



Saint Dalí
 Photograph by Marc Lacroix
 Courtesy of Salvador Dalí Museum



Courtesy of the City of St. Petersburg



ARTS & RECREATION—*The Good Life*

The Pinellas Suncoast is rich in culture, arts and heritage, evident by its selection of local museums and performing arts facilities. Coupled with its ongoing festivals and outdoor events, Pinellas County offers an incredible array of sounds, sights and leisure time activities.

The arts industry in Pinellas is a major selling point for business and holds a key role in future revitalization. It also creates an attractive environment for both tourist and convention visitors. The Pinellas County Arts Council is dedicated to the development of the arts, providing local and governmental support to local artists. With a 1988-1989 budget of nearly \$407,000, the Arts Council gives artists an opportunity to develop their skills and share their ideas with others.

Through a program called the Artists Resource Fund, money and grants have been provided to individual artists throughout the county. In March 1990, grants will be made available for both visual and performing artists. Other programs include The Very Special Arts Program for emotionally, physically or mentally challenged adults and children, a multi-cultural program, and various community and educational programs. In addition, the Friends of the Arts program recognizes the support of business, individual patrons, individual artists and art educators.

The arts are becoming more dependent on corporate and private donations because of reductions in funding on a state and national level. During 1989, Ruth Eckerd Hall's performing arts center celebrated its fifth anniversary with

a season county resident's won't soon forget. A Financial Stability Fund has been set up to revamp the center's visual arts program and expand the performing arts offered here in Pinellas. So far, more than \$3 million has been raised toward this campaign.

Here in the tourist mecca of Pinellas, there is a love for entertainment and a demand for leisurely pursuits. The St. Petersburg Bayfront Center has a new face, including the beautiful Mahaffey Theater, thanks to a \$25 million renovation project completed last year. There are dozens of bay area organizations that contribute to Pinellas' fascinating arts programs, including the Florida Orchestra, American Stage Company, the Royalty Theater Company, the Tampa Bay Symphony and the newly organized Pinellas Chamber Orchestra. All provide a constant source of entertainment for Pinellas residents and visitors, along with the Clearwater Jazz Holiday, which is held annually in October.

All across Pinellas, there is cultural revitalization. The Greek community in Tarpon Springs is famous for its food, entertainment, and Epiphany celebrations. There is the Bay Area Renaissance Festival, which is held in Largo every year. In Dunedin, residents have a chance to take part in the Scottish Highlander games, which recognizes the city's cultural link to its sister-city, Stirling, Scotland. The St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society, Inc., (SPIFFS) promotes intercultural understanding through numerous programs including sponsoring several international folk dance exhibitions each year.