



Josie Bacallao President and CEO Hispanic Unity of Florida

“Greater Fort Lauderdale has an exceptional quality of life with some of the most appealing communities in the nation that include miles of sandy beaches and hundreds of parks, golf courses and recreational facilities. Aside from its natural beauty, year-round warm climate and urban sophistication, Greater Fort Lauderdale provides an abundance of multi-cultural attractions and leisure activities making it one of the best possible places to live, work and play.”

(Art in photo by Artist Kenneth Brown)

Quality of Life

Known worldwide for its high quality of life, Greater Fort Lauderdale is an ideal place to raise a family, make friends, pursue a personal passion and enjoy all the benefits of life in a warm and sophisticated community.

With miles of sandy beaches, hundreds of parks, golf courses and tennis courts, gardens, festivals, as well as boating and diving facilities, residents of Greater Fort Lauderdale can enjoy the outdoors at any time of the year. And as a cosmopolitan urban center, the region offers an abundance of music, art, opera, theater, dance and multi-cultural attractions.

In addition, many local communities have been recognized nationally for their high quality of life, including “family friendliness,” top schools, recreational programs and housing programs.

In Greater Fort Lauderdale, a typical weekend may include these kinds of inviting cultural and recreational options:

- Watching the Florida Panthers National Hockey League team at the BB&T Center in Sunrise
- Taking in a Broadway musical at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts
- Listening to the Riverwalk Sunday Jazz Festival along the New River
- Visiting one of many art gallery walks in Fort Lauderdale, Wilton Manors or Hollywood
- Strolling along the Atlantic Ocean on Hollywood’s historic Broadwalk
- Shopping and dining along Las Olas Boulevard
- Enjoying “family time” at a favorite bistro in Coconut Creek, Coral Springs, Weston or Plantation
- Playing a challenging round of golf or heading out to the Gulf Stream for deep-sea fishing

In Greater Fort Lauderdale, it’s easy to pursue favorite leisure-time pursuits or explore new and exciting activities.

Award-Winning Communities

Along with its natural beauty and urban sophistication, Greater Fort Lauderdale offers a wide array of neighborhoods – each with its own distinctive lifestyle. There are cozy bungalows near the beach, historic estate homes along the New River, family-oriented suburban neighborhoods and western-style ranches. Many communities are among the most appealing in the nation. For example:

- **Pembroke Pines, Tamarac and Sunrise** were recognized by *Business Week* magazine as best places to raise children.
- **Coral Springs, Miramar and Weston** have been named among the 100 best small cities in America by *Money* magazine.
- **Coconut Creek, Fort Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Margate, Parkland, Sunrise, Tamarac and West Park** have all been named a “Playful City USA,” an honor for cities and towns that make play a priority and use innovative programs to get children active, playing, and healthy.
- **Pembroke Pines, Sunrise and Tamarac** were each US Conference of Mayors 2012 City Livability Awards finalists.
- **Fort Lauderdale** – long known as the “Venice of America” for its canals and nautical ambiance – was recently ranked as one of the country’s “100 Best Places to Live and Launch a Business” by *CNN Money*.
- **Cooper City** has been named “One of the Ten Best Towns for Families” by *Family Circle*.
- **Hollywood, Lauderhill, Pembroke Pines**



Photo Courtesy of Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau

and Pompano Beach have all been named “All-America Cities.”

- **Plantation** was named one of “100 Best Communities for Young People” by America’s Promise Alliance, the nation’s largest organization dedicated to children and youth.

With a wide array of housing options and a variety of recreational activities, Greater Fort Lauderdale residents clearly enjoy an exceptionally high quality of life.

Green Initiatives

One of the priorities of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners is the Greenways System, a countywide network of safe, clean bicycle and equestrian paths, nature trails and waterways. Greenways will connect neighborhoods from the Everglades to the Atlantic Ocean, to conservation lands, parks and recreation facilities, cultural and historic sites, schools and business areas. The system will provide opportunities for recreation, restoration and enhancement of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, and alternative modes of transportation.

