



PHOTOS: CAPEHART

ANN NORTON SCULPTURE GARDENS' CEO CYNTHIA KANAI is...

# Worth Knowing

### WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND AND WHAT STRENGTHS DO YOU BRING TO YOUR NEW ROLE?

Prior to the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens (ANSG), I dedicated 28 years of service to Palm Beach Day Academy – most recently as the Development Director and prior to that, as lead fifth-grade teacher for 25 years. As an experienced educator, I appreciate the history and mission of Ann Norton, and I want to be a part of keeping her legacy alive. I enjoy making connections with people from all walks of life, and I can't wait to create new, interesting community partnerships with ANSG. I am inherently positive about life and leadership, and I look forward to bringing value and vision to this amazing organization.

### CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE THEME FOR ANSG THIS YEAR: THE "6 C'S"?

Our focus will be in six areas: Community, Culture, Classroom, Conservation, Collaboration and more Community. Community: We believe the most important work we can do is to cultivate a thriving, warm, spirited community around Ann Norton's home and gardens. Culture: We have a very diverse lineup with visits from well-known artists, exciting special events and programs that not only tie into the mission but offer something different on the cultural scene. Classroom: We're very proud of the innovative and interactive educational programs we've developed because they inspire learning as only the powerful backdrop of these Gardens can deliver. Conservation: With such history and great natural beauty here, our Board is taking a comprehensive look at preservation of Ann's landmarked house and studio, sculptures and gardens so we can develop a thoughtful approach to restoration plans and continue to adapt our property to most effectively serve the community. Collaboration: We've made great strides to establish strategic partnerships and collaborations with other nonprofits, and we want to build on that by hosting programs, community conversations and events that allow us to gain important insight and guidance about the way we plan and market ANSG. And lastly, more Community: Because we can never have enough involvement from and with this very special community!

### SPEAKING OF COMMUNITY, WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND ANN NORTON SCULPTURE GARDENS' MISSION?

Ann Norton believed in sharing her talents with others and wanted the Gardens to be a place for the community to learn and to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the surroundings. I want to share Ann Norton's life, landmarked home, gallery and studio with everyone I meet; I want the community to experience the Gardens, the beautiful exhibitions from extraordinary visiting artists, our new environmental classroom, along with reflection and meditation pools, but more than all of that, I want the community to experience the feeling of this urban sanctuary. One visit will never be enough.

### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ANSG'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND HOW THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CLASSROOM WILL BE USED?

Ann Norton started drawing when she was 5-years-old and received her first sculpting tool at age 8. Imagine the possibilities for every child and young person that visits ANSG and is inspired by the nine colossal sculptures, the many artists, curators and environmentalists that are featured in our special exhibitions. I am excited about meeting every one of the more than 5,000 children who visit the Gardens each year through *Literacy Day*, *Garden Day*, *Earth Day* and *Art and Healthy Hearts in the Gardens*. These educational programs will exceed all expectations with the addition of our new Environmental Classroom, a naturally shaded area of the Gardens that was transformed into a hands-on dynamic space for education and discovery.

### CAN YOU PLEASE TELL US ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ANSG?

Thanks to a showstopper line-up of exhibits, wonderful events, increased corporate partnerships and new people discovering that artists and gardeners are a happy group to join, our membership at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens increased by 250 percent over the last two seasons, and we expect to engage even more members this year. There are so many benefits to becoming a member at ANSG. Individual membership begins at just \$100 and includes seasonal admission to visit the Gardens for events and exhibitions. Our Gardens Conservancy membership level, which starts at \$500, gives you complimentary access to all our exhibitions, as well as private events. The Gardens Conservancy is a multi-category membership and stewardship program dedicated to honoring Ann Norton's legacy by cultivating creative community partnerships that enhance educational programs and cultural awareness of the Gardens, and by implementing exciting horticultural projects to maintain the Gardens as a vibrant feature of the community. The most important thing that you will receive with your membership is your own special moments of reflection every time you visit.

*The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, Inc. is a nonprofit foundation established in 1977 by resident sculptor Ann Weaver Norton (1905-1982). An urban sanctuary of almost two acres, the compound comprises Norton's historic house with exhibition galleries, her studio, monumental sculptures and tropical gardens of rare palms and cycads. Located at 253 Barcelona Road in the historic El Cid neighborhood of West Palm Beach, the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10am-4pm. The Gardens are also available for private events and are closed on major holidays. For membership, admission and more information visit [ansg.org](http://ansg.org) or call 561.832.5328.*