



*Xavier Cortada, "FLOR500 Flower Force," 80 drawings (charcoal on board) and Florida native wildflower seeds inside clear bags on grid, 2012.*

# Flor500

BY XAVIER CORTADA

# FLOR500



Flor500 is a participatory art project initiated by Miami artist Xavier Cortada to commemorate Florida's quinentennial in 2013 and is also the precursor to the artist's Flower Force project. The project aimed to commemorate Florida's native flowers on the quinentennial of Juan Ponce de Leon's arrival to the state in 1513. The flower was chosen as the focal iconography of the project for its historical significance in the naming of the state by Ponce de Leon, naming it "La Florida" after the Spanish word for flower - flor.

effort from the various communities and professionals involved, Flor500 fits into Cortada's oeuvre naturally, the socially-engaged intent of this project being similar to that of his other projects like "Native Flags" and "Underwater HOA." This can be seen not only within the collaborative effort required to undertake Flor500, but through the way participants interact with the project. Cortada asks his participants to approach Florida's history and commemorate it by planting a native wildflower, an attempt at returning the natural environment back to its initial state as it was in 1513.

To accomplish a work of this scale, there required an ability from the artist to navigate through large institutions and systems to accomplish the project, an intention by the artist so to later use the overarching effort of Flor500 as a framework for others to follow in the creation of a viable social practice. While large in scope, Flor500 operates through communal involvement, the inception of the project requiring a variety of volunteers across multiple disciplines to carry out, from a team of scientists that selected five hundred specific wildflowers native to Florida to be used in the project, to five hundred different artists invited to depict a specific wildflower.

However, through this communal involvement Cortada sets out to impart a comprehension of the state's history that is much older than Florida's celebrated birthday. Florida's history did not begin in 1513, it began much earlier. Cortada wants his audience to understand that Ponce de Leon's arrival was important as it changed the course of everything within the state, whether positively or negatively. This presents Flor500 as a historical undertaking, the artist not only commemorating Florida's history but prompting participants to literally grow their own history, adding to Florida's already diverse natural landscape.

Historians were invited to develop a list of five hundred individuals that had a deep impact on the history of the state. The names of these important individuals were then used in naming wildflower gardens planted by individual FLOR500 participants as well as those organized through universities, schools and libraries across the state. Through its immense collaborative

In no small way, the production and aftermath of Flor500 speaks to a greater and more educational opportunity for the future of the project. This is aided, intentionally, through the very processes that work to produce an effort such as this, the documentation of Flor500 not only acting as a preservation of the work itself, but a framework for future social engagement.



TOP: Artist Xavier Cortada, Secretary of State Ken Detzner, and Jeff Caster from the DOT plant the first FLOR500 garden dedicated to the indigenous people of Florida outside the R. A. Gray building at Capitol Hill, Tallahassee, FL  
BOTTOM: FLOR500 garden dedications at schools across the State of Florida

# 500 FLOWERS

The selection of the wildflower as the figurehead of the Flor500 campaign references the literal and figurative roots of Florida's natural timeline, presenting the wildflower(s) not only as contextually significant iconography, but as a conceptual representation of the dissemination and diversity of the state's history over time. This can be seen in every level of Flor500, particularly at its very premise, the artist gaining the help of Dr. Richard P. Wunderlin, Ph.D. from the Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants/Institute for Systematic Botany at the University of South Florida and a team of fellow botanists from across the state in selecting the 500 native wildflowers to be featured in the project. Much like a flower may be allowed perpetual existence through a single seed, the dissemination of Flor500 is continued through its participants.

## REGION 1:

- String-lily (*Crinum americanum*)
- Crested Saltbush (*Atriplex pentandra*)
- Finger-rot (*Cnidocolus stimulosus*)
- Pickereelweed (*Pontederia cordata*)
- Pink Sundew (*Drosera capillaris*)
- Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*)
- Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
- Zigzag Iris (*Iris brevicaulis*)
- Pale Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia mariana*)
- Wild Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*)
- Lanceleaf Tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
- Adam's Needle (*Yucca filamentosa*)
- Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Fringed Bluestar (*Amsonia ciliata*)
- American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)
- Oneflower Honeycombhead (*Balduina uniflora*)
- Soft Greeneyes (*Berlandiera pumila*)
- White Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera blephariglossis*)
- Orange Reinorchid (*Platanthera integra*)
- Purple Lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
- Catesby's Lily (*Lilium catesbaei*)
- Georgia Indian Plantain (*Amoglossum sulcatum*)
- Bristleleaf Chaffhead (*Carphephorus pseudoliatris*)
- Pineland Daisy (*Chaptalia tomentosa*)
- Bush Goldenrod (*Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*)
- Narrowleaf Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis linearifolia*)
- Godfrey's Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis godfreyi*)
- Queen-of-the-meadow (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)
- Flaxleaf Aster (*Onactis linearifolia*)
- Sundial Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)
- Florida Anisetree (*Illicium floridanum*)
- Scarlet Calamint (*Calamintha coccinea*)
- False Rosemary (*Conradina canescens*)
- Yellow Meadowbeauty (*Rhexia lutea*)
- Fevertree (*Pinckneya bracteata*)
- Tracy's Sundew (*Drosera tracyi*)
- Wild Ginger (*Asarum arifolium*)
- Eastern Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*)
- Florida Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*)
- American Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*)
- Whitetop Pitcherplant (*Sarracenia leucophylla*)
- Comfortroot (*Hibiscus aculeatus*)
- White Birds-in-a-nest (*Macbridea alba*)
- Fringed Pink (*Silene catesbaei*)
- Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*)
- Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)
- Wiregrass Gentian (*Gentiana pennelliana*)
- Dwarf Witchalder (*Fothergilla gardenii*)
- Meadow Garlic (*Allium canadense* var. *mobile*)
- Harper's Beauty (*Harperocalis flava*)
- Coastal False Asphodel (*Tofieldia racemosa*)
- Panhandle Lily (*Lilium iridolae*)
- Blueflower Eryngium (*Eryngium integrifolium*)
- Pineland Milkweed (*Asclepias obovata*)
- Alabama Milkvine (*Matelea alabamensis*)
- Devil's Grandmother (*Elephantopus tomentosus*)
- Hairy Puccoon (*Lithospermum carolinense*)
- American Bellflower (*Campanula americana*)
- Silky Camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*)

