

GO RIVERWALK

A PUBLICATION OF RIVERWALK FORT LAUDERDALE

VOL. 12 NO. 8 SEPTEMBER 2015



Ranjana Warier accepts a 2014 Knight Arts Challenge award

joint programming with the Island City Stage Theater and Stonewall National Museum and Archives. The Art and Culture Center of Hollywood is also a Broward finalist this year with a submission to improve arts education communication through new equipment.

No matter who takes away the coveted Knight Arts Challenge Award this year, based on the current winners, collaboration may be the key to gaining a viable edge in this competitive field.

Countless artists rely on funding with a blend of government, corporate, foundation, organization, non-profit, in-kind, and individual support. Although the Knight Foundation is perhaps the single largest funder of arts programs specific to South Florida, other resources exist on the local, regional, state, and national levels. A few

KICKSTART THE ARTS

LAST YEAR'S KNIGHT ARTS CHALLENGE REFLECTS A BURGEONING ART SCENE IN BROWARD AND HIGHLIGHTS THE LOCAL COLLABORATION INTEGRAL TO ITS GROWTH

BY RITA KANNA-KENTZLAU



A Ranjana Warier performance

Whether designed to educate, entertain, engage, or anything in between, the arts are an integral part of any community. Funding to support artistic initiatives can be difficult to come by, but groups in Broward County are making strides in achieving success.

In 2014, for the first time ever, four winners of the prestigious Knight Arts Challenge South Florida came from Broward County. Although most winners are traditionally from Miami-Dade, this influx of awardees from Broward reflects a steadily growing local arts scene.

"We've seen a cultural renaissance across the region. With more winners coming from Broward, it encourages others to apply," said Knight Foundation Arts Program Director Rukta Ramos.

Knight Arts Challenge South Florida is a program designed to bring the region together through the arts, infusing over \$2 million into the area in 2014. The challenge represents part of the \$86 million the Knight Foundation has invested in the cultural community since 2006.

The rules for the challenge are simple: 1.) The idea is about the arts. 2.) The project takes place in or benefits South Florida. 3.) You find matching funds. According to Ramos, when considering a potential project to submit, sharing resources with collaborators may generate energy and increase the quality of a submission. Based on the recent award awardees, this type of collaboration is a common theme.

For example, current recipient FAT Village is broadening