

Bayfront art exhibit emphasizes our differences

The 20th anniversary of the Embracing our Differences exhibition attracted more than 13,000 entries.

- By **Dariela Delgado**
- | 2:00 p.m. January 23, 2023







"Change will begin the day we look each other, not at each other."

Johnpaul Santiago, Artist
Nikoma, Kansas

Heart Puzzle

Hain Kim
12th Grade Eden High School
Ontario, Canada

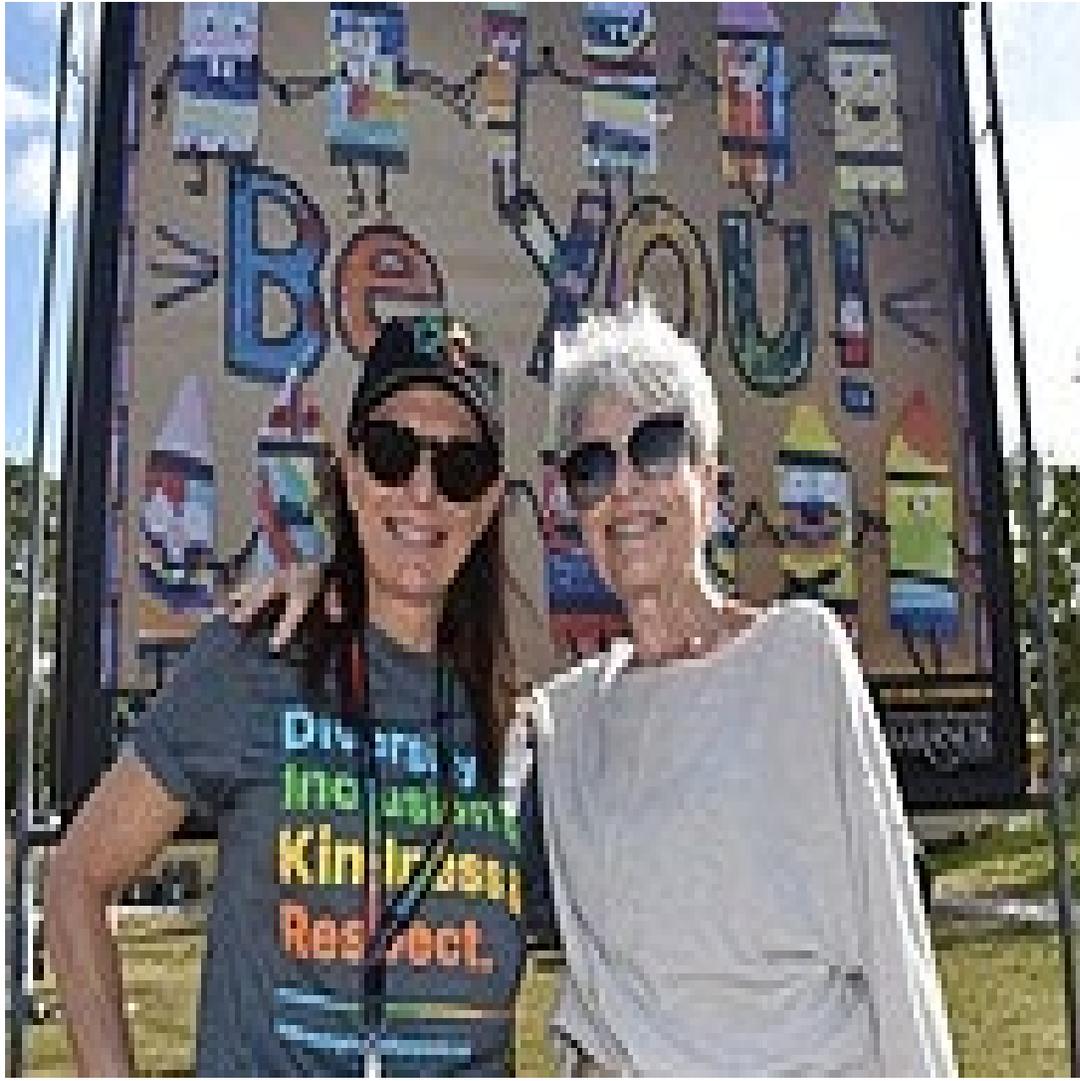
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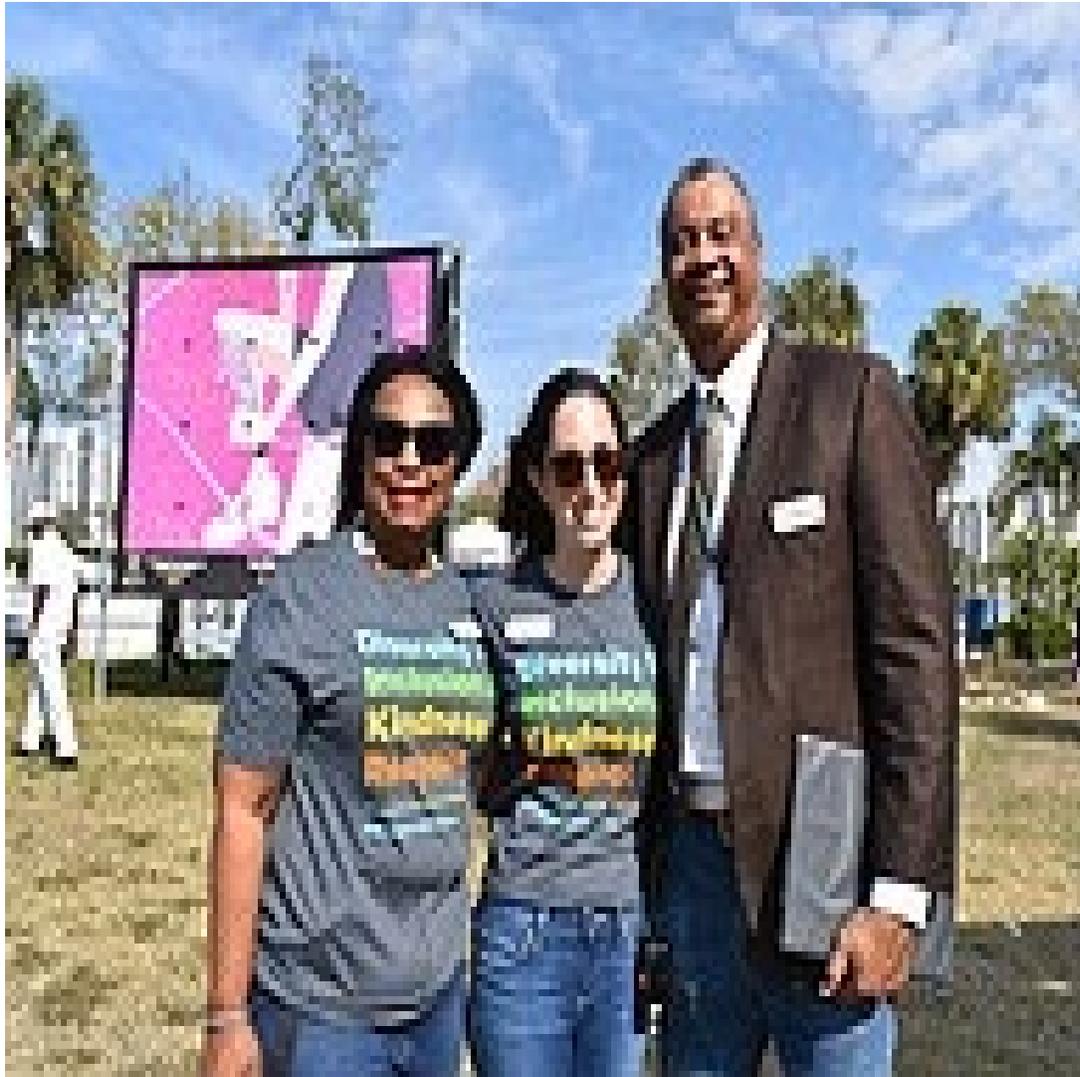
Chris Craft