## REGION 2:

- American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*)
- Yellow Butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*)
- Mangrove Spiderlily (*Hymenocallis latifolia*)
- American Eelgrass (*Vallisneria americana*)
- Florida Scrub Roseling (*Callisia ornata*)
- Fragrant Ladiestresses (*Spiranthes odorata*)
- Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*)
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*)
- Longbract Wake Robin (*Trillium underwoodii*)
- Slender woodoats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
- Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
- Climbing hydrangea (*Decumaria barbara*)
- Purplehead Sneezeweed (*Helenium flexuosum*)
- Pinkscale Gayleather (*Liatris elegans*)
- Tall Ironweed (*Vernonia angustifolia*)
- Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)
- Yellow Pitcherplant (*Sarracenia flava*)
- Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*)
- May Haw (*Crataegus aestivalis*)
- Carolina Scalystem (*Elytraria carolinensis*)
- White Arrow Arum (*Peltandra cornuta*)
- Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Ash's Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla* var. *ashei*)
- Common Eveningprimrose (*Oenothera biennis*)
- Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)
- Shootingstar (*Primula meadia*)
- Florida Betony (*Stachys floridana*)
- Swamp Loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*)
- Turkscap Lily (*Lilium superbum*)
- Miccosukee Gooseberry (*Ribes echinellum*)
- American Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- Florida Balm (*Dicerandra densiflora*)
- Crowpoison (*Nothoscordum bivalve*)
- Florida Bellwort (*Uvularia floridana*)
- Broomsedge Bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*)
- Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
- Smooth Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)
- Hemlock Waterparsnip (*Sium Suave*)
- Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)
- Sandhill Spiny Pod (*Matelea pubiflora*)
- Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
- Hammock Snakeroot (*Ageratina juncunda*)
- Eastern Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*)
- Coastal Sweetpepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
- Titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*)
- Rainily (*Zephyranthes atamasca*)
- American Wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*)
- Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*)
- Virginia Willow (*Itea virginica*)
- Trailing Ratany (*Krameria lanceolata*)
- Floating Badderwort (*Utricularia inflata*)
- Woodland Poppymallow (*Callirhoe papaver*)
- Southern Catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*)
- Florida Phlox (*Phlox floridana*)
- Tall Pinebarren Milkwort (*Polygala cymosa*)
- Dogtongue Wild Buckwheat (*Eriogonum tomentosum*)
- Largeflower Jointweed (*Polygonella robusta*)
- Virginsbower (*Clematis virginiana*)
- Carolina Larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*)

## REGION 3:

- Lanceleaf Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aestivalis*)
- Beach Morning-glory (*Ipomoea imperati*)
- Poorman's Patch (*Mentzelia floridana*)
- Manyflowered Grasspink (*Calopogon multiflorus*)
- Bulltongue Arrowhead (*Sagittaria lancifolia*)
- Horned Bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*)
- Yellow Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*)
- Sweet Pinxter Azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*)
- American Snowbell (*Styrax americana*)
- Loblolly Bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*)
- Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)
- Red Chokeberry (*Photinia pyrifolia*)
- Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*)
- Nightflowering Wild Petunia (*Ruellia noctiflora*)
- Skyblue Lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*)
- Lyreleaf Sage (*Salvia lyrata*)
- Savannah Meadowbeauty (*Rhexia alifanum*)
- Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*)
- Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis*)
- Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)
- Procession Flower (*Polygala incarnata*)
- Bastard False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)
- Carolina Redroot (*Lachnanthes carolina*)
- Yellow Sunnyside (*Schoenolirion croceum*)
- Lanceleaf Rosegentian (*Sabatia difformis*)
- Whitemouth Dayflower (*Commelina erecta*)
- Bartram's Ixia (*Calydorea caelestina*)
- Battlebrush Threewain (*Aristida spiciformis*)
- Georgia Tickseed (*Coreopsis nudata*)
- Elliott's Yellowweed Grass (*Xyris elliptica*)
- Fewflower Milkweed (*Asclepias lanceolata*)
- Groundsel Tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*)
- Tall Elephantfoot (*Elephantopus elatus*)
- Elliott's Milkpea (*Galactia elliptica*)
- Blueflower Butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea*)
- Common Fanpetals (*Sida ulmifolia*)
- Largeleaf Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia grandifolia*)
- Standingcypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*)
- Heartwing Dock (*Rumex hastatulus*)
- Pink Purslane (*Portulaca pilosa*)
- Flatwoods Plum (*Prunus umbellata*)
- Common Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)
- Giant Orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecrinata*)
- Hooded Pitcherplant (*Sarracenia minor*)
- Horse Sugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*)
- Pitted Stripeseed (*Piriqeta cistoides* susp. *caroliniana*)
- Rose Mock Vervain (*Glandularia canadensis*)
- Bog White Violet (*Viola lanceolata*)
- American Bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*)
- Virginia Dayflower (*Commelina virginica*)
- Coastalplain Hawkweed (*Hieracium megapetalum*)
- Grassleaf Lettuce (*Lactuca graminifolia*)
- Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Pondspice (*Litsea aestivalis*)
- Rose-rush (*Lygodesmia aphylla*)
- Grassleaf Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia graminifolia*)
- Sweetscent (*Pluchea odorata*)
- Orange Milkwort (*Polygala lutea*)
- Bluejacket (*Tradescantia ohimensis*)
- Sweetscent (*Pluchea odorata*)
- Orange Milkwort (*Polygala lutea*)
- Bluejacket (*Tradescantia ohimensis*)

## REGION 4:

- Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Coastalplain Honeycombhead (*Balduina angustifolia*)
- Florida Greeneyes (*Berlandiera subcaulis*)
- Bushy Seaside Oxeye (*Borrchia frutescens*)
- Ash's Calamint (*Calamintha ashei*)
- American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
- Florida Paintbush (*Carphephorus corymbosus*)
- Sweet Pinxter Azalea (*Carphephorus odoratissimus* var. *subtropicus*)
- Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)
- White Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
- Florida Tickseed (*Coreopsis floridana*)
- Leavenworth's Tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*)
- Oblongleaf Twinflower (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*)
- Coralbean (*Erythrina herbacea*)
- Marsh Gentian (*Eustoma exaltatum*)
- Firewheel (*Gaillardia pulchella*)
- Garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*)
- Tampa Mock Vervain (*Glandularia tampensis*)
- Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)
- Spanish Daisy (*Helium amarum*)
- Narrowleaf Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*)
- West Coast Dune Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis* subsp. *vestitus*)
- Pineland Heliotrope (*Heliotropium polyphyllum*)
- Scarlet Rosemallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*)
- Roundpod St. John's-wort (*Hypericum cistifolium*)
- Coastalplain St. John's-wort (*Hypericum brachyphyllum*)
- Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*)
- Dense Gayleather (*Liatris spicata*)
- Shortleaf Gayleather (*Liatris tenuifolia*)
- Gopher Apple (*Licania michauxii*)
- Cardinalflower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
- Christmasberry (*Lycium carolinianum*)
- Fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*)
- Powderpuff (*Mimosa strigillosa*)
- Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata*)
- Gulf Muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
- Feay's Palafox (*Palafoxia feayi*)
- Manyflower Beardtongue (*Penstemon multiflorus*)
- Downy Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*)
- Wild Pennyroyal (*Pibolephus rigida*)
- Silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*)
- Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)
- Rouge Plant (*Rivina humilis*)
- Blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Carolina Wild Petunia (*Ruellia carolinensis*)
- Largeflower Rosegentian (*Sabatia grandiflora*)
- Azure Blue Sage (*Salvia azurea*)
- Tropical Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
- Starry Rosinweed (*Silphium asteriscus*)
- Chapman's Goldenrod (*Solidago odora* var. *chapmanii*)
- Yellow Necklacedpod (*Sophora tomentosa* var. *truncata*)
- Elliott's Aster (*Symphotrichum elliptica*)
- Forked Bluecurls (*Trichostema dichotomum*)
- Shiny Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*)
- Walter's Viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*)
- Lemon Bacopa (*Bacopa caroliniana*)
- Yellow Waterlily (*Nymphaea mexicana*)
- Tuberous Grasspink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)
- White Mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*)



