

MEDIA CONTACTS

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Embracing Our Differences Announces 2027 Exhibition Season

The Sarasota exhibition is January 16-April 18 at Bayfront Park

The St. Petersburg exhibition is February 12-March 14 at St. Pete Pier

The 24th annual international outdoor art exhibition returns to Sarasota's Bayfront Park and marks its fourth year in St. Pete with a new location at St. Pete Pier.

(October 6, 2026) After welcoming nearly 450,000 visitors in 2026, Embracing Our Differences (EOD) returns in 2027 with its 24th annual international outdoor art exhibition, featuring 50 billboard-sized works of art and thought-provoking quotations celebrating inclusion, kindness and respect. The free exhibition runs January 16-April 18 at Sarasota's Bayfront Park, where it has been a fixture on the downtown waterfront since 2004. The opening celebration is Saturday, January 16, 1-3 p.m. In St. Petersburg, the exhibition moves to a prominent new location, St. Pete Pier, February 12-March 14, with the opening celebration on Friday, February 12, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

"Every year, we ask artists and writers from around the world to show us what kindness, respect and human connection look like through their eyes," says Sarah Wertheimer, president and CEO of Embracing Our Differences. "What comes back is extraordinary—thousands of submissions offering different ways of seeing one another and the world we share. This coming year, those voices will stretch from Sarasota's Bayfront Park to our new home at St. Pete Pier, creating two vibrant public

spaces where art can surprise us, challenge us and, we hope, bring us a little closer together.”

Since 2004, more than 5.6 million people have visited Embracing Our Differences exhibitions. The art and quotations are selected through separate competitions and judged blindly by volunteer committees before being paired for the exhibition. Awards are presented for Best-in-Show Adult, Best-in-Show Student and People’s Choice artwork, with additional awards for inspirational quotations. Adult winners receive \$2,000. Student winners receive \$2,000 to share with their school’s art or writing program.

The international reach of the exhibition continues to grow. The 2027 exhibition drew 16,784 art and quotation submissions from 129 countries, 48 states and 609 schools. More than 60% of the submissions came from students.

The exhibition is at the heart of EOD’s year-round education programs, which use art as a catalyst for learning, conversation and connection. Through partnerships with area school districts and educators, EOD provides programs including exhibition field trips, reading initiatives, educator workshops, Unity Days, student docent programs, and immersive historical experiences. In the past year, 49,901 students participated in EOD education initiatives, and 21,516 books were donated to students through its reading day programs.

EOD’s 2027 season also includes its annual Sarasota Luncheon, Thursday, February 18, at The Ora, 578 McIntosh Road, Sarasota. The signature event brings together community leaders, educators, students and supporters to

celebrate EOD and the impact of its art and education programs. Sponsorship opportunities are available now.

For more information about these exhibitions or Embracing Our Differences, call 941-404-5710 or visit EmbracingOurDifferences.org.

Photo Captions:

- *Students explore the 2026 Embracing Our Differences exhibition at Sarasota's Bayfront Park during a docent-led tour. The 2027 exhibition will be on display Jan. 16 through April 18 at Bayfront Park and Feb. 12 through March 14 at St. Pete Pier.*
- *Students gather beneath "Drawing Togetherness" during the 2026 Embracing Our Differences exhibition at Sarasota's Bayfront Park. The 2027 exhibition opens Jan. 16 in Sarasota and Feb. 12 at St. Pete Pier.*
- *Students explore the large-scale artworks featured in the 2026 Embracing Our Differences exhibition at Sarasota's Bayfront Park. In 2027, the exhibition returns to Bayfront Park Jan. 16 through April 18 and to St. Pete Pier Feb. 12 through March 14.*
- *Students view "The Power of Love" during the 2026 Embracing Our Differences exhibition at Sarasota's Bayfront Park. The 2027 exhibition will feature 50 billboard-sized works at Bayfront Park Jan. 16 through April 18 and St. Pete Pier Feb. 12 through March 14.*

About Embracing Our Differences

Embracing Our Differences is a nonprofit organization that uses the transformational power of art and education to celebrate and promote the different perspectives and experiences 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.