

SIESTA * SAND

Siesta Key's monthly newspaper bringing you hyper-local Siesta Key news

Arts on the Horizon: January 2021

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No, these are not the suggested winning lottery numbers from a fortune cookie found in the back of the kitchen junk drawer, but they do tangentially relate to winning. On January 20th, the 18th annual outdoor exhibit of those giant *Embracing Our Differences* billboards will be back in Bayfront Park. This year, 15,912 entries of original quotes and illustrations came in from 128 different countries. Fifty billboards will be showing off the winners – the fifty best illustrations and fifty best quotes. But even the submissions that were not selected came from winners. The fact that those 15,812 entrants took the time to think about how diversity affects all of us in a positive way makes them better, more rounded students – which makes them all winners. Yes, most of these entries are from elementary and high school students from all over the world, all thinking those good thoughts that can make all lives better. And, because this competition is headquartered here in Sarasota, many of the entries are from the local area. In fact, Emily N. a 7th grader at Sarasota Middle School won the Best-in-Show student award.

Spoiler Alert: the following are some of the quotes that will be up on the billboards this year – *Stop pointing a finger and start lending a hand*; *Social equality cannot be achieved if the folks making the decisions all look alike*; and *A country will realize its potential only when it recognizes its people*.

If you're tired of sitting home, day after day, a nice brisk (or leisurely) walk through this park on Sarasota Bay is just the thing. These billboards will put a spring in your step, a smile on your face, and a thought or two in your head. And, having the exhibition in the middle of Sarasota's winter means less humidity and more lovely breezes. The exhibit runs from January 20 – April 1, with more information at embracingourdifferences.org