



FROM BLIGHT TO BRILLIANCE

THRIVE ART DISTRICT AND THE RISE OF LOCAL ARTISTS IN DISTRICT 2

Nearly six years ago, brothers Jonathan and Abraham Fish took me on a tour and shared a bold vision with me: to transform a forgotten stretch of warehouses in Progresso Village into a dynamic destination for art, culture and community. I'll be honest — with the auto bays, rag shops and crumbling facades before us, I looked at them and said, "Really?!"

Fast forward to 2025 and that vision has come to life as the Thrive Art District — a 5.3-acre creative campus that pulses with color, energy and opportunity. With more than 80,000 square feet of studios, storefronts, restaurants, fitness and event space, Thrive is becoming a vibrant centerpiece of District 2, nearly 70 percent of the spaces are already leased along with Uncommon Path Brewing and Restaurant already open to the public, and five more food and beverage concepts opening in the fall.

Thrive isn't just a place — it's a movement. Art walks, fitness events, yoga sessions (drawing more than 300 attendees!), concerts, workshops, car shows and exhibitions are turning Progresso Village into a new cultural landmark. The creative force behind this movement? A diverse group of visionary local and international artists whose work now fills the walls and inspires our community.

Artists like Tatiana Suarez, a South Florida-based muralist known for her masterful, peace-filled portraits and Hilton Alves, who brings oceanic wonder to life through vibrant, large-scale wave murals, are just two examples of the caliber of talent at Thrive. You'll also find bold, geometric murals by Marcus "GRABSTER" Borges, dreamlike oil paintings by Reinier Gamboa, and installations by Nico, whose global work often uplifts



children through art education.

Miami favorites such as Jose Mertz, Santiago Rubino, Johnny Robles, Mwanell "1-L" and Diana Paz (DE89) explore cultural identity and abstract emotion through their distinct visual languages, while iconic names like El Pez, El Xupet Negro, ABSTRK, KRAM and HOXXOH add international flair to our local walls. Artists like Jonathan Olaya (J.O.), Joshua Hall (Baghead) and Israel SLEP ONE infuse the district with storytelling, community messages and a reflection of shared human experience.

Together, these creatives have turned Thrive into more than an art district — it's a destination that merges soul, story and space. I genuinely believe Thrive is on track to become South Florida's next iconic art neighborhood, perhaps even outshining Wynwood with its authenticity and heart.

If you haven't visited yet, consider this your invitation. The art is stunning, the food is fantastic and the energy is infectious. Thrive is a true testament to what's possible when vision meets action — and when art is at the center of a community's rebirth. 



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE