

# Sarasota

## Embracing Our Differences Was Vandalized Last Night

A piece of art titled *Women of the Bluest Eye* was targeted. Embracing Our Differences estimates it will cost about \$3,000 to repair.

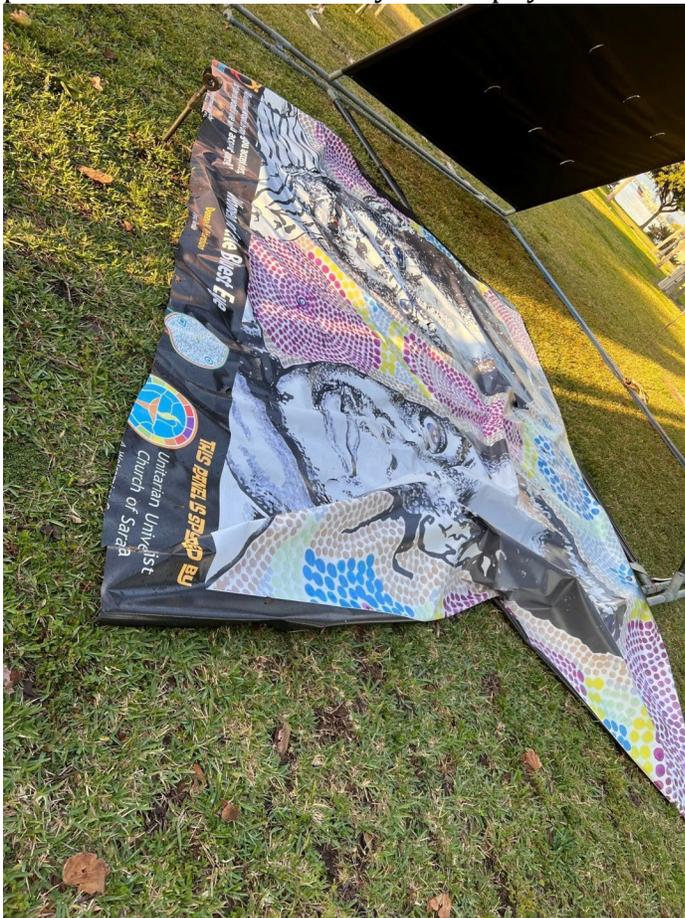
By [Megan McDonald](#) February 1, 2023



A piece by Tampa artist Donna M. Richardson called *Women of the Bluest Eye*, featuring an accompanying quote by sixth-grade student Ojasvi “Oju” Ramani of Ashburn, Virginia, was vandalized in Bayfront Park on January 31, 2023.

The [Embracing Our Differences exhibit](#) at downtown Sarasota’s Bayfront Park—which is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary season—was the victim of vandalism late last night, according to the organization’s executive director, Sarah Wertheimer.

Specifically, a piece called [Women of the Bluest Eye](#) by Tampa artist Donna M. Richardson, was targeted. The artwork is accompanied by a quote from sixth-grade student Ojasvi “Oju” Ramani of Ashburn, Virginia: “An ideal world would be one where you accept others, but a perfect world is one where you accept yourself.”



Embracing Our Differences estimates it will cost about \$3,000 to repair the piece.

In an email, Wertheimer wrote that the vandals cut *Women of the Bluest Eye* off its framing, detached the straps that connect it to its anchor and knocked over the piece’s entire tripod, “which is *very* heavy,” she wrote.

She added that an eyewitness saw the vandalism happening and called the Sarasota Police Department, who now have a suspect and are re-interviewing the witness.



*Women of the Bluest Eye* by Donna M. Richardson

IMAGE: [DONNA M. RICHARDSON](#)

As for the artwork, “we have sent the banner to the printer to re-print, and our setup crew is working on what machinery they will need to stand it back up,” Wertheimer wrote. “This will cost us about \$3,000 total because of the printing and labor. But it will not deter us. We know that our work is needed more now than ever before.”