



GOOD DEEDS

February 26, 2018

The **Florida Department of State's Division of Cultural Affairs** has honored **Embracing Our Differences** with a Diversity and Inclusion Award for its ongoing efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

The award, which will be presented at a special awards ceremony on Jan. 24 in Tallahassee, recognizes innovative and exceptional efforts that promote diversity in arts and cultural programming. Shirley Brown, a Sarasota County School Board member, nominated Embracing Our Differences for the award.

Since 2004, EOD's outdoor art exhibit, celebrating the theme of "enriching lives through diversity and inclusion," has showcased the art and words of thousands of artists and writers from around the world, including hundreds of area-based students and educators. Crucial to the organization's mission are its award-winning education initiatives.

Presented in partnership with the regional school districts and nationally recognized educators, these programs positively impact the lives of thousands of area teachers and students every year. These include annual workshops and retreats providing diversity curricula for area educators, free bus transportation for students and teachers to visit area cultural venues, and student docent programs in high schools.