

SPONSORED CONTENT



It's time to restart with the arts in The Palm Beaches! Here to help you with three ideas for the coming week is the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, the official support agency for arts and culture here in Florida's Cultural Capital.

For more to enjoy and experience, explore the Council's online events calendar at palmbeachculture.com/events. Visit each organization's website for COVID-19 safety protocols and guidelines.



Enjoy the opening event of Lighthouse ArtCenter's eighth annual Plein Air Festival at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach this Sunday.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPLURGE

Anything but 'plein'

When you're already surrounded by pristine beaches and pitch-perfect weather, it's not all that much of a stretch to grab a paintbrush and start going at it. Lighthouse ArtCenter's eighth annual Plein Air Festival starts this weekend with a Paint-Out Competition at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach. Visit to see the artists compete for over \$2,000 in cash and prizes or purchase one of the paintings after the winners are declared — because supporting local artists feels good!

Eighth Annual Plein Air Festival: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 14. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for children and students. Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. For festival information: 561-746-3101 or www.lighthousearts.org.



Title: Assailable, Series: Bank Slate, Media: Oil on canvas, bronze, Size: 40" h x 30" w x 12" d, Year: 2021

DOMENIC ESPOSITO

DEAL

Important exhibition in West Palm Beach

Artist and social activist Domenic Esposito's new series of works, titled "Blank Slate," makes its debut at The Box Gallery in West Palm Beach this month. The series features bronze sculptures and paintings of hooded figures meant to demonstrate the artist's thoughts on mental illness, isolation and depression over the last year — especially in regard to those with substance abuse issues. Take the time and opportunity this week to stop and visit this impactful exhibition!

"Blank Slate" by Domenic Esposito: On display now through March 31. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, or by appointment. \$10 suggested donation at the door. The Box Gallery, 811 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach. Info: 786-521-1199 or www.theboxgallery.info.

FREE

A jazzy end to a fantastic festival

Ready to jazz things up a bit? Festival of the Arts Boca ends their 15th year this weekend with a virtual performance featuring Latin Grammy Award-winning flutist, Nestor Torres, and his Miami-based band. You've probably heard Torres' work before — he's worked with the likes of Gloria Estefan, Kenny Loggins, Dave Matthews and many other popular artists during his career. Enjoy his jazz flute stylings, shot live at the Boca Raton Resort & Club, from the comfort of home!

Festival of the Arts Boca Finale with Nestor Torres: 7 p.m. March 14. Admission is free, but access must be reserved at www.festivalboca.org.



See the virtual finale of Festival of the Arts Boca featuring flutist Nestor Torres. PHOTO PROVIDED

BTS on first Grammy nod: 'It's hard to express in words'

Mesfin Fekadu
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Stuck at home during the pandemic, BTS created "Dynamite" and released the song to their isolated fans as a gift. Now, the gift has returned to them — in the form of their first Grammy nomination.

"A lot of people were sad and down and out because of the COVID situation and it was sort of our suggestion to pick (everyone) up," Jin said in an interview this week with The Associated Press.

"We were supposed to do the whole stadium tour all over the world. There was no plan to release a single like 'Dynamite,'" RM explained. "'Dynamite' gave us huge success in Korea, of course, a Grammy nomination, a performance, so you know, life is really interesting."

"Dynamite" became BTS' first No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart when it was released last year. After years of logging Top 40 hits and selling out arenas and stadiums, the seven-member collective is competing for best pop duo/group performance and will also perform at Sunday's show.

BTS is the first K-pop act to compete at the Grammys.

"It's really hard to express in words," Jimin said of the nomination. "Even now we can't still believe that we were nominated, and we'll be able to perform at the Grammys. So, we're thankful. We're honored."

BTS' explosive hit will battle another No. 1 smash — Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande's "Rain on Me" — as well as Top 10 successes like Taylor Swift and Bon Iver's "Exile" and Justin Bieber and Quavo's "Intentions." J Balvin, Bad Bunny and Dua Lipa's "Un Dia (One Day)," which topped the Billboard Hot Latin songs chart, rounds out the five nominees.

"I always listen to 'Rain on Me.' It's so great to listen to that song on the treadmill. It was a hit. It was fire last year," RM said. "And, of course, 'Intentions,' 'Exile' was crazy. And J Balvin and Dua Lipa."

"We're nervous and actually, frankly, we're not expecting (to win) ..."