*Aquilegia canadensis*

Photo by Kenneth Szymanski  
University of Wisconsin

*Drosera capillaris*

Photo by Shirley Devinen



*Berlandiera pumila*

Photo by Shirley Devinen



*Amsonia ciliata*

Photo by Dennis Glend



*Cnidocolus stimulosus*

Photo by Shirley Devinen



*Magnolia grandiflora*

Photo by Michael Dransmond



*Crinum americanum*

Photo by Keith Bradley



*Rhexia mariana*

Photo by Shirley Devinen



*Coreopsis lanceolata*

Photo by Virginia Davey  
USF Herbarium Slide Collection



**REGION 5:**

- 241. Celestial Lily (Nemastylis floridana)
- 242. Curtiss' Milkweed (Asclepias curtisii)
- 243. Sensitive Brier (Mimosa quadrivalvis var. angustata)
- 244. Spanish Moss (Tillandsia usneoides)
- 245. Spatterdock (Nuphar advena)
- 246. Hairy Chaffhead (Carphephorus paniculatus)
- 247. Slender Flattop Goldenrod (Euthamia caroliniana)
- 248. Britton's Beargrass (Nolina brittoniana)
- 249. Bigflower Pawpaw (Asimina obovata)
- 250. Hartwrightia (Hartwrightia floridana)
- 251. Wideleaf Pinelandcress (Warea amplexifolia)
- 252. Red Maple (Acer rubrum)
- 253. Scrub Plum (Prunus geniculata)
- 254. Cooley's Waterwillow (Justicia cooleyi)
- 255. Big Floatingheart (Nymphoides aquatica)
- 256. Scrub Wild Olive (Osmanthus megacarpus)
- 257. Summer Farewell (Dalea pinnata)
- 258. Yellow Anisetree (Illicium parviflorum)
- 259. Helmet Skullcap (Scutellaria integrifolia)
- 260. Yellow Jessamine (Gelsemium sempervirens)
- 261. Netleaf Leather-flower (Clematis reticulata)
- 262. Sweetscented Pigeonwings (Clitoria fragrans)
- 263. Carolina False Vervain (Stylodon carneum)
- 264. Jeweled Blue-eyed Grass (Sisyrinchium xerophyllum)
- 265. Florida Lady's Nightcap (Bonania grandiflora)
- 266. Tarflower (Bejaria racemosa)
- 267. Longleaf Spiderwort (Tradescantia roseolens)
- 268. Dixie Iris (Iris hexagona)
- 269. Pineland Waterwillow (Justicia angusta)
- 270. Cottonweed (Fraelichia floridana)
- 271. Spotted Water Hemlock (Cicuta maculata)
- 272. Florida Milkweed (Matelea floridana)
- 273. Burmarigold (Bidens laevis)
- 274. Claspng Venus' Looking-glass (Triodanis perfoliata)
- 275. Florida Alicia (Chapmannia floridana)
- 276. Sandlace (Polygonella myriophylla)
- 277. New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus)
- 278. Florida Pinkroot (Spigelia loganioides)
- 279. Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia)
- 280. Big Caltrop (Kallstroemia maxima)
- 281. Smooth Yellow False Foxglove (Aureolaria flava)
- 282. Chinquapin (Castanea pumila)
- 283. Silver Croton (Croton argyranthemus)
- 284. Longspur Balm (Dicerandra cornutissima)
- 285. Green-fly Orchid (Epidendrum conopseum)
- 286. Oakleaf Fleabane (Erigeron quercifolius)
- 287. Stiff Sunflower (Helianthus radula)
- 288. Oakleaf Hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia)
- 289. Scarlet Creeper (Ipomoea hederacea)
- 290. Tall Lespedeza (Lespedeza stuevei)
- 291. Savannah False Pimpernel (Lindernia grandiflora)
- 292. Tropical Puff (Neptunia pubescens)
- 293. Walter's Groundcherry (Physalis walteri)
- 294. Eustis Lake Beardtongue (Penstemon australis)
- 295. Longhorn False Reinorchid (Habenaria quinqueseta)
- 296. Squarehead (Tetragonotheca helianthoides)
- 297. Wood Sage (Teucrium canadense)
- 298. Goat's Rue (Tephrosia virginiana)
- 299. Carolina Horsenettle (Solanum carolinense)
- 300. Blackroot (Pterocaulon pycnostachyum)

