

# NEIGHBORS

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## DEERING ESTATE

# Artists spotlight Haitian community

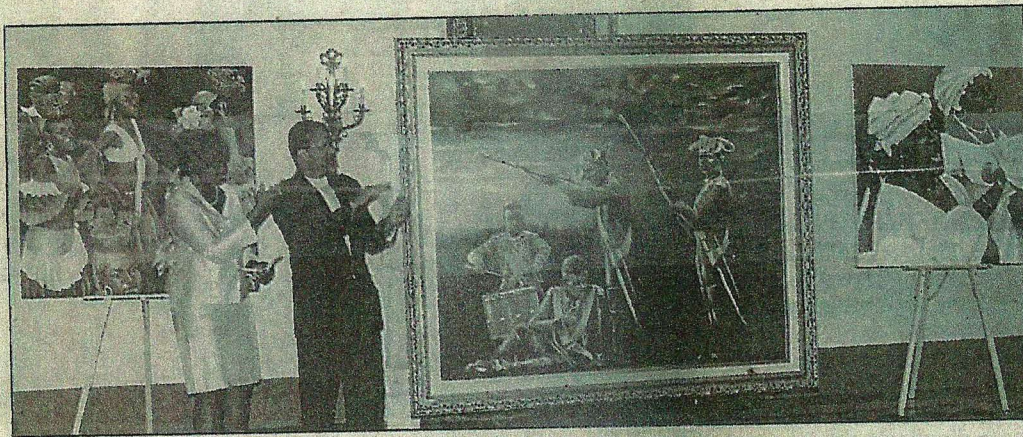
■ A financial advisor turned artist is bringing attention to the accomplishments of the Haitian community.

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In celebration of Haitian Cultural Heritage Month, the Deering Estate at Cutler recently hosted the unveiling event of Haitian artist Carl Craig's *Resurrection 2009*.

The piece, a rendition of the James Mastin's monument at the Franklin Square in Georgia, is a representation of the Haitian soldiers who participated in the Siege of Savannah in 1779.

Sponsored in part by Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Dennis C. Moss, Commissioner Katy Sorenson and the Haitian-American Historical Society, the event also featured artwork by Alexandra Barbot as



**UNVEILING:** Artists Alexandra Barbot and Carl Craig with 'Resurrection 2009,' a piece representing the Haitian soldiers who participated in the Siege of Savannah.

well as speeches by historians Claude Charles and Jean-Claude Exulien.

"I'm glad to see a diverse art collection emerging at the Deering Estate.

"Mr. Craig's work, as well as the other pieces at the event, will allow residents to understand the contributions

Haitians have made to our community and beyond," Sorenson said.

Craig, a Haitian-born financial consultant who studied at Florida International University and worked on Wall Street for more than 15 years, decided two years ago to leave the business

world and turn his attention to art.

While working as a financial advisor for the Haitian Prime Minister Gérard Latorue between 2004-2006, the 58-year-old began taking pictures of carnivals and everyday life throughout the country.

Soon after, he started painting what he had captured on film.

"I always fooled around with brushes and pencils as a kid. Now, I do it all day long.

The West Kendall resident said he did the painting of the monument as a contribution to the Haitian American Historical Society and to highlight the achievements of the Haitian community.

His plans are not set in stone, but he hopes to unveil *Resurrection 2009* later in the year at the Government Center in downtown Miami, travel with it to the Haitian Embassy in Washington D.C. and eventually see it in the Library of Congress or the headquarters of the Organization of American States.

"The project itself is very important to us Haitians. It's not about me at all. It's about the contribution Haitians made to the world."