

**ARTISTS CONVENE AT FNCC
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Unexpected—the word kept cropping up in conversations, experiences and events at the first Arts Division Conference at the Florida Nature Culture Center, May 11–14. At the opening session, SGI-USA Arts Division Leader Pasqual Olivera asked the 179 conferees to aim for 12 acts of kindness each day of the conference through introducing themselves to other people, making efforts to communicate and, most important, opening doors.

At the final session on May 14, one young man revealed: “I really wanted to get to the heart of faith this weekend. And somehow, we all did.” A woman whose mother, a pioneer of faith, died recently shared with the group her struggle to not resent activities: “On this Mother’s Day 2000, I know my mother fulfilled her mission, because she taught me how to be an SGI member.”

SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima made the unexpected announcement that award-winning musicians Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter had been named SGI Arts Division leaders. Mr. Shorter expressed his appreciation of the honor and his determination to help all the Arts Division members win: “I hope you will all be huge!” Since everyone there had tackled his or her lack of confidence during the weekend, everyone was more than ready to oblige.