projects exhibition, her first major solo show, was selected from 650 open call applications for the Main Gallery by a review panel including Juan Roselione-Valadez, Director of the Rubell Museum and past exhibiting artists Rafael Domenech (2023) and Rosario Marquardt of R+R (2000), overseen by co-founder Elizabeth Withstandley.

ABOUT THE **EXHIBITION**

Tara Long:
LA ESQUINITA

As part of Locust Projects' commitment to supporting risk-taking and commissioning experimental new art and ideas, it has turned its space over—inside and out—to emerging Miami-based artist and performer, Tara Long, and her all-encompassing creative vision.

Part corner store, part surreal dream, *LA ESQUINITA* transforms Locust Projects into a sugar-coated parable about power, pleasure, and decay. From the building's colorful façade to the towering, crumbling cake inside, Miami-born artist Tara Long exposes the hidden costs of sweetness—how sugar built this place, drained its swamps, shapes our bodies, our appetites, and our myths.

Visitors move through three acts produced by the artist in collaboration with a community of artists, musicians, and performers: the seductive storefront of tempting confections; the collapsing "cake hall," where performance and sound unravel the fantasy; and the secret

speakeasy where nature, and truth, begin to return. What starts as a bodega, evolves into a stage, leading to a confession booth, and finally, a swamp reclaiming its ground.

Long's world fuses Miami's candy-colored surfaces with its buried histories, linking the exploitation of land to the conditioning of desire. *LA ESQUINITA* asks: when indulgence becomes survival, what does it cost to stay sweet?

LA ESQUINITA is commissioned by Locust Projects and curated by Lorie Mertes. It is made possible with support from Funding Arts Network.

The artist wishes to thank Lucia Aquino, David Sinopoli, Tom Mickelson, Freddy Jouwayed, Brett Potter, HoxxoH Studio, and Serge Toussaint.

LIVE ART AUCTION



TARA LONG

Sweet Parrot, 2025

Hand poured stoneware, ceramic hand, glazed | 10 x 4 inches

Ceramic from LA ESQUINITA.

Generously donated by Tara Long

Bidding starts at: \$500 (Valued at \$1,000)



METTE TOMMERUP

UTU URU, 2025

Acrylic on raw canvas and gold leaf | 36 x 36 inches

Part of the *Made by Dusk* continuum, *UTU URU* explores modular systems of light and transformation. The gold surface acts as both mirror and membrane, shifting with each viewer's movement. Drawing from the Sumerian words for "sun" and "city," the work reflects an evolving dialogue between material form and the immaterial forces that animate it.

Made by Dusk originally premiered at Locust Projects in November 2020.

Generously donated by Mette Tommerup

Bidding starts at: \$1,000 (Valued at \$3,000)

LIVE ART AUCTION



EMA RI

Yerba Mala Nunca Muere, 2024
open-ended series
oil on canvas | 17 5/8 x 18 inches

Through a process of layering and abstraction, Ri's brushless technique imbues each painting with a raw, tactile energy. The physical use of their hands and nails as well as their body in relation to the canvas imparts a visceral sensation or action – a caressing of the canvas, a scratching, or a longing for something felt within and outside the confines of the pictorial plane. Ema Ri: This Too Shall Pass opens in Locust Projects' Main Gallery Jan 31, 2026.

Generously donated by Ema Ri and Fredric Snitzer Gallery

Bidding starts at: \$1,000 (Valued at \$3,500)



EDISON PEÑAFIEL

De Profundis Clamavi ad Astra: Via ARKTVS, 2025
UVI ink on wood | 24 x 20 inches framed
Edition 1/25

A bear silhouette, representing ARKTVS, derived from Arcturus, the “protector of the bear” star, ascends toward the constellation of Ursa Major where the golden stars evoke the figure of the Mother Bear. Capturing the essence of a trilogy of videos, including *De Profundis*, it reflects an internal passage through the Mother | ocean | womb as a journey of transmutation toward spiritual liberation. The design is built from papers texturized with charcoal and acrylic paint, then photographed and digitally composed, a process he uses in his animated video installations.

Edison Peñafiel: *De Profundis Clamavi ad Astra (From the Depths, I Cried Out to the Stars)* opens at Locust Projects in November 2026 and has been awarded a VIA Art Fund Grant.

Generously donated by Edison Peñafiel

Bidding starts at: \$750 (Valued at \$1,500)

ANNOUNCING THE **GROB GIFT FUND** **DIANE & WERNER GROB**



We are thrilled to announce a **MATCHING CHALLENGE GIFT** of **\$100,000** with goal to raise **\$100,000 WITH YOUR HELP!**

Make a gift or pledge before November 20 in honor of the **Locust Projects** through the pledge card which will allow your contribution to be part of **Give Miami Day**.

