



## **The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Cuban Sandwich Festival Weekend took place on March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 2 Great DAYS OF FUN!**

Florida—Huge success at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Cuban Sandwich Month, which took place on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ybor City, Florida.

Record breaking crowds poured in the area of Ybor City, Florida on Saturday and Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Cuban Sandwich Festival. This year the festival went international as we welcomed the “London Boys” as they were so fondly coined by the media. The festival also drew national contestants including the Joy Ride who traveled from Memphis, TN to compete.

The event featured LIVE music and dance performances, cultural vendors, more than 100 vendors, and dozens of delicious unique Cuban Sandwiches from all over the world! Winners from Orlando, South and South West Florida as well as Tampa Bay, presented their contest entry with anticipation!

[See the Competition here!](#)

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Cuban Sandwich Festival** was held at:

- VIP Opening Night Party: Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016; hosted by La Teresita (West Tampa)
- Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016: HCC Ybor Campus – The Biggest Cuban Sandwich in the World
- Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016: “The BIG DAY” City2City Smackdown @ Centennial Park in Historic



## **Who were the 2016 Season Big Winners?**

### **Tampa Historic Cuban Sandwich Festival Winners!**

This category is based on the Tampa Historic Cuban Sandwich Resolution and is judged by a Panel of local VIP and Celebrity Judges!

- 1st Place:** Faedos on the Go: Representing Tampa, Florida
- 2nd Place:** Papa Joe's: Representing Tampa, Florida
- 3rd Place:** Alessi Bakery: Representing West Tampa, Florida

### **Non-Traditional Cuban Sandwich Winners!**

This category is based on the Creative Side of the Cuban Sandwich and is judged by a Panel of local VIP and Celebrity Judges!

- 1st Place:** Pipo's Cuban Cafe in Bay Pines: Representing Bay Pines, Florida
- 2nd Place:** El Cubanito Subs: Representing Orlando, Florida
- 3rd Place:** Wheel House Deli: Representing Panama City, Florida

### **Popular Cuban Sandwich Winners!**

This category is based on the most popular Cuban Sandwich with Festival guests in random polls, online voting and email requests. This category is open ONLY to the Cuban Sandwich Vendors on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Non-Vending Cuban Sandwich Contestants are not allowed to participate in this category!

- 1st Place:** Sergios's Cuban Restaurant - Representing Miami / South Florida
- 2nd Place:** Tia's Authentic Latin Food - Representing Largo, Florida
- 3rd Place:** The Floridian - Representing Tampa, Florida

## **World's BEST Cuban Sandwich Winners!**

This category is based on the Cubano most recognized as a Cubano throughout Florida and the World. Can be made with or without Salami and is judged by a Panel of local VIP and Celebrity Judges as well as a media and chefs!

**1st Place:** Jama Cubana: Representing London England

**2nd Place:** The Joy Ride: Representing Memphis, TN

**3rd Place:** Tia's Authentic Latin Food: Representing Largo, Florida

## **Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ Hawthorne Plaza in Bonita Springs Winners in SW Florida Cuban Sandwich Smackdown!**

#1 Traditional Cuban Sandwich is by Fernandez the Bull

#2 Non-Traditional Cuban Sandwich is by Sea Salt

## **Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ Sergio's Cuban Restaurants Winners of the Miami Florida Cuban Sandwich Smackdown!**

#1 Traditional Cuban Sandwich is by The Cuban Press Food Truck

#1 Non-Traditional Cuban Sandwich is by Sergio's Cuban Restaurant

## **Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ Valencia College Winners of the Orlando Cuban Sandwich Smackdown!**

#1 Traditional Cuban Sandwich is by Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar

#1 Non-Traditional Cuban Sandwich is by El Cubanito Subs

#2 Traditional and Non—Traditional is: CubanoZ

## **[2016 VIP/Celebrity Judges check out 2015 here!](#)**

**Event Sponsored by:** Sprint, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Latin Times Media, Inc., Hispanic Resource Foundation, FMCRC, City of Tampa, YCDC, HCC—Ybor Campus, ABC Action News, ACCI, HART, Oliva Tobacco, Tampa Bay Times, Bright House Networks, HART, Ybor City Museum, The Home Depot, Telemundo Tampa, Clear Channel Billboard, Maxima Radio, Yelp, La Segunda Central Bakery, La Teresita Cuban Restaurant, MoreTV, ThisTV, Estrella TV.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual International Cuban Sandwich Festival Dates are as follow:

Orlando Cuban Sandwich Smackdown

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

@Valencia College

Miami Cuban Sandwich Smackdown

Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

@Location TBA

Ybor City, Florida

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Opening Night

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Biggest Cuban Sandwich in the World

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017: SMACKDOWN SUNDAY

For the 2017 event, we already have a registered contestant who will be coming from South Korea!

See additional info at: [www.iLOVECubanSandwiches.com](http://www.iLOVECubanSandwiches.com)

**Contestant Press/Interview Opportunities Available:** [CubanSandwichFestival@Latin-Times.com](mailto:CubanSandwichFestival@Latin-Times.com)



**This event also serves as a fundraiser:**

Causes: Emberlynn Padilla: a 5 1/2 year old baby miracle baby born with congenital diaphragmatic hernia. To Donate or learn more about Emberlynn: <http://www.gofundme.com/h3k5n8>.

New Beginnings of Tampa: Emergency Shelters and transitional living for homeless and vets.

Florida Homeless Shelters: Every year, because of the help of our generous sponsors and competing restaurants we are able to feed over 400 homeless people. This year -our goal is to feed over 800 homeless people! The Biggest Cuban Sandwich in the world makes this possible.

The first of those Sandwiches was made in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ Valencia College, and the second one is scheduled to be made in Ybor City, Florida on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ Hillsborough Community College – Ybor City Campus.

**Want to Participate in this exciting event?**

**Opportunities available for: Contestants, Sandwich Makers, Vendors and Sponsors.**

Email [CubanSandwichFestival@Latin-Times.com](mailto:CubanSandwichFestival@Latin-Times.com) or call (813) 407-6866 / (813) 407-7191 or register online at: [www.iLOVECubanSandwiches.com](http://www.iLOVECubanSandwiches.com)