

The Giving Report Herald-Tribune



EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES **— Celebrating diversity, by the numbers**

Embracing Our Differences uses the power of art and education to expand consciousness and open hearts to celebrate the diversity 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. For 13 years, EOD has drawn on the passion and perception of artists and children to create powerful statements of inclusion and acceptance in its annual public art exhibition, consisting of 45 billboard-sized works of art, each accompanied by an inspirational quote. The response to this year's call for artwork and inspirational quotes was strong, with 8,350 entries pouring in from 104 countries and 44 states. The winning quotes and art will be showcased in the 13th-anniversary exhibit, March 30 to May 31, at Sarasota's Island Park. Here are some fun facts from Sarah Wertheimer, EOD's associate executive director.



Students at Island Park. Photo provided by EOD

Above: *"Perspective,"* by Doddy Iswahyudi-Bantul

1. EOD has received 42,900 art and quote submissions from people around the world since 2005.
2. EOD received 8,350 art and quote submissions from people around the world for its 2016 exhibit in Sarasota's Island Park.
3. 113 people from Iran submitted artwork for EOD's 2016 exhibit.
4. It took EOD's three-person jury 10 days to review all art and quote submissions for the 2016 exhibit.
5. This year, the three-person jury consumed 72 cups of coffee and 44 bottles of caffeinated soda during the 10-day review process.
6. In 2015, 30,077 students from Sarasota and Manatee county schools participated in EOD education initiatives, including free field trips to the exhibit; the Make-A-Day-Of-It program, which features free bus transportation for area students and teachers to the outdoor exhibit and to another cultural venue on the same day; and free anti-bullying concerts at area high schools.

7. Since 2004, 1,112 area teachers, educators and counselors participated in EOD-sponsored educational workshops, seminars, retreats and its new Diversity Institute.
8. More than 270,000 people visited the 2015 exhibit at Sarasota's Island Park.
9. People from countries as far away as Algeria, Rwanda, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe and Syria have submitted artwork and quotes for EOD's annual exhibit.
10. There are 200+ Co-Existence Club members at Riverview High School who participate in EOD's docent program, leading groups of younger students through the exhibit every year.