

City of Pembroke Pines Hires New Chief Curator

BY DEBBY TEICH

The City of Pembroke Pines recently hired a new chief curator for The Frank C. Ortis Art Gallery & Exhibit Hall. Joshua Carden started his new job on September 5, just a few days before Hurricane Irma hit. His primary responsibility is to engage the Pembroke Pines community through the arts. This includes overseeing marketing initiatives, presenting workshops and lectures, and collaborating with other departments, such as education and development.

"Joshua Carden is a great addition to our Cultural Division," said Holly Bonkowski, Division Director of Cultural Arts for the City of Pembroke Pines Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. "He has an extensive art background encompassing curatorial work and gallery administration. He is deeply passionate about the arts and loves sharing his enthusiasm with others."

Carden has curated numerous exhibitions over the last eight years and worked closely with several arts organizations to plan, curate, and execute large events and exhibitions. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Florida with a B.A. in Art History, while serving as the curator at The Lost Art Gallery. He received his Master of Arts in Arts Administration from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a focus in contemporary art and gallery administration. While attending SCAD, he was tasked with overseeing the curation and marketing development of a start-up art advisory site, Art Kollektio Inc., where he became the Senior Art Advisor.

"I was attracted to this opportunity, because of the city's commitment to the cultural arts," said Carden. "I hope to engage, educate, and inspire the public by creating an exciting and innovating exhibition program," said Carden. "I still have a lot of planning to do for future shows, but The Frank is already slated for some very exciting exhibits, including Visual Therapy, which is curated by Stacy Conde."

Carden says he is very excited to showcase the contemporary art of South Florida, while engaging with the community.

"I love to speak to people, young and old, about art in general," said Carden. "I can't wait to hear what the Pembroke Pines community is interested in seeing in their new gallery. I am looking forward to the chance to transform a brand, new gallery space into a permanent fixture of the South Florida art scene."

The Frank is located at 601 City Center Way in Pembroke Pines. Stay connected and follow The Frank on Facebook and Instagram at The Frank Pembroke Pines. For information, call 954-392-2129 or send an email to thefrank@ppines.com.



Joshua Carden, Chief Curator for The Frank C. Ortis Art Gallery & Exhibit Hall.