



Pérez Art Museum Miami  
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## Presidents' Committee Recognizes Pérez Art Museum Miami's 'Brick x Brick' as Leading National Youth Program

**MIAMI – May 18, 2016** – The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities recognized Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) for its work in providing excellent arts and humanities learning opportunities to young people through its outstanding public program, Brick x Brick. PAMM's Brick x Brick, one of only 50 programs nationwide to receive this honor, is a high-impact urban and contemporary art and design program for at-risk teens in some of Miami's toughest, low-income neighborhoods, most notably Omni neighborhood, Liberty City, Overtown, Little Havana and Little Haiti.

"It is an incredible honor to be recognized by the President's Committee," said PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans. "This program is an example of how art museums can serve and better a community, and we are grateful to the generous sponsors and supporters who make this important program possible."

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, and its cultural partners - the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. From big cities to small towns, the 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award Finalists reflect the diversity of disciplines and settings of these exceptional programs that are taking place from coast to coast.

During nine years of operation the program has nearly doubled in size, growing from 40 to 70+ teens served each year, reaching more than 300 teens in total. Some of these teens are homeless, or going through the juvenile justice system. Utilizing a variety of art and design learning activities and projects, Brick x Brick introduces teens to world-class modern and contemporary art, teaches them fundamental art and design concepts, and encourages them to engage with and express their own creativity. The small group structure of the program allows the teaching artist mentors to offer individualized attention to vulnerable teens, cultivating their personal growth and skills development.

### **About Pérez Art Museum Miami**

Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) promotes artistic expression and the exchange of ideas, advancing public knowledge and appreciation of art, architecture and design, and reflecting the diverse community of its pivotal geographic location at the crossroads of the Americas. A 32-year-old South Florida institution formerly known as Miami Art Museum (MAM), Pérez Art Museum Miami opened a new building, designed by world-renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron, in Downtown Miami's Museum Park on December 4, 2013. The facility and is a state-of-the-art model for sustainable museum design and progressive programming and features 200,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor program space with flexible galleries; shaded outdoor verandas; a waterfront restaurant and bar; a museum shop; and an education center with a library, media lab and classroom spaces. For more information, please visit [www.pamm.org](http://www.pamm.org), find us on Facebook ([facebook.com/perezartmuseummiami](https://www.facebook.com/perezartmuseummiami)), or follow us on Twitter (@pamm).

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