



Contact: Jerry Beck, 978-590-3759  
[jerrybeckrevolvingmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jerrybeckrevolvingmuseum@gmail.com)  
[TheRevolvingMuseum.org](http://TheRevolvingMuseum.org)  
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## **The Revolving Museum's "WORD PLAY: PUBLIC ART-MOBILES" Will Make A Historic Tour Of All 31 Broward County Municipalities To Make Space for Art, Language, and Community Celebration**

***Kick-off Event is on Saturday, Feb. 25th, 6-11 pm, as part of [MASS District](#) Art Walk Music & Arts—***

***South of Sunrise Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale***

**BROWARD COUNTY, Fla.; Feb.17, 2023** – South Florida's newest public art organization, [The Revolving Museum](#), (TRM) is launching a community-building adventure-seeking tour to all 31 cities and towns in Broward County to respond to contemporary issues and create a powerful sense of community, civic pride, and activism. TRM Founder/Director Jerry Beck, born and raised in Hollywood, FL, organized this traveling show to make an artistic statement about the use of text in our social media, online world, political campaigns, and the problem with literacy in Florida and across the country.

"This innovative and educational project will involve the participation of artists, youth, and community members in a learning experiment through art-making, humor, dialogue, and cathartic fun by interacting with a traveling carnival of creativity. The end game is inspire people to believe they can make a difference in helping create a safer, healthier, loving and more collaborative world," said Jerry Beck.

Since their first public artwork in 12 abandoned railroad cars in 1984, The Revolving Museum has become a nationally recognized non-profit public arts organization that revitalizes under-utilized public spaces such as a haunted civil war fort on an island in the Boston Harbor, a four-block long decaying cotton mill complex and smokestack, a baseball field, roofless movie theater, alleyways, and most recently an unused airport runway in which Beck involved over 5000 people to build the world's largest paper airplane that received international attention.

"WORD PLAY: PUBLIC ART-MOBILES" encompasses four public art-mobiles that will make planned and spontaneous stops at art festivals, fairs, main streets, museums, schools, libraries, historic sites, sports arenas and public spaces. Each stop will include free programming and creative opportunities for the public as well as a night-time experience of film projections, music, interactive games, and free art-making workshops.

An important element of the tour will be the creation of a public art project involving the public using recycled materials. This public artwork will be given to each city and town as a gift from The Revolving Museum.

"Jerry brings a fresh and exciting artistic experience to Broward County. His traveling art show is fun for the whole family," said Broward County Cultural Division Executive Director Phillip Dunlap, who supported The Revolving Museum during the highly successful "IGNITE Broward Art and Light Festival" a few weeks ago at Esplanade Park in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

One of the "Word Play" art-mobiles featured a 12-foot-high sculptural head embellished with colorful drawings and poetry. In the eyes of the large head are video projectors that will showcase experimental, documentary, silent, and animated films made by Jason Daniels, founder of the International 100-Second Film Festival and award winning film maker Keith Wasserman. Another Art-mobile features a renovated 1952 Ford pick-up truck that will pull an 18-foot-long enclosed gallery space which, on the outside, displays colorful hand-carved wooden signs with short poems created by Jerry Beck with sayings such as "I Wish Vitamin C Made Everyone Honest;" "He Would Trade All His Guns for One of Cupid's Arrows," "Polish Your Insecurities Until You Shine," and "Human Evolution Ended with Ice Cream."

Inside the gallery is an installation of paintings, drawings, photography, poetry, and graphic designs created by Howard Finster, Shepard Fairey, Gabriella Bates, William T. Wiley, Jim Roche, Mario Ruschel, Jamie Friend, Kevin Bradley, Bill Czappa, Jose Gonzalez, Nadya Volicer, Ed Marshall, Renita Martin, Paul Lewin, Keith Walsh, Danny Ayala, Danielle James, Annie Dechainee and dozens more.

One of the poets represented is "Howard Camner, a Pulitzer Prize nominee and New Times Poet of the Year "Best of Miami." Camner praises Beck as a visionary and goes on to say, "Jerry has the ability to inspire the public to believe in their creative abilities. He is an arts leader who reveals how art can be a catalyst for personal, social, ecological, economic and political change. We need this now more than ever before".

Finally, inside the 1952 Ford pick-up's box gallery is an installation of art by those incarcerated that included drawings created by prisoners on handkerchiefs with ballpoint pens, colored pencils, coffee beans, ash and even egg yolks. "The Revolving Museum has a long history of working with adults and youth in lock-up facilities, and I have seen the positive benefits that the arts can provide in the rehabilitation and reintegration of these populations" Beck said.

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## **About The Revolving Museum**

In 1984, artist Jerry Beck founded The Revolving Museum (TRM) with "The Little Train That Could Show," an installation in 12 abandoned railroad cars in Boston. This project involved dozens of artists, youth and the homeless who lived in the train cars. The effort received national attention and launched TRM as an alternative public art museum that revitalized under-utilized public space through art festivals, pop-up exhibitions, educational programs, and specials events.

TRM's signature phrase, "Making Space for Art and Community," suggests the collaborative nature of the Beck's vision: the belief that a community can be strengthened through an introduction to art, to one another, to contemporary social, environmental and political concerns, and to the unlimited artistic possibilities of their shared environment.

TRM has received many awards, including Massachusetts Cultural Council's Commonwealth Award in the category of "Community," the state's highest honor in the arts, humanities and sciences. TRM was a finalist for The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the country's most prestigious youth art awards. He has been awarded several National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Beck and TRM has produced major projects in South Florida over the years, including the opening ceremony of Art Basel, where an airplane carried poetry along Miami Beach. Another exhibit was the “Yeast of Eden” project at the Florida Jewish Museum that included a full-scale bread house made by over 500 youth, artists and educators. At the Miami Book Fair, TRM presented “The Ecological Theme Park of Youthful Invention” that featured a comic book and public artwork involving over 200 Broward County high school students.

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*\* Please find below high resolution images and descriptions of the project.*



The Revolving Museum’s “WORD PLAY: Florida Road Show” (2023), a traveling public art project, educational program, and performance event. (Photo by Jerry Beck)





The Revolving Museum's "WORD PLAY: Florida Road Show" (2023), a traveling public art project, educational program, and performance event. View of interior gallery. (Photo by Jerry Beck)



The Revolving Museum's "WORD PLAY: Florida Road Show" (2023), a traveling public art project, educational program, and performance event. (Photo by Jerry Beck)





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LETTUCE COME TO CHURCH,  
KETCHUP WITH JESUS, BEET  
THE DEVIL, SQUASH OUR HATE,  
RELISH FOR HEAVEN, PEAR  
DOWN GREED, AND TURNIP  
WHEN HE CALLS, SOULFUL,  
FROM MY HEAD  
TOMATOES.

View of Florida artist Jim Roche's artwork. Part of The Revolving Museum's "WORD PLAY: Florida Road Show" (2023), a traveling public art project, educational program, and performance event. (Photo by Jim Roche)



View of Florida artist Jerry Beck standing in front of his "Signs Of Life" public art installation. Part of The Revolving Museum's "WORD PLAY: Florida Road Show" (2023), a traveling public art project, educational program, and performance event. (Photo by Jim Roche)