On a municipal level, many Broward cities have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to reduce greenhouse gases. Other recent “green” initiatives being embraced in area communities include:

- City incentives to residents for going green
- Creation and preservation of public green spaces and wetlands
- Earth-friendly building designs
- Energy-efficient programs
- Environmentally friendly town centers
- Green city advisory boards
- Incentive programs for developers of

The Place for Entertainment!

Top acts and shows appear regularly in Greater Fort Lauderdale at venues such as the BB&T Center, Hard Rock Live and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Following are a few recent examples:

- A Chorus Line
- American Idols Live!
- Avenue Q
- Beauty and the Beast
- Andrea Bocelli
- Billy Elliot
- Billy Joel
- Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band
- Burn the Floor
- Cats
- Cirque Du Soleil
- Coldplay
- Disney on Ice
- Elton John
- Fleetwood Mac
- George Lopez
- Grease
- Hair
- Il Divo
- Iron Maiden
- La Cage Aux Folles
- Les Miserable
- Mamma Mia
- Michael Bublé
- Phantom of the Opera
- Red Hot Chili Peppers
- Rock of Ages
- Rod Stewart
- The Eagles
- The Heights
- The Lion King
- The O'Jays
- Tina Turner
- West Side Story
- Young Frankenstein

The 2012-2013 lineup of Broadway shows includes:

- Agatha Christie's BBC Murders
- Flash Dance
- Million Dollar Quartet
- Sister Act
- The Addams Family
- War Horse
- Wicked



Photo Courtesy of Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau

sustainable buildings

- LEED-certified office buildings and residential properties
- Mandatory environmentally friendly standards for building construction and renovations
- Municipal hybrid car fleets
- Projects receiving Florida Green Building Coalition Certification
- Recycling requirements
- Solar-powered lighting requirements
- Trees, shrubs and planting projects and requirements
- Water reclamation programs

Parks in Greater Fort Lauderdale

With an average daily high of 90°F in the summer and 78°F in the winter, it's almost always a great day to go to a park in sunny Broward County. Local municipalities – as well as county government – operate hundreds of parks offering a wide range of activities including aquatics, nature walks, batting cages, boat rides, racquet centers, water skiing, horseback riding, target ranges, skate parks — you name it!

In July, 16,000 sports fans packed Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill to see the first official professional cricket match played in the United States. Manas Mohamed, general manager for the USA Cricket Association, said Greater Fort Lauderdale is home to the largest Caribbean communities in the U.S.

Overall, Broward County Parks and Recreation Division manages 18 regional parks and nature centers, and 21 natural area sites at various stages of completion, for a total of more than 6,500 acres. The division is a past winner of the National Gold Medal

Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. The division also offers classes for many leisure activities. For information about any county facilities, classes or activities, call the park directly or contact: **Broward County Parks and Recreation Division**

950 N.W. 38 Street, Oakland Park, FL 33309
954-357-8100 | www.broward.org/parks

Golf Courses

Golfers of all skill levels can choose from more than 40 courses, including exclusive private clubs, premier municipal facilities and leading resort courses. For more information, contact the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau at www.sunny.org. Click on Sports, then Golf, for a directory of courses and a free Greater Fort Lauderdale Golf Guide.

Festivals

Each year, Greater Fort Lauderdale residents can enjoy hundreds of local festivals that celebrate various themes, anniversaries and cultures from the Seminole Tribal Festival and the Orange Blossom Festival to the Flamenco in the Sun and the Sistrunk Historical Festival. For example, the Broward County Fair (www.browardcountyfair.com) is an annual event that includes headliner concerts, more than 100 rides, games, concerts and other attractions.

For many residents, one of the highlights of the December holiday season is the Winterfest Boat Parade (www.winterfestparade.com), which features an evening parade of lighted boats along the Intracoastal Waterway.

Arts lovers throughout South Florida flock to the Las Olas Art Fair (www.artfestival.com).

com), one of the state's most popular outdoor festivals for the arts. The 25th annual free event will be held January 5-6 and March 2-3, 2013.

Each year the Florida Renaissance Festival (www.ren-fest.com) offers a reenactment of Renaissance life in February and March.