**REGION 6:**

- 301. Bayleaf Cappertree (Capparis flexuosa)
- 302. Alligatorflag (Thalia geniculata)
- 303. Simpson's Stopper (Myrcianthes fragrans)
- 304. Baybean (Canavalia rosea)
- 305. Gray Nicker (Caesalpinia bonduc)
- 306. Spanish Bayonet (Yucca aloifolia)
- 307. Fourpetal Pawpaw (Asimina tetramera)
- 308. Railroad Vine (Ipomoea pes-caprae)
- 309. Yellow Calicoroot (Aletris lutea)
- 310. Beckner's Lupine (Lupinus westianus var. aridorum)
- 311. Hercules-club (Zanthoxylum clava-herculis)
- 312. Satinleaf (Chrysophyllum oliviforme)
- 313. Buttonwood (Conocarpus erectus)
- 314. Swamp Rosemallow (Hibiscus grandiflorus)
- 315. Southern Beeblossom (Gaura angustifolia)
- 316. Seabeach Eveningprimrose (Oenothera humifusa)
- 317. Innocence (Houstonia procumbens)
- 318. Spurred Butterfly Pea (Centrosema virginianum)
- 319. Florida Fiddlewood (Citharexylum spinosum)
- 320. Showy Milkwort (Polygala violacea)
- 321. White Sunnysbell (Schoenolirion albiflorum)
- 322. Broadleaf Cattail (Typha latifolia)
- 323. Juba's Bush (Iresine diffusa)
- 324. Annual Glasswort (Salicornia bigelovii)
- 325. Slenderleaf Clammyweed (Polanisia tenuifolia)
- 326. Tallow Wood (Ximenia americana)
- 327. Saltmarsh Morning-glory (Ipomoea sagittata)
- 328. Sea Torchwood (Amuris elemifera)
- 329. Water Pimpernel (Samolus ebracteatus)
- 330. Inkwood (Exothea paniculata)
- 331. Calloose Grape (Vitis shuttleworthii)
- 332. Samphire (Blutaparon vermiculare)
- 333. Nuttall's Thistle (Cirsium nuttallii)
- 334. Titusville Balm (Dicerandra thincicola)
- 335. Sixangle Foldingwing (Diciptera sexangularis)
- 336. Flattened Pipewort (Eriocaulon compressum)
- 337. Blacktorch (Erithalis fruticosa)
- 338. Indian River Prickly-apple (Harrisia fragrans)
- 339. Bladdermallow (Herissantia crispa)
- 340. Atlantic St. John's-wort (Hypericum tenuifolium)
- 341. Fourpetal St. John's-wort (Hypericum tetrapetalum)
- 342. Black Ironwood (Krugiodendron ferreum)
- 343. American Spongeplant (Limnium spongia)
- 344. Lancewood (Ocotea coriacea)
- 345. Basketgrass (Oplismenus hirtellus)
- 346. Spreading Cinchweed (Pectis prostrata)
- 347. Catclaw Blackbead (Pithecellobium unguis-cati)
- 348. Rose-of-Plymouth (Sabatia stellaris)
- 349. Carolina Sealavender (Limonium carolinianum)
- 350. Seaside Goldenrod (Solidago sempervirens)
- 351. Cheesytoes (Stylosanthes hamata)
- 352. Blodgett's Ironweed (Vernonia blodgettii)
- 353. Simpson's Zephyrilly (Zephyranthes simpsonii)
- 354. Leafless Beaked Ladiesstresses (Saccila lanceolata)
- 355. Hairy Shadow Witch (Ponthieva racemosa)
- 356. Jamaica Swamp Sawgrass (Cladium jamaicense)
- 357. Osceola's Plume (Stenanthium densum)
- 358. Flaxleaf False Foxglove (Agalinis linifolia)
- 359. Beach Peanut (Okenia hypogaea)
- 360. Coastal Beach Sandmat (Chamaesyce mesembrianthemifolia)

**REGION 7:**

- 361. Black Mangrove (Avicennia germinans)
- 362. Jamaican Cappertree (Capparis jamaicensis)
- 363. Knotted Spikerush (Eleocharis interstincta)
- 364. Northern Needleleaf (Tillandsia balbisiana)
- 365. Redstem Purslane (Portulacca rubricaulis)
- 366. Rubbervine (Rhabdadenia biflora)
- 367. Coastal Searocket (Cakile lanceolata)
- 368. Clamshell Orchid (Prosthechea cochleata)
- 369. Greater Yellowspike Orchid (Polystachya concreta)
- 370. Leatherleaf Airplant (Tillandsia variabilis)
- 371. Pinepink (Bletia purpurea)
- 372. Bandanna-of-the-Everglades (Canna flaccida)
- 373. Starrush Whitetop (Rhynchospora colorata)
- 374. Ghost Orchid (Dendrophylax lindenii)
- 375. Varnishleaf (Dodonaea viscosa)
- 376. Joewood (Jacquinia keyensis)
- 377. Paintedleaf (Poinsettia cyathophora)
- 378. Goldenclub (Orontium aquaticum)
- 379. Red Spiderling (Boerhavia diffusa)
- 380. Pine-hyacinth (Clematis baldwinii)
- 381. Seagrape (Coccoloba uvifera)
- 382. Lopsided Indiangrass (Sorghastrum secundum)
- 383. Bartram's Rosegentian (Sabatia decandra)
- 384. Skyflower (Hydrolea corymbosa)
- 385. Eastern False Dragonhead (Physostegia purpurea)
- 386. Shoreline Seapurslane (Sesuvium portulacastrum)
- 387. Pond Apple (Annona glabra)
- 388. Florida Milkweed (Asclepias feayi)
- 389. Blue Mistflower (Conoclinium coelestinum)
- 390. Glade Labelia (Labelia glandulosa)
- 391. Prickly Applecactus (Harrisia aboriginum)
- 392. Christmasvine (Turbinia corymbosa)
- 393. Okeechobee Gourd (Cucurbita okeechobeensis)
- 394. Sweetbroom (Scoparia dulcis)
- 395. Denselower Knotweed (Polygonum glabrum)
- 396. Redgal (Morinda royoc)
- 397. Everglades Key False Buttonweed (Spermacoce terminalis)
- 398. Diamondflowers (Stenaria nigricans)
- 399. False Mastic (Sideroxylon foetidissimum)
- 400. Bird Pepper (Capsicum annum var. glabriusculum)
- 401. Potatootree (Solanum erianthum)
- 402. Marinevine (Cissua trifoliata)
- 403. Pineland Acacia (Acacia pinetorum)
- 404. Coinvine (Dalbergia ecastaphyllum)
- 405. Pretty False Pawpaw (Deeringothamnus rugelii var. pulchellus)
- 406. White Stopper (Eugenia axillaris)
- 407. Lesser Florida Spurge (Euphorbia polyphylla)
- 408. Florida Scrub Frostweed (Helianthemum nashii)
- 409. Medicine Vine (Hippocratea volubilis)
- 410. Virginia Saltmarsh Mallow (Kosteletzkya pentacarpos)

