

## From Brother Francis Shelter to First Friday: Local Artist Showcases Work

September 24, 2025

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** – On Friday, October 3, Anchorage’s First Friday Art Walk will feature the vibrant work of local artist **Noel Perez Delgado**, a client of Brother Francis Shelter who found his creative voice after arriving at the shelter during a difficult chapter in his life. His pieces will be on display at **Stephan Fine Arts & the Captain Cook Coffee Cubby** from **5:30 to 9 p.m.**, alongside other featured artists and live music.



Born and raised in Cuba, Noel studied architecture before moving to the United States in 2005 through the Special Cuban Migration Program. His journey took him through several U.S. cities before he eventually arrived in Alaska. After an injury left him homeless, Noel found refuge at Brother Francis Shelter, where he was introduced to painting through enrichment sessions led by Sister Lucia.

Since then, Noel’s artistic journey has taken remarkable strides. He has completed **well over 100 canvases**, sold his first piece for **\$2,500 at CSS’s annual Charity Ball fundraiser in May**, and continues to share his art as a vendor at **Grow North Farm**. *His story was recently featured in the CSS Summer Newsletter ([page 4](#)).*

“This is such a proud moment for Catholic Social Services,” said **Marie Cozzetti, Communications Director for CSS**. “Through the dedication of our employees, like Sister Lucia, and the generosity of our volunteers and donors, we’ve helped Noel rediscover his dignity and share his incredible talent with

the world. His success reminds us what's possible when a community comes together—CSS is proud to be part of that story.”

For Noel, art has become more than expression; it is a way forward. “I call myself the Painting Architect Cuban Guy in the corner,” Noel says with a smile, referring to the place he often paints at the shelter. “Painting gave me dignity, connection, and pride.”

The First Friday event is **free and open to the public**.

**Event Details:**

- **What:** First Friday Art Walk featuring Noel Perez Delgado
- **When:** Friday, October 3, 2025 | 5:30 – 9 p.m.
- **Where:** Stephan Fine Arts & Captain Cook Coffee Cubby (939 W 5th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501)

**For more on Noel's journey, visit the CSS blog:** [\*A Hidden Talent Rediscovered: Noel's Story of Purpose and Art\*](#)

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