

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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### **Artist from Australia Wins "People's Choice Award" in 2019 Embracing Our Differences' Exhibit**

*Jie Lu's work, "Share the Love," was voted "People's Choice" by visitors to the exhibit.*

*Lu received a \$1,000 cash award.*

(Sarasota, FL) "Share the Love," Jie Lu's poignant artwork expressing friendship between an elephant and a pig, won visitors' hearts and the "People's Choice Award" at Embracing Our Differences' 16<sup>th</sup> annual outdoor juried art exhibit celebrating diversity. Lu, who is from Melbourne, Australia, received a cash award of \$1,000.

Lu says that her inspiration for this work originated from a Chinese traditional folk tale about a pig who wants to pretend to be an elephant. He puts spring onions in his nostrils to extend the length of his nose. "I drew a cute elephant and a lovely piggy," says Lu. "The elephant is showing his love to this small creature with a little yellow flower as his gift. The little yellow flower becomes the friendship bridge connecting their hearts and breaking the ice. Without a word, we know each other."

Sarah Wertheimer, executive director of Embracing Our Differences, says that the People's Choice award is determined by a survey that was available to more than 218,000 visitors who attended this year's exhibit. "This award is especially meaningful because it's what captivated visitors the most," she says.

For 16 years, Embracing Our Differences has drawn on the passion and perception of artists, children and others to create powerful statements of diversity and

acceptance in its annual outdoor public art exhibition consisting of 45 billboard-sized works of art and accompanying quotes. The scale and impact of this outdoor exhibition has continued to grow, attracting close to 3 million visitors since its inception. This exhibit is the heart of a year-round program of activities designed to use art as a catalyst to create awareness and promote diversity. The 2020 exhibit opens January 18, 2020, in Bayfront Park in downtown Sarasota. *For more information, call 941-404-5710 or visit [www.embracingourdifferences.org](http://www.embracingourdifferences.org).*

### **About Embracing Our Differences**

Embracing Our Differences is a not-for-profit organization that uses the transformational power of art and education to celebrate and promote the diversity of the human family. It accomplishes this through an annual, large-scale outdoor juried art exhibition and a comprehensive series of educational initiatives, programs and resources designed for teachers and students. Visit [www.embracingourdifferences.org](http://www.embracingourdifferences.org).