**REGION 8:**

- 411. Wild Allamanda (Pentalinon luteum)
- 412. Wild Coco (Eulophia alba)
- 413. Tree Seaside Oxeye (Borrchia arborescens)
- 414. Christmasberry (Crossopetalum lilicalium)
- 415. Lignum Vitae (Guaicacum sanctum)
- 416. Bay Cedar (Suriana maritima)
- 417. Rough Velvetseed (Guettarda scabra)
- 418. Snowberry (Chiococca alba)
- 419. Sevenyear Apple (Genipa clusifolia)
- 420. Florida Bitterbush (Picramnia pentandra)
- 421. Sweetbay (Magnolia virginiana)
- 422. Black Calabash (Amphilecna latifolia)
- 423. Triangle Cactus (Acanthocereus tetragonus)
- 424. Long Key Locustberry (Byrsonima lucida)
- 425. Beach Clustervine (Jacquemontia reclinata)
- 426. Beachstar (Cyperus pedunculatus)
- 427. Florida Keys Blackbead (Pithecellobium keyensis)
- 428. Cardinal Airplant (Tillandsia fasciculata)
- 429. Coastal Indian Mallow (Abutilon permolle)
- 430. Dinky-flowered Star Orchid (Epidendrum anceps)
- 431. Dallar Orchid (Prosthechea boothiana)
- 432. Hoopvine (Trichostigma octandrum)
- 433. Longlip Ladiesstresses (Spiranthes longilabris)
- 434. Longclaw Orchid (Eltroplectris calcarata)
- 435. Mangroveberry (Mosiera longipes)
- 436. Night-scented Orchid (Epidendrum nocturnum)
- 437. Pineland Passionflower (Passiflora pallens)
- 438. Porknut (Acacia macracantha)
- 439. Biscayne Pricklyash (Zanthoxylum coriaceum)
- 440. Sea Lavender (Argusia gnaphalodes)
- 441. Key Tree Cactus (Pilosocereus polygonus)
- 442. Skyblue Clustervine (Jacquemontia pentanthos)
- 443. Small's Milkwort (Polygala smallii)
- 444. Southern Fogfruit (Phyla stochadifolia)
- 445. Umbrella Star Orchid (Epidendrum floridense)
- 446. Florida Strap Airplant (Catopsis floribunda)
- 447. Wormvine Orchid (Vanilla labellata)
- 448. Coco Plum (Chrysobalanus icaco)
- 449. Largeflower False Rosemary (Conradina grandiflora)
- 450. Stiff-flower Star Orchid (Epidendrum rigidum)
- 451. Coastal Mock Vervain (Glandularia maritima)
- 452. East Coast Dune Sunflower (Helianthus debilis)
- 453. Erect Pricklypear (Opuntia stricta)
- 454. Beachberry (Scaevola plumieri)
- 455. Privet Wild Sensitive Plant (Senna ligustrina)
- 456. Chapman's Wild Sensitive Plant (Senna mexicana var. chapmanii)
- 457. Saw Palmetto (Serenoa repens)
- 458. Blue Porterweed (Stachytarpheta jamaicensis)
- 459. Florida Clover Ash (Tetrazaygia bicolor)
- 460. Bahama Strongbark (Boureria succulenta)
- 461. Cabbage Palm (Sabal palmetto)
- 462. Narrowleaf Yellowtops (Flaveria linearis)
- 463. Turkey Tangle Fogfruit (Phyla nodiflora)
- 464. Beggarticks (Bidens alba)
- 465. Florida Swampprivet (Forestiera segregata)
- 466. Slender Gayfeather (Liatris gracilis)
- 467. Jack-in-the-bush (Chromolaena odorata)
- 468. Purple Thistle (Cirsium horridulum)
- 469. Pineland Croton (Croton linearis)
- 470. Low Rattlebox (Crotalaria pumila)
- 471. Rabbitbells (Crotalaria rotundifolia)
- 472. Devil's Potato (Echites umbellatus)
- 473. Beach Creeper (Ernodea littoralis)
- 474. Scorpionstail (Heliotropium angiospermum)
- 475. Camphorweed (Heterotheca subaxillaris)
- 476. Buttonsage (Lantana involucrata)
- 477. Snow Squarestem (Melanthera nivea)
- 478. Pricklypear (Opuntia humifusa)
- 479. Corkystem Passionflower (Passiflora suberosa)
- 480. Seaoats (Uniola paniculata)
- 481. White Indigoberry (Randia aculeata)
- 482. Thicketleaf Wild Petunia (Ruellia succulenta)
- 483. Wand Goldenrod (Solidago stricta)
- 484. Hairy Dawnflower (Stylisma villosa)
- 485. Fakahatcheegrass (Tripsacum dactyloides)
- 486. Paradiseetree (Simarouba glauca)
- 487. Florida Fishpoison Tree (Piscidia piscipula)
- 488. Marlberry (Ardisia escallonioides)
- 489. Snowy Orchid (Platanthera nivea, =Habenaria nivea)
- 490. Rockland Shrubverbena (Lantana depressa)
- 491. Purple Passion Flower (Passiflora incarnata)
- 492. Cigar Orchid (Cyrtopodium punctatum)
- 493. Button Rattlesnakemaster (Eryngium yuccifolium)
- 494. Curacao Bush (Cordia globosa)
- 495. Yellow Milkwort (Polygala rugelii)
- 496. Cinnamon Bark (Canella winterana)
- 497. Poisonwood (Metopium toxiferum)
- 498. Pitchapple (Clusia rosea)
- 499. Florida Butterfly Orchid (Encyclia tampensis)
- 500. Red mangrove (Rhizophora mangle)

