

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Realize Bradenton Offers Free Docent Tours Of Embracing Our Differences Exhibit May 10, 11, 13, 15 • Bradenton's Riverwalk**

*Visitors to the Bradenton Embracing Our Differences exhibit can get an up-close-and-personal view of the artwork and quotes with guided docent tours led by volunteers from Realize Bradenton.*

(Bradenton, FL) Realize Bradenton has partnered with Embracing Our Differences to offer a series of four free, guided tours of the Embracing Our Differences' exhibit at downtown Bradenton's Riverwalk. The tours take place Saturday, May 10, 2 p.m.; Sunday, May 11, 1 p.m.; Tuesday, May 13, 6 p.m.; and Thursday, May 15, 10 a.m. The tours last 45 minutes to one hour; participants are asked to arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled tour time at the Riverwalk Pavilion, 452 3rd Avenue West in downtown Bradenton. The Embracing Our Differences exhibit remains on display through May 22. *For more information, call Realize Bradenton at 941-681-0708.*

Since 2004, Embracing Our Differences' annual juried art exhibit has graced downtown Sarasota's bayfront with colorful, billboard-sized images created by artists, writers and students from around the world reflecting their interpretation of the message, "enriching lives through diversity." Last year, a grant from the William

G. and Marie Selby Foundation enabled the organization to mark its tenth anniversary with an expansion of the exhibit to Bradenton.

"The stories behind these works of art are captivating," says Johnette Isham, executive director of Realize Bradenton. "Organizing these tours was an obvious and logical next step in the growth of this exhibit in Bradenton."

To prepare for their roles as docents, volunteers from Realize Bradenton took a crash course on the exhibit and its history from Michael Shelton, the executive director of Embracing Our Differences.

"Michael has had a hands-on involvement with every aspect of this exhibit since its inception in 2004," explains Isham. "He shared 11 years of poignant stories about the exhibits and the organization's mission and message. We're thrilled to pass this on to our visitors."

Docent tours of the Embracing Our Differences exhibit at Bradenton's Riverwalk will take place on May 10, 11, 13 and 15. Interested people should show up 10 minutes before the tour start time. The exhibit will remain on display through May 22. *For more information about Embracing Our Differences, call 941-313-2311 or visit [www.embracingourdifferences.org](http://www.embracingourdifferences.org). For more information about the docent tours and Realize Bradenton, visit [www.RealizeBradenton.com](http://www.RealizeBradenton.com).*

### **About Realize Bradenton**

Realize Bradenton is a nonprofit organization that brings people together to create a vibrant and prosperous downtown Bradenton. For more information, visit: [www.RealizeBradenton.com](http://www.RealizeBradenton.com).

### **About Embracing Our Differences**

Embracing Our Differences is a project of Coexistence, Inc., a local non-profit that began in 2004. The project showcases a community-based outdoor exhibit promoting positive,

inspirational artistic and verbal expressions of inclusion, acceptance and respect. The mission of Embracing Our Differences is to use the arts as a catalyst for creating awareness and promoting, throughout our community, the value of diversity, the benefits of inclusion and the significance of the active rejection of hatred and prejudice. *For more information about Embracing Our Differences, call 941-404-5710, or visit [www.embracingourdifferences.org](http://www.embracingourdifferences.org).*

**Photos courtesy of the artists.**