For a listing of festivals, visit www.broward.org/arts and click on Cultural Directory and then on Festivals.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Since the 1990s, more than \$200 million has been invested in new cultural facilities serving Greater Fort Lauderdale. Recent capital project activity includes a \$25 million Museum of Discovery and Science expansion project, \$14 million Lauderhill Cultural Center and Broward County Central Broward Branch Library project, \$25 million Young At Art Children's Museum and Broward County Library project, and a \$5 million Amphitheater at the ArtsPark at Young Circle. The Lauderdale Lakes Library and Educational and Cultural Center also recently opened. Here is a closer look at several key venues and institutions.

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts (www.browardcenter.org) opened its doors in 1991 on the northern bank of the New River. Designed by award-winning architect Benjamin C. Thompson, the Broward Center is considered an architectural jewel at the cultural heart of Broward County.

The Broward Center is a large, multiveneue arts and entertainment complex featuring the 2,700-seat Au-Rene Theater, the intimate 590-seat Amaturto Theater and the flexible 250-400-seat Abdo New River Room. Internationally recognized as one of the nation's most visited theaters, the Broward Center is ranked high among its peers in terms of ticket sales according to leading industry trade publication surveys, with a recent #4 ranking by *Venues Today* and a consistent place in the top ten in *Pollstar*.

A \$44 million remodeling and renovation project will make significant additions to the Broward Center, including the Peck Courtyard & Cafe, a Premier Level space overlooking the stage, and the Hillside Terrace & Bar. The project will also add a new Education Center, with classrooms and workshop space for school students.

South Florida Symphony Orchestra

Led by music director and conductor Sebrina

Housing Choices

Whether you prefer an executive home in a family neighborhood, an urban contemporary apartment or a lavish condominium with a breathtaking ocean view, housing choices in Greater Fort Lauderdale are unlimited. Many gated communities feature spacious homes and amenities such as health clubs, tennis, clubhouses and golf.

Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County also offers business professionals a wide selection of corporate housing options. This concept provides temporary lodging with all of the comforts of a home away from home. Strategically located throughout the area, corporate housing can be found near almost any major business operation.

Corporate Housing in Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County

ATB Furnished Housing

(866) 633-3331
www.atbfh.com

Avenida Suites

(888) 553-9943
www.avenidasuites.com

Gallery One Doubletree Suites

(954) 565-3800
www.doubletree.hilton.com

Extended Stay Hotels

(800) 804-3724
www.extstay.com

Marriott ExecuStay

(888) 220-0301
www.execustay.com

Oakwood Worldwide

(877) 902-0832
www.oakwood.com

Stress Free Corporate Housing

(954) 436-1050
www.stressfreecorporatehousing.com

The Perfect Place

(954) 796-7748
www.perfectplace.net

Greater Fort Lauderdale Rental Market

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Efficiency/Studio | \$860 | \$858 | \$872 | \$901 | \$941 |
| One bedroom | \$1,044 | \$1,049 | \$1,054 | \$1,091 | \$1,140 |
| Two bedroom | \$1,298 | \$1,277 | \$1,301 | \$1,352 | \$1,412 |
| Three bedroom | \$1,804 | \$1,575 | \$1,606 | \$1,637 | \$1,701 |
| Four bedroom | \$1,617 | \$1,608 | \$1,624 | \$1,680 | \$1,755 |

Note: Rental rates per month through 1st Quarter 2012.
Source: McCabe Research & Consulting, Deerfield Beach

María Alfonso, the South Florida Symphony Orchestra (www.southfloridasymphony.org) brings world-class musicians and performances to the region. Founded in 1997 as the Key West Symphony Orchestra, the organization expanded in 2010 to include the entire South Florida region. The symphony's goal is to provide an enriching cultural experience and to provide educational programs that build an appreciation of

classical music in the next generation of performers and concert-goers.