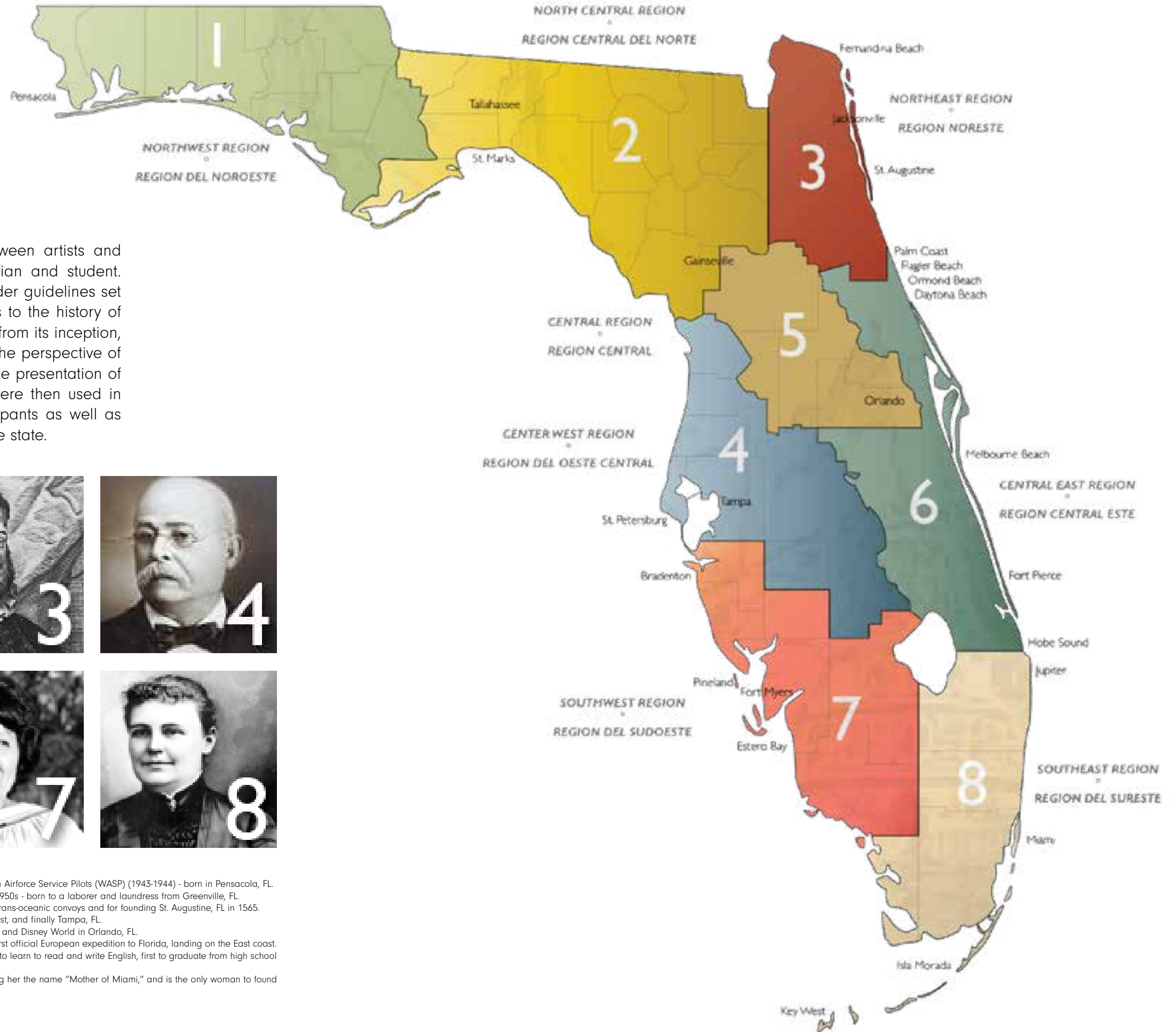
# 500 ARTISTS

Flor500 celebrates the history of Florida through its distribution, acknowledgment, and production of culturally relevant information, the inclusion of artists from across the state allowing an opportunity for an involved sense of concurrent knowledge sharing. As the participating artists use their chosen wildflower muse as inspiration for an original work they continue the dissemination of knowledge offered to them by the botanists who selected their wildflower. This also speaks to inherent issues in historical documentation, the representation and dispersal of communal and individual truths often being ambiguous in specific meaning and intent.



# 500 HISTORICAL FIGURES

In a similar vein to the collaboration that naturally evolved between artists and scientists, Cortada facilitated the creation of one between historian and student. Through the involvement of a team of state historians operating under guidelines set out by the artist, the creation of a list of 500 significant individuals to the history of Florida was formed. While there remained an influence of Cortada from its inception, this list of 500 was designed to be as unbiased as possible (from the perspective of the artist), the artist having no involvement in its creation beyond the presentation of its initial parameters. The names of these important individuals were then used in naming wildflower gardens planted by individual FLOR500 participants as well as those organized through universities, schools and libraries across the state.



- [ 1 ] **Jacqueline Cochran** - American pilot, first woman to break the sound barrier, and wartime head of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) (1943-1944) - born in Pensacola, FL.
- [ 2 ] **Ray Charles** - American singer, songwriter, pianist, composer, and pioneer of the soul music genre during the 1950s - born to a laborer and laundress from Greenville, FL.
- [ 3 ] **Pedro Menéndez de Avilés** - Spanish admiral and explorer who is remembered for planning the first regular trans-oceanic convoys and for founding St. Augustine, FL in 1565.
- [ 4 ] **Vicente Martínez-Ybor** - Spanish entrepreneur, noted industrialist and cigar manufacturer in Cuba, then Key West, and finally Tampa, FL.
- [ 5 ] **Walter Elias Disney** - Pioneer of the American animation industry, founder of Disneyland in Anaheim, California and Disney World in Orlando, FL.
- [ 6 ] **Juan Ponce de León** - Spanish explorer, conquistador, first governor of Puerto Rico and known for leading the first official European expedition to Florida, landing on the East coast.
- [ 7 ] **Betty Mae Tiger Jumper** - the first and only female chief of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, first Florida Seminole to learn to read and write English, first to graduate from high school and a nursing program, and co-founder of The Seminole News (now The Seminole Tribune).
- [ 8 ] **Julia DeForest Tuttle** - American business woman who owned property upon which Miami, FL was built, earning her the name "Mother of Miami," and is the only woman to found a major American city.



[ 1 ]

# 500 GARDENS

The project works as a gathering, a gathering of shared knowledge. Like any collaborative effort, an individual's expertise only further aids the group as a whole; appropriation towards betterment. However, this is a two-toned action, one that is significant in its allusion to reflection as well as prescience. Two parties are involved, the assimilation of ideas consistent to their ease of understanding.

The participating Florida schools and libraries (across the 67 counties and 8 regions) were encouraged to plant 500 wildflower gardens, dedicating them to one of 500 important Floridians selected by the team of historians. In this way, Flor500 asks much of both professional participant as well as schoolchild alike; there exists an introspectively ceremonial nature in one's involvement. No stranger to ritualism in his work, Cortada incorporates this within Flor500 through the student's education of Florida's history and its conceptual importance in the cultivation of their own wildflower garden.

