

OCTOBER FIVE

TYRA BANKS



Girl Power

The **Women of Wynwood** was an idea we developed to ask women to come together and raise funds to create a pilot program for the women of Lotus House,” explains Thea Goldman, who manages the four-month-old organization. The pilot program, Art Works, employs women from the Lotus House—a shelter for women and infants in Overtown—as

Wynwood ambassadors, providing directions, assistance and even bottled water to visitors of the arts district. In addition to providing a service to visitors of Wynwood, Dina Mitrani, a founding member of WOW and gallery owner, points out, “They also provide the neighborhood with another set of eyes. If they’re safe, we’re all safe.”

Goldman, who also runs Joey’s Italian café, says the support for the program has been overwhelming. “We had 150 women attend the launch event and the atmosphere was electrifying. We expect to see the Art Works ambassadors on the street by mid-November.”

WOW, whose other founding members are Yvette Garcia, Nina Johnson and Rhonda Mitrani, will celebrate the first 100 members of the organization with a commemorative portrait taken by Eric Monteiro. “Ultimately we will use this program to



WOW’s founding members, from left: Nina Johnson, Rhonda Mitrani, **Yvette Garcia**, Dina Mitrani and Thea Goldman

illustrate how it could work as a permanent work program for the women of Lotus House,” says Goldman. “What’s most exciting is that this WOW movement could easily be duplicated in every city around the country.” For more information, email Thea Goldman at womenofwynwood@gmail.com.

—TJ