We thank Diane and Werner for their generosity for sustaining the spirit of visionary philanthropy.

INTRODUCING **DIRECTORS FORUM**

JOIN OUR NEW **DONOR GROUP**

Directors Forum donors are dedicated supporters of Locust Projects' mission making Locust a hub for cutting edge art exhibitions and dynamic public programs in Miami. They are a vital group of arts philanthropists who share our commitment to empowering artists and enjoy an enriched, personal relationship with Locust leadership and the artists we serve, deepening knowledge through exclusive special events and intimate interactions with curators, artists, collectors and arts professionals.

Participation in the Director's Forum starts at \$5,000 to belong to the Artists' Circle, and \$10,000 to belong to the Curators' Circle.

Benefits include:

- Annual convening **Kick-off Gathering** with Directors Forum donors, where they decide as a group which exhibition the Forum as a collective will support
- Invitations to four **Talks** with national curators and thought leaders with intimate cocktail receptions at private homes with the artists the curators visit with while in Miami
- Access to exclusive **Travel Program** once-a-year to national art destinations
- A private, personalized Locust Projects tour with the Director for you and your guests
- Recognition on the donor wall and website for 12 months

For further information on how to join please contact
development@locustprojects.org

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED FRIEND AND ANGEL **DIANE MOSS**



Dede was a force—a generous and thoughtful philanthropist to many charitable endeavors, an avid art collector, and a dedicated supporter of the arts and of Locust Projects as an inspiring Board Member and “changemaker.”

She led by her words and her actions, and it is thanks to Dede’s vision and matching grant challenge that Locust made the move to Little River a reality, giving us the ability to expand our impact exponentially and become who we are today and continue our mission to **MAKE ART HAPPEN**.

She is missed greatly by her Locust Projects family.

MAKING ART HAPPEN IN MIAMI FOR **27 YEARS**

Locust Projects is an arts incubator producing and presenting **exhibitions, programs** and **projects**. Our mission is to...

CREATE opportunities for visual artists at all career stages

INVITE risk taking and experimentation

ACTIVATE conversations around new art and ideas

ADVOCATE for artists and creative practices

INSPIRE the next generation of creatives

Founded by artists for artists in 1998, Locust Projects is Miami’s longest running nonprofit alternative art space. We produce, present, and nurture ambitious and experimental new art and the exchange of ideas through commissioned exhibitions and projects, artist residencies, summer art intensives for teens, and public programs on contemporary art and curatorial practice.

As a leading incubator of new art and ideas, Locust Projects emphasizes boundary-pushing creative endeavors, risk-taking and experimentation by local, national and international artists. We invest in South Florida’s arts community by providing artists with project grants, professional development workshops, and empower creative careers.

INCUBATORS

LOCUST PROJECTS

JOIN THE INCUBATORS

INCUBATORS enjoy opportunities to indulge in art – creating, collecting and connecting – throughout the year, while gaining insider access to unique art experiences with like-minded art enthusiasts who are committed to elevating artists who are pushing boundaries of new art and ideas.

Participation in the INCUBATORS annual fund begins with a gift starting at \$500.

Benefits include:

- Unique opportunities and insider access to meet Locust Projects artists at **Private Previews**; through **ArtVentures** to private collections, galleries and artist studio visits with special activities; **Artist Dinners** uniquely designed dinner experiences by artists; **Wednesdays with_____ + Locust Projects**, our monthly invitation-only social gatherings for INCUBATORS and invited friends highlighting “tastings” of what’s new and happening in Miami from experimental art, food and music to uncovering Miami’s latest cultural finds; access to **Miami Art Week** events and passes; and **One Night Stands**
- Recognition on the donor wall and website for 12 months (\$1,000 gifts and above)

**Scan to Become
an INCUBATOR Donor Now!**



For further information on how you can get involved and BE A CATALYST TO **MAKE ART HAPPEN** please contact development@locustprojects.org

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Tony Kapel, Events and Programs Coordinator
Andrew McLees, Art and Digital Innovation Manager
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Locust Projects receives Major Support from: The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, The Children's Trust; the State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts; The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation; Diane and Robert Moss; Ruth Foundation for the Arts; VIA Art Fund; Diane and Werner Grob; Susan and Richard Arregui; María Bechily and Scott Hodes; WEGE Foundation; Funding Arts Network; Cowles Foundation, Kirk Foundation; and the INCUBATORS.





Locust Projects

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