- [ 1 ] Beach Creeper at St. Michaels Academy, Fernandina Beach, FL
- [ 2 ] Palmetto Elementary School's Mrs. Patricia Rottino Cummins' fourth grade class, Palmetto Bay, FL
- [ 3 ] Artist Xavier Cortada, Secretary of State Ken Detzner, and Jeff Caster from the DOT plant Florida wildflowers outside the R. A. Gray building at Capitol Hill, Tallahassee, FL
- [ 4 ] FLOR500 garden at Collier County South Regional Library, Naples, FL
- [ 5 ] Springwood Elementary School's Mrs. Cindy Rodriguez's fourth grade class, Tallahassee, FL
- [ 6 ] St. Michaels Academy students plant their FLOR500 garden, Fernandina Beach, FL
- [ 7 ] FLOR500 garden dedication at Delray Beach City Hall, Delray Beach, FL



[ 2 ]



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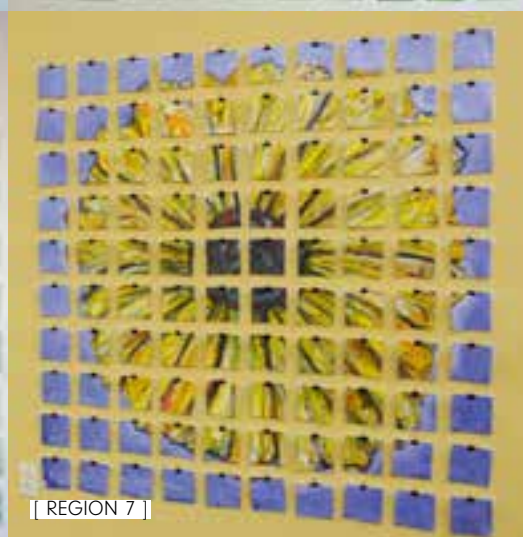
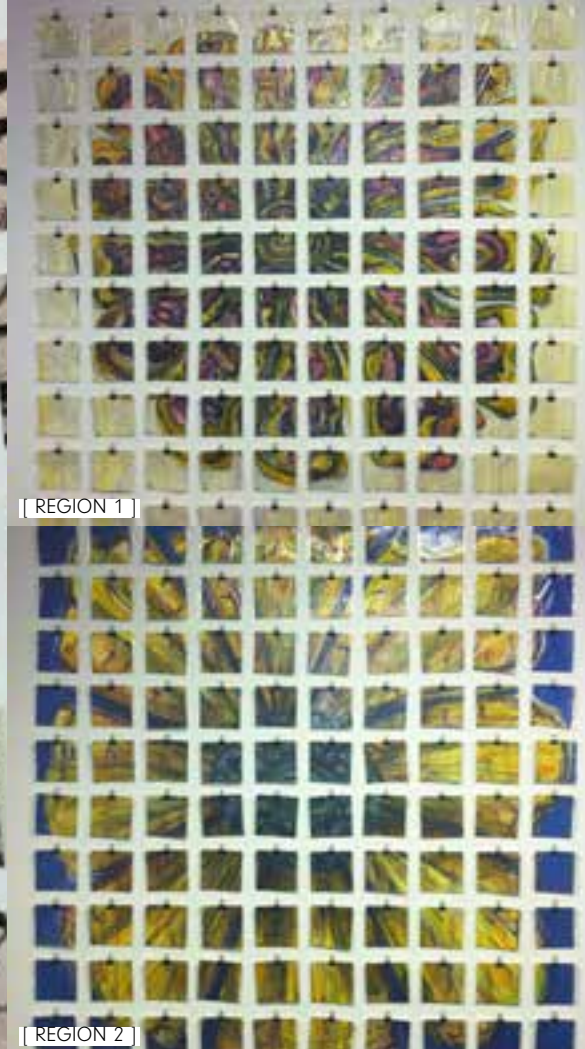
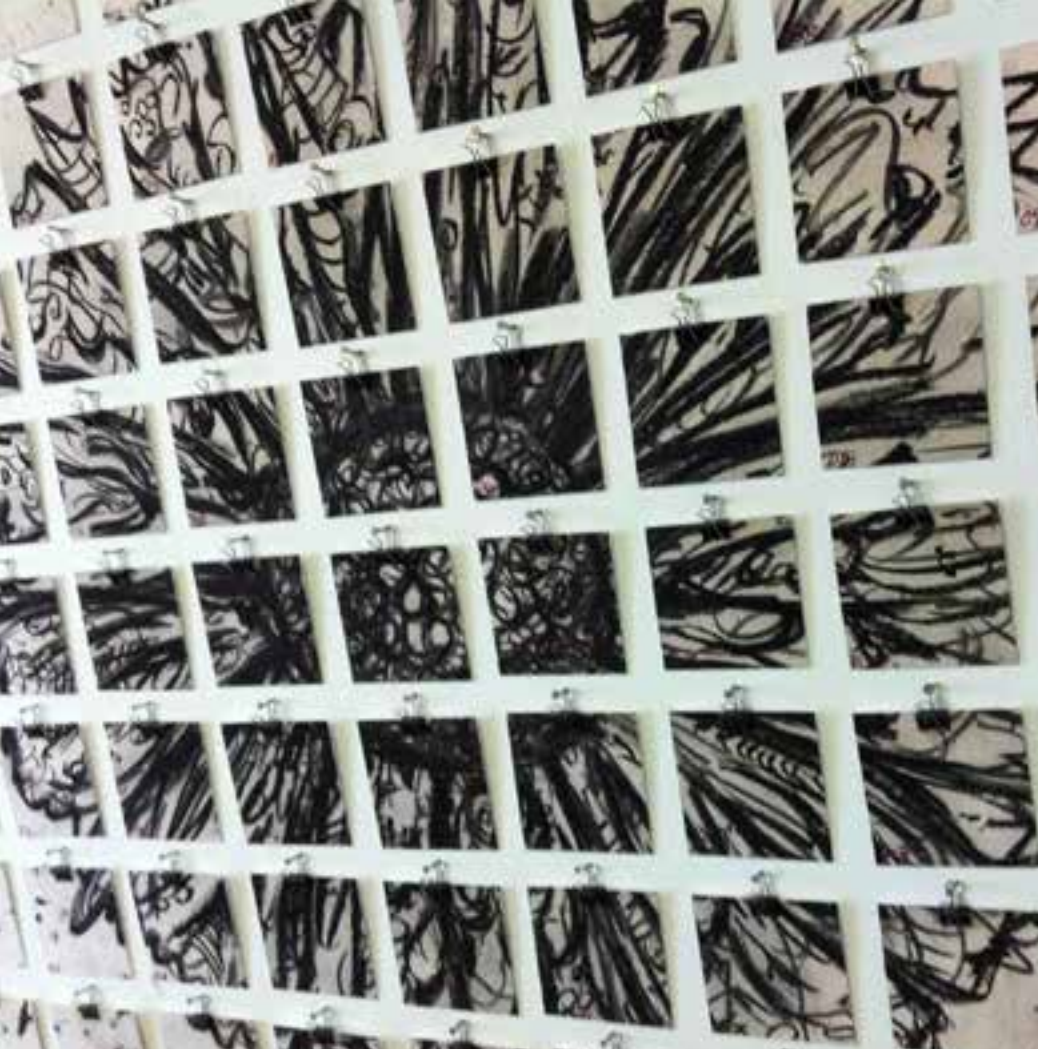
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# TILED FLOWERS

Flower Force exists as an almost natural evolution from Cortada's Flor500 that pushes the elasticity of art to the point of recognizable social practice. The project revolves around Florida native wildflowers and Cortada's insistence on mobilizing individuals around the state to plant these flowers around their local communities. Similar to Flower Force, a wildflower has multitudes of significance to its respective community, such as being aesthetically beautiful, containing medicinal properties, as well as being a vital part of its own ecosystem, allowing for pollinators to continue the process necessary to sustain life.