Through its education and outreach activities, the South Florida Symphony Orchestra touches many lives. Providing music education programs has been a key objective of the South Florida Symphony Orchestra's mission since its inception. These programs are designed to provide an



Photo Courtesy of Broward County Cultural Division

Greater Fort Lauderdale Museums

- Art and Culture Center of Hollywood
- Bonnet House Museum and Gardens
- Buehler Planetarium
- Coral Springs Museum of Art
- Ely Educational Museum
- Flamingo Gardens
- Fort Lauderdale Antique Car Museum
- Fort Lauderdale Fire and Safety Museum
- Fort Lauderdale History Center
- Fox Observatory
- Hammerstein House
- Hoch Heritage Center
- IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum
- International Swimming Hall of Fame Museum
- King Cromartie House
- Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University
- Museum of Discovery and Science and AutoNation® IMAX® 3D Theater
- My Jewish Discovery Place Museum
- Native Village
- New River Inn
- Old Davie School Historical Museum
- Old Dillard Museum
- Plantation Historical Museum
- South Florida Railway Museum
- Stranahan Historical House Museum
- The Schacknow Museum of Fine Arts
- Young At Art

For details visit:
www.broward.org/Arts

enriching cultural experience that is uniquely different from opportunities provided by other local sources and to develop future audiences and performers to insure the survival of this great art form.

Symphony of the Americas

Founded in 1987, Symphony of the Americas (www.symphonyoftheamericas.org) has experienced continuous growth, bringing the best of classical music blended with new Latin compositions to the multi-cultural population of South Florida. SOTA provides a subscription concert series in its performance home at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, offers educational experiences, and performs on three continents during its summer music festival. Dr. James Brooks-Bruzzese, the founding artistic director of SOTA, is a winner of the prestigious National Hispanic Heritage Arts Award presented annually at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. SOTA programming includes internationally recognized guest artists, world premieres of new works by Latin American composers, and a European chamber orchestra summer residency program. Its educational concert experiences serve 20,000 South Florida students, with summer educational experiences for 10,000 Latin American students.

Museum of Art

The Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale (www.moaf.org), founded in 1958, is well known for its exhibitions, which have ranged from *Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs* to the *Norman Rockwell Exhibition* and the Latin American Artists Exhibition. It also houses a highly regarded Artist in Residence Program, which broadens the sphere of conversation about contemporary art. The museum, which is affiliated with Nova Southeastern University, also offers courses in painting, drawing, design and other disciplines taught by professional

artists, along with an active performing arts program.

Museum of Discovery and Science

Museum of Discovery and Science (www.mods.org) recently expanded its facility with the opening of EcoDiscovery Center, a 31,000-square-foot addition that includes interactive technology exhibits and a new habitat for river otters. The museum's mission is to provide experiential pathways to lifelong learning in science for children and adults through exhibits, programs and films. Founded in 1976 as The Discovery Center, the nonprofit Fort Lauderdale facility includes a wide variety of exhibits and the AutoNation IMAX Theater, home of the largest movie screen in South Florida.

Young at Art

Two decades after its founding, Young at Art (www.youngatart.org) recently opened a new \$26 million museum on I-595 in Davie. YAA is one of just six children's museums in the nation accredited by the American Association of Museums. The 55,000-square-foot facility includes four galleries, painting, drawing and ceramics studios, as well as video and recording centers, outdoor gardens, and a new Broward County library.

Artist Enclaves

Greater Fort Lauderdale has a number of facilities and enclaves that support artists and other creative professionals. One example is Studio 18 in the Pines, an 11,000-square-foot renovated 1950s hospital laundry in Pembroke Pines that reopened as studio space for fine artists through a juried process. In Fort Lauderdale, F.A.T. (Flagler Arts & Technology) Village offers monthly art walks where residents and visitors can explore artist studios and galleries, attend black box theater productions, learn about the art of puppetry or experience an art installation in the oversized warehouse spaces. Also in Fort Lauderdale is Sailboat Bend Artist Lofts, a 37-unit artist live/work space close to the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District offering monthly gallery exhibitions of residents and special guest artists.

Just north of downtown is Wilton Manors, a burgeoning artist community that is always jumping with activity whether it be a parade, festival or gallery night walk.

For a fun, off-beat evening, Cinema Paradiso offers year-round screenings of independent films from around the globe

highlighted by filmmaker lectures and international festivities.