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CAUTION - Do not go underneath this art panel





















"Stretching Beauty" is a fashion design project by Anne & Brian and Nancy & Barry.

Stretching Beauty

THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION

THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Anne & Brian
Nancy & Barry

7-1





“Don't let what anyone says hold you back, and always embrace yourself, your body and your culture,” said 2023 Best in Show Student Art Winner Alexis Lee.

Embracing Our Differences held its [20th anniversary grand opening celebration](#) at Bayfront Park on Sunday, Jan. 22.

Hundreds gathered to admire and recognize the artwork that embraces diversity. This grand opening featured performances from Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe's Jazzlinks, music by Jah Movement and spoken word by Cedric Hameed and Whit the Poet.

“We think that it is more important today than ever before for us to come together as one, for us to meet people who are different from us, who have different perspectives and life experiences. And to really focus on treating others with kindness and respect,” said Embracing Our Differences Executive Director Sarah Wertheimer.

This year, the number of submissions was 13,733 ranging from 119 countries, 45 states and 422 schools.

The 2023 Best in Show Art Winner were Whitney de Araujo from Recife, Brazil and tenth-grader Alexis Lee from Irvine, California. The 2023 Best in Show Quote Winners were Alexis Morrell from Wolcott, Connecticut and Hartley Livesey from Sarasota.

Embracing Our Differences is a nonprofit based in Sarasota. Its annual, juried art exhibit consists of 50 billboard-sized artworks that are accompanied by an inspirational quote.

This exhibit location will run through March 12.