## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## "Paint for Bahamas" Disaster Relief Fundraiser

In light of the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian to The Bahamas, Art Nest Creative Studio will be hosting a Paint and Sip fundraiser on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September as a part of its "Art Changes Lives" charitable programme.

For a donation of CI\$100, patrons will have the opportunity to add their own personal touches to a large communal painting depicting an idyllic scene of a lighthouse located on the Bahamas' Paradise Island with iconic Atlantis Resort in the background. The lighthouse in the painting is the oldest and best-known lighthouse in The Bahamas and the oldest surviving lighthouse in the West Indies. It is located at the western tip of Paradise Island, marking the northwest entrance to New Providence and the Port of Nassau. It was built in 1817, when the island was known by its previous name, Hog Island.

The communal painting is inspired by an original painting entitled "Lighthouse at Paradise Island" by British painter Judi Leblanc who graciously granted Art Nest permission to reference her piece for this fundraiser. Leblanc is no stranger to The Cayman Islands and has also painted scenes from our own shores in addition to other paradisiacal neighbours like the Bahamas. Guests will enjoy canapes provided by Saucha Conscious Café and complimentary bubbles or wine by Jacques Scott, after which a cash bar will be available.

Art Nest Founder Christina Pineda said "We want to be able to host over 100 people for this event in order to reach our fundraising goal of CI\$10,000 to aid in recovery and relief efforts. We will be partnering with the Red Cross to ensure that funds are legitimately applied to recovery efforts in the Bahamas."

The event will take place from 7:00pm to 10:00pm with guests welcome to come and go as they please throughout the evening. Artist Avril Ward will be on hand providing tours of Award Art Gallery as well as providing guidance for donors wanting to add their own brush strokes to the large communal art work in conjunction with Art Nest instructors. The large finished piece will be auctioned to the highest bidder at the end of the event, with 100% of proceeds going towards the relief efforts in the Bahamas.

Local musicians will provide live music for this event and there will be other artists and crafts people on hand with live demonstrations and artwork available for viewing.

Other local businesses are encouraged to participate in fundraising efforts through sponsorship of this event.

Art Changes Lives is an Art Nest initiative that uses the arts to help at risk youth, senior citizens and fundraise for worthy causes locally and abroad.

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Photo: Reference piece of "Lighthouse at Paradise Island" by Artist Judi Leblanc