In the City of Hollywood, one can enjoy a Symphony of the Americas concert under the stars in the ArtsPark at Young Circle, catch a contemporary art exhibition at the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, experience live theater at the Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center or meet a published author at the Holocaust Documentation and Educational Center and the soon-to-be home of the South Florida Holocaust Museum.

To keep your finger on the pulse of the arts scene, visit www.ArtsCalendar.com.

Broward County Library

As the ninth-largest library system in the United States, Broward County Library (www.broward.org/library) touches the lives of the public once every second during its regular operating hours. With 37 locations, Broward County Library encompasses a flagship Main Library, the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center at Nova Southeastern University (the largest library in Florida), seven regional libraries and 30 branch libraries. In addition to circulating materials and

information access, Broward County Library brings a rich and diverse selection of programs, special events and classes throughout the year. Each year, the community looks forward to annual library events such as the Children’s Reading Festival, Pan African Bookfest and Cultural Conference, Literary Feast and StoryBook Festival.

The African-American Research Library and Cultural Center is one of a handful of libraries of its kind in the nation, including the Schomburg Center for Research in New York and the Auburn Avenue Research Library of Atlanta. The library houses over 85,000 books, manuscripts, artifacts and documents with special emphasis on the history of people of African, African-American and Caribbean descent. Since its opening in October 2002, the AARLCC has displayed over 38 major exhibits and offered more than 200 cultural programs to more than one million people, and has hosted many celebrities and noted national and international authors and speakers. The 60,000-square-foot building was a design collaboration by award-winning interior designer Cecil Hayes, public art designer Gary Moore and the largest African-American owned architectural and engineering firm in the U.S., PAWA Complex International.

Leading Shopping Venues

Shopping is a favorite activity for Greater Fort Lauderdale/ Broward County residents and visitors. While every neighborhood has its retail centers, the largest mall in the region is Sawgrass Mills in Sunrise, one of the state’s most popular shopping destinations. Other major suburban centers include Coral Ridge Mall, Westfield Broward Mall, Pembroke Lakes Mall and the Pompano Square Mall. In the eastern part of the county, The Galleria at Fort Lauderdale is an upscale shopping center, while Las Olas Boulevard is a favorite location for outdoor dining, shopping and entertainment. Along the New River, the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District includes cafés, boutiques and

outdoor entertainment in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Professional and Spectator Sports

Professional football, baseball, hockey, basketball and soccer are readily accessible to Greater Fort Lauderdale sports fans. In Sunrise, BankAtlantic Center is home to the National Hockey League’s Florida Panthers and Fort Lauderdale is home to the Fort Lauderdale Strikers professional soccer team.

Just to the south, the National Football League’s Miami Dolphins – who captured the AFC East Division Championship in 2008 – play at SunLife Stadium. A short drive down I-95 in downtown Miami is American Airlines Arena, home court for the Miami Heat, who captured the 2012 NBA championship led by superstars LeBron James, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh. Fans can also enjoy the Miami Marlins baseball team (World Series champions in 1997 and 2003) and the Miami FC professional soccer team.

Gaming and Pari-Mutuels

Greater Fort Lauderdale residents and guests can enjoy harness, thoroughbred and greyhound racing, as well as jai alai, “the world’s fastest sport,” in a variety of pari-mutuel facilities. In addition, these venues offer fast-paced gaming action, including slot machines, table games and poker.

- **Dania Jai Alai**
(954) 920-1511 — www.dania-jai-alai.com
- **Gulfstream Park Racing and Casino**
(954) 454-7000 — www.gulfstreampark.com
- **Isle Casino and Racing at Pompano Park**
(800) 843-4753 — www.pompano-park.isleofcapricasinos.com
- **Mardi Gras Casino**
(954) 924-3200 — www.mardigrascasinofl.com
- **Seminole Casino Coconut Creek**
(866) 222-7466 — www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com
- **Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino**
(866) 502-7529 — www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com
- **Seminole Hollywood Casino**
(954) 961-3220 — www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com



Gulfstream Park at Hallandale Beach