Malala takes her passions to the small screen

Brooke Lefferts
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Malala Yousafzai is a Nobel laureate known around the world for her activism, but she's also a cartoon fan, and is taking her love of television and film to Apple TV+.

Yousafzai, 23, who graduated from Oxford last June, announced Monday that she has partnered with Apple in a multi-year deal to develop dramas, documentaries, comedies, animation and series for kids.

Yousafzai was the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, in 2014, for working to protect children from slavery, extremism and child labor. In her home country, Pakistan, she was outspoken in insisting that girls have a right to an education. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman while riding a school bus at age 15. She recovered and went on to fight against girls' oppression worldwide.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Yousafzai talked about her love of cartoons as an escape, how she stays hopeful in a sometimes bleak world, and how she will mark Monday's International Women's Day.

This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Your new deal with Apple includes comedy and animated shows. Are you a comedy fan?

Yousafzai: In my childhood, it was Cartoon Network and, you know, seeing "Tom and Jerry," "Courage," "Scooby Doo" and all of those TV cartoon shows. When you are a child — and especially when terrorism started — to know that there is sort of this world in cartoons where you can escape from the reality around you and just giggle and laugh and just entertain yourself. You know, I have been watching comedy movies from Bollywood to Hollywood, and I am a big fan of animation as well. I have not missed a single animation movie. It just keeps you engaged and entertained and also gives you very beautiful messages.

AP: You'll also be developing documentaries and maybe covering your world travels to help girls?

Yousafzai: I definitely want to do documentaries and non-scripted shows, and it will cover a lot — hopefully my own journey as well — and the incredible girls that I meet.... But there's so much more to explore and to learn. I'm excited. You know, I'm still at the stage where I'm exploring ideas. I can tell you that there are so many incred-



In this 2019 file photo, Malala Yousafzai appears at the Cricket World Cup opening party in London. Yousafzai announced Monday that she has partnered with Apple TV+ in an exclusive, multi-year content deal to develop dramas, documentaries, comedies, animation, and series for kids.

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

ible ideas and it's so difficult to pick and choose one.

AP: A stat on your website suggests it will take 100 years until all girls have access to education. Sometimes the news is so dark, how do you maintain hope?

Yousafzai: I think when you raise your voice, it can have an impact and it can bring change. What will make me pessimistic is if we don't do anything. So as long as we keep doing our part, there is optimism, there is hope. I think it's just the silence that keeps things going as they are.

AP: How are you going to mark International Women's Day?

Yousafzai: We need to just take a bit of a break and celebrate the accomplishments that women have made. And I'm not just talking about historical figures and activist women — we need to applaud them and appreciate them. But us as individuals, who are in school, in colleges studying, or parents who are coping with COVID and being at home and managing their kids and also doing work and managing these Zoom calls and everything. So to all the women who just coped — especially last year, you know — take a break and be proud of yourself. You have done an incredible job.

AP: Many girls look up to you as a hero. Who are your heroes?

Yousafzai: I have many, many heroes, from my parents to historical figures like Benazir Bhutto, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela. But the people who have actually and truly inspired me are the young girls that I have met in my journey. Girls from Iraq to Brazil, Nigeria, Kenya. So many of these girls have incredible stories that they have seen —

wars, conflicts. They have become displaced. They have been forced into marriages at early ages. But they do not give up on their dreams and they are still fighting for the right to education, for their right to a safe future. If they are not giving up on their fight for education, then why should we?

AP: How has it been in quarantine at home?

Yousafzai: I spent the last two months of college at home because of COVID. And I was taking my exams at home and I graduated at home and it's all just been home, home, home. I have two younger brothers and it's quite difficult to manage your work while they're in the house. They have their own sort of schedule and timetable. And I would have an important call and they would just come to my room and not appreciate that. But still, you know, they are my brothers and I love them. So we're just coping with it and trying our best not to argue too much.

AP: What is your message for young girls who want to be activists?

Yousafzai: My message to young girls is always, never underestimate yourself. We are often told that you have to grow older and get a PhD or something, and then once you are 50 or 40, then you can change things. Follow that path if you want, but you can change things now as well. Do not underestimate the power you have, even in the small actions that you take, whether that is raising awareness, doing fundraising for a cause you believe in, talking to somebody that doesn't agree with you.... Talk about why women's rights and girls' rights are important, why climate change is important. All of these things matter.