

# locustprojects

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**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE: Locust Projects  
2019 Spring Fling**

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[Link to event images  
available here](#)

## **Locust Projects' Kaleidoscopic Spring Fling Brings Out a Colorful Crowd and Raises Funds for Miami's Longest-Running Alternative Art Space**



[Miami, FL, April 22, 2019] Locust Projects held its annual Spring Fling fundraiser on Saturday, April 13th at the Moore Building in the Miami Design District where guests in vibrant hues and bold patterns entered through a life-sized kaleidoscope designed by founding artist Westen Charles. Locust alumni Jen Stark's swirling, multi-colored Wormhole video and installation of multi-colored lights and patterns across Zaha Hadid's Elastika were accompanied by grooves by DJ Camp Gabby to set the lively, convivial tone for the evening. At the center of the event was the silent art and luxury auction where guests had the opportunity to bid on art editions by past and upcoming Locust exhibiting artists including Adler Guerrier, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Simon Vega, and Augustina Woodgate, plus an incredible array of generously donated luxury products and experiences including, Le Basque catering, Fendi, The Four Seasons, Liv, Mandolin Aegean Bistro, Neiman Marcus, The Plaza Hotel, The Soho House, Theory, TOD's, Tropical Chinese, Zimmerman, and many others.

"Spring Fling has been a signature fundraiser in Miami's art community since 2002," states Locust Projects Executive Director, Lorie Mertes. "It's a fun event that playfully, and without pretense, mixes artists, collectors, curators and community leaders in the

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arts and philanthropic community with the fashion and design world, creative entrepreneurs and social influencers. It's an awesome party that always has a creative twist and lots of opportunities for going home with amazing works of art and luxury items donated to help support Locust Projects do what it does, make art happen by supporting artists and their ambitious ideas."

The more than 500 attendees included: Locust Projects founding artists Elizabeth Withstandley and Westen Charles; founding board chair and current chair, Dennis and Debra Scholl; fellow board members including Debra Frank, Rene Gonzalez, Paul Jacober, Avra Jain, Jon Joseph Lin, Vivian Pfeiffer, and Munisha Underhill; among the guests were artists such as Kelley Breez, Pepe Mar, Ahol Sniffs Glue, Mette Tommerup, TYPOE, Antonia Wright, as well as Lisa Austin, Donnamarie Baptiste, Elysze Held, Soledad Lowe, Illona and Chad Oppenheim, Hal Philips and Greg Kendall, Ariel Penzer, and Jessica Sirmans.

Brad Kilgore's Kilgore Culinary group created custom cocktails like the "Kaleidoscope"—made with Bombay Sapphire gin, lemon juice, honey syrup, butterfly pea flower and topped with prosecco—and Bacardi and Concrete Beach Brewery provided beer and spirits. Harry's Pizzeria dished out their famous polenta fries with spicy ketchup and miniature versions of their meatballs, while Macchialina provided an inventive bite of prosciutto and cucumber. Stilstville Fish Bar offered up their smoky fish dip and a fresh tuna crudo while Sparky's Roadside Barbecue kept bellies full with a taste of their infamous pulled pork, slaw, collard greens and cornbread.

**All funds raised support programming at Locust Projects—Miami's foremost incubator of art and ideas providing artists with the time, space and resources to create ambitious new work and build successful creative careers.**

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## ABOUT LOCUST PROJECTS

Locust Projects is Miami's foremost incubator of new art and ideas producing and presenting ambitious exhibitions. For over 20 years, this small but mighty non-profit organization has empowered artists to experiment, take risks and push the boundaries of what visual art is and can be. Local, national, and international artists are provided with residencies and resources to create large-scale, site-specific temporary installations. Through Wavemaker grants, we provide incubator funding to Miami-based artists to create projects in non-traditional venues and support local artists with access to professional development resources and pro bono legal services to incubate creative careers. We inspire the next generation of artists through summer art intensives for teens, and present free public programs on contemporary art and curatorial practice. **Art Happens Here.**

*Locust Projects exhibitions and programming are made possible with 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 National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; Hillsdale Fund; The State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; The Kirk Foundation, Vhernier, donors to the Team LAB Annual Education Fund, Locust Projects Exhibitionist and Significant Other members.*

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