

# OFF THE WALL *Gala*

**E**xhibitions of color, theatrics, emotion, and generosity marked **The Arc of Palm Beach County's Off the Wall Gala**. Hundreds of vibrantly dressed guests attended the sold-out party at the **Norton Museum of Art**.

Attendees were enchanted by a parade of characters fit for the *Gala's* theme, *A Night of Illusion*, which included contortionists, a moving painting, and life-sized flowers. Some of the clients from The Arc's *Artisan Program* displayed their artistic abilities during the cocktail hour, then danced the night away.

In a special announcement, **Kimberly McCarten**, President and CEO of The Arc of Palm Beach County, revealed that the agency's main campus will be transformed into The Arc's *Education Hub*. The *Education Hub* will house Potentials and SAIL charter schools, serving students with disabilities from age 3 to 22. New classrooms, a barrier-free playground, and enhanced learning tools will provide the space, technology, and community connectivity needed to ensure students can succeed in life beyond graduation.

"The Arc of Palm Beach County is bigger and stronger than ever before," McCarten said. "Being able to live, learn, and thrive is so important not only for our emotional wellness, but also for our financial wellness, and that holds true for people with disabilities as well."

The **GEO Group**, a staunch supporter of all the great works of The Arc, was the presenting sponsor for the fundraising event. Each year, The Arc impacts 3,500 individuals with disabilities and their families through education, housing, and employment services.

The Arc is changing the conversation around disabilities by defying definitions, inspiring possibilities, and improving the lives of the people they serve, their families, and the community. Since 1958, The Arc has envisioned a community where every person feels welcome, connected, and accepted. For more information about The Arc of Palm Beach County visit [www.arcpbc.org](http://www.arcpbc.org).



**FIRST ROW:** Richard Bodwell, Kimberly McCarten and Karen Bodwell; Katrina Long-Robinson, Noel Martinez and Heather Albu; **SECOND ROW:** Paul and Paula Wittmann; Brian and Tara Evans with Tammy and Brian Fleming; **THIRD ROW:** Rick and Brigette Gonzalez with Aleli De La Vega and Sofia De La Vega; Kurt and Linda Gehring; **FOURTH ROW:** Derek Bruce, Noemi Coltea and Gabriela Coltea; Laura and Brian Fowler, Kimberly McCarten and Rebecca Perree. PHOTOS: TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY