

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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### Call to Writers for

### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Embracing Our Differences Exhibit

*Original statements that celebrate the theme of "enriching lives through diversity" are being accepted through January 10. A \$1,000 cash award will be presented to the best original quotation exhibited. Embracing Our Differences' 14th annual outdoor exhibit is April 1-May 31, in Island Park in downtown Sarasota.*

**"Sometimes when there is only silence,  
yours must be the voice that is heard."**

- Jayda E., 6th Grade, Louis R. Johnson Middle School

(Sarasota, FL) Embracing Our Differences invites writers to submit inspirational statements for its 14th annual outdoor art exhibit celebrating diversity. The work of 45 artists and writers will be selected for the exhibit, which runs April 1–May 31, 2017, in Sarasota's Island Park. Final selections, based on artistic excellence and originality reflecting the theme, "enriching lives through diversity," will be made by a panel of professional artists, writers, curators and art professionals. Statements must be 20 words or less. A \$1,000 cash award will be presented to the best original quotation exhibited. There is no submission fee or limit on the number of entries. **Submissions must be submitted online or postmarked no later than January 10, 2017. Writers can view past entries and submit directly online at: <http://embracingourdifferences.org/submit-quotation>.**

***For more information about Embracing Our Differences, call 941-404-5710 or visit [www.embracingourdifferences.org](http://www.embracingourdifferences.org).***

Since its inaugural exhibit in 2004, Embracing Our Differences has become one of the area's most visible and widely anticipated events, with hundreds of thousands of visitors flocking annually to see the colorful, billboard-sized images created by artists, writers and students from around the world.

"The inspirational quotations that accompany each work of art are a critical component of our exhibit," says Michael Shelton, executive director of Embracing Our Differences. "Each statement shows insight into the common humanity we all share—and the differences we embrace. We're always moved by the level of heartfelt thought, creativity, wit and compassion in the quotes we receive. In the end, we have to choose the ones that best complement the message in the artwork each statement accompanies."

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### **About Embracing Our Differences**

Embracing Our Differences is a project of Coexistence, Inc., a local non-profit that began in 2004. The project showcases a community-based outdoor exhibit promoting positive, inspirational artistic and verbal expressions of inclusion, acceptance and respect. The mission of Embracing Our Differences is to use the arts as a catalyst for creating awareness and promoting, throughout our community, the value of diversity, the benefits of inclusion and the significance of the active rejection of hatred and prejudice.