Inspired by the conceptual origins of Flor500, Flower Force was designed as a participatory eco-art project, through which the imagery of the wildflower acts as a conceptual icon throughout the project's dispersal. The artist designed a giant flower outline, drawn with charcoal over a number of panels. Behind each panel was attached a packet of wildflower seeds. Cortada created the work to be given away, those chosen to take home a section of the flower also given the task of planting a wildflower seed. The charcoal flower tiles, as they are dispersed throughout Florida, become an appropriation of the original wildflower. This appropriation works as both a conceptual representation of the ideals of Flower Force, as well as a literal one; the flower tiles represent both the physical attributes of the wildflower as well as the

temporal attributes. The permanence of the tiles coincides with the impermanence of the actual wildflower being planted, a dichotomy presented through participatory action.

This is not only a literal act, but one of conceptual significance, as it is the dissemination of the ideals and values that the wildflower represents. In this way, Flower Force behaves quite similarly to Flor500, as the end result is the dispersal and cultivation of native flowers throughout Florida as a reclamation of the built environment for nature. This imbues the tiles with the conceptual significance and weight of the ideals that Cortada presents, the flower tiles both conceptually and literally representing the wildflowers that have been planted.

Audience participation in an effort to make an actual change in the environment is nothing new to Cortada's work, as seen through both Flower Force and Flor500 respectively. Quite literally, through its participatory nature, Flor500 succeeds in being the most conceptually significant representation of a flower's existence. These projects require direct involvement from the community to succeed, the goal being to prompt specific action against climate change rather than just raise awareness. This socially-engaged art is fundamental to Cortada's concentration, transforming his role as an artist into an effective community leader.

*Xavier Cortada, "FLOR500 Flower Force: Regions 1-8," 100 drawings (charcoal on board) and Florida native wildflower seeds inside clear bags on grid, 2013.*

*Xavier Cortada, "FLOR500 Flower Force," 80 drawings (charcoal on board) and Florida native wildflower seeds inside clear bags on grid, 2012.*



# FLOWER FORCE

The original rendition of Flower Force was designed as a participatory eco-art project, however its current evolution expands on this by utilizing the traditional medium of sculpture, specifically ceramics, as a conceptual icon throughout the project's dispersal. The ceramic flower, as it is dispersed throughout Florida similar to the wildflower seedlings, becomes an appropriation of the original wildflower. This appropriation works as both a conceptual

representation of the ideals of Flower Force, as well as a literal one; the ceramic flower represents both the physical attributes of the wildflower as well as the temporal attributes. Much like a flower goes through a process of dispersal in order to reproduce, the ceramic offerings Cortada present act as a dissemination from the original public art installation for which they were intended.



Xavier Cortada, "Flower Force," hand-glazed ceramic, 2019



## FLOR500

Flor500 presents art in a very untraditional way. Unlike the majority of work that stems from contemporary artistic practice, where most artists may find their work to be remembered in individual actions and specific projects that were traditionally successful, in the case of Cortada's inclination towards social change, the entirety of his life's work leads to an assumption of performance. In this way, Cortada elevates the role of artist (as well as the participant), the whole of a career, to a medium of art. This may be seen through the ritualistic nature of his practice, the practice itself becoming a form of ritual. To continue this prompts a natural evolution of the artist through repetitive acts, Cortada's praxis essentially being the process as well as the outcome. An externality of being a successful social practitioner, there is an impossibility in removing the sum of the whole from its parts in this type of work, as impact remains coextensive with intent, the culmination of efforts being the only quantifiable assessment of artistic success in this specific medium.



## 500 EXHIBIT

An art installation by Xavier Cortada commemorating the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de Leon's journey to Florida. In 1513, the Spanish explorer visited Key Biscayne and named it Santa Marta. It is the only location on our peninsula we know with certainty as having hosted Ponce de Leon.

Cortada's "500" exhibit at Key Biscayne's Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Preserve included an installation of 500 porcelain sculptures depicting Florida's native wildflowers— the same ones that grew in our state when Juan Ponce de Leon landed in 1513 and named it "La Florida"—from "flor," the Spanish word for flower.

# STATEWIDE TIME CAPSULE

On December 31, 2013, Secretary of State Ken Detzner closed the Viva Florida 500 statewide time capsule, to be opened again in 2095.

As the activities for the 500 year anniversary wound down, one final statewide project took place – the Viva Florida 500 statewide time capsule. This exercise brought together information about many events that took place to commemorate 2013 as well as information about each county in Florida this year.

The Florida Department of State reached out to representatives in each of Florida's 67 counties, including Viva Florida 500 partners, to submit an item or a photograph reflecting the theme "Life in Florida in 2013." Items were also included from the state's leadership, including Governor Rick Scott, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater, Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam, President of the Senate Don Gaetz and Speaker of the House Will Weatherford.

Cortada served as the representative for Miami-Dade, including one of his 500 porcelain flowers - a coreopsis (the state's wildflower) - from the "500" exhibit at Biscayne Nature Center in Key Biscayne, FL and a postcard about the exhibit as part of FLOR500. In 1513, Ponce de Leon was the first European to land on Key Biscayne. He named it Santa Maria.

On December 31, 2013 the statewide time capsule was sealed at the R.A. Gray Building in Tallahassee. The time capsule will be displayed until March 2, 2095 when Florida will mark the 250th anniversary of statehood.

*Xavier Cortada, "FLOR500," hand-glazed ceramic, 2013*





Xavier Cortada is an artist and Professor of Practice at the University of Miami Department of Art and Art History. Cortada's work is intended to generate awareness and action towards issues of global climate change. Using the power and elasticity of participatory art to engage, Cortada educates and inspires community members to work together and learn together to solve our community's problems.

Cortada has created art installations at the North and South Poles to help address environmental issues at every point in between. His work is also in the collections of Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum, the MDC Museum of Art + Design, the NSU Museum of Art in Ft. Lauderdale, the Whatcom Museum in Washington, and the World Bank and is the Artist-in-Residence at Pinecrest Gardens.

To learn more, visit [www.cortada.com](http://www.cortada.com).



**XAVIER  
CORTADA**

studio and projects  
[www.cortada.com](http://www.cortada.com)  
@xcortada

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