



*"Patchwork Butterfly" at  
Sabal Pines Park*

# Float like a Butterfly

Artist and sculptor Lugufelo brightens the city with his nature-inspired creations

*By Nicole Chavannes*



*"The Champion" outside of American Top Team*



Coconut Creek residents likely are familiar with Luis Fernandez's work, as the sculptor has several pieces on display in the city. Fernandez,

better known as Lugufelo, created "Standing Butterfly," which stands in front of Hampton Inn and Suites, and a stainless steel sculpture called "The Champion" at American Top Team.

Born in Venezuela to an artistically inclined family—his parents were musicians and encouraged music, painting and sculpting—Lugufelo has been attracted to art since he was a child. He never formally studied art in school; he began sculpting at age 16 under his older brother's tutelage but studied accounting in college. He kept sculpting, however, working with acrylics and wood, and began doing commercial art at 25. Today, he lives in Venice, on Florida's west coast, and creates work from his studio in Miami.

About five years ago, Lugufelo was commissioned to do the piece for the Hampton Inn and Suites, which led to his other commissions in the area. When he first visited the city, he visited Butterfly World with his daughter, marveling at the butterfly's life cycle. Having worked mostly with geometric designs in the past, Lugufelo saw an opportunity to design something

different. As a result of this inspiration, his latest piece, the three-winged "Patchwork Butterfly" in Sabal Pines Park, was an interesting challenge.

*Coconut Creek Lifestyle* asked the artist about his recently unveiled butterfly, as well as what inspires him.

### What inspired this latest piece in Sabal Pines Park?

"The city was asking for a butterfly for the park, but they also wanted a piece with the purpose of involving the city and the community. They wanted to engage everybody around to visit the park and interact with the piece. ... Most of my inspiration is visual, and it's always in nature."

### What makes this sculpture different from your others in Creek?

"Well, I thought the most important thing for this piece was that it should change from time to time ... so instead of perforating the metal or doing one perpetual design on the piece, I made a digital image for the wings on stickers. So, the city can invite other artists, community members or schools to submit different designs for the wings of the butterfly. ... It's a blank canvas. The sculpture will always be changing, just like butterflies always change, and people are always changing."

### When you're creating a piece like "Patchwork Butterfly," what's the process like?

"The process starts with understanding

the customer's requirements. In this case, the city was requiring a piece that engaged the community and made that connection between government, artist, community, everybody, and to bring people out to see what is happening in the park. So I start understanding and working with the idea. Then I make some sketches and visit the park many times and [begin] mixing colors. After those sketches, I got the idea of a butterfly with three wings."

### Are your pieces in Coconut Creek a series, or related in any way?

"No, they are not related ... but they are like kids for me. All the kids are different, but you love all of them the same. ... At the end of the day, I think it's the observer, the citizen, who has to see. I think the most important thing is how the art impacts the people looking at it. Everybody has different interpretations, but for me, all of them are my kids. I even visit them every year—I travel around and go to the cities they're in and I check the sculptures ... because I feel that connection with them."

### What do you want people to remember about "Patchwork Butterfly"?

"Remember that the butterfly is a fragile insect that goes out and takes risks. I think people should go out to the park and take a look at and enjoy the butterfly, and then make a proposal for its wings."