

Diversity display deadline is Jan. 5



Youths visit the Embracing Our Differences display at Island Park in Sarasota. COURTESY PHOTO

Published: Friday, January 2, 2015 at 4:57 p.m.

Last Modified: Friday, January 2, 2015 at 4:57 p.m.

Submissions of original artwork and statements to the 12th annual Embracing Our Differences are being accepted through Jan. 5.

The 12th annual outdoor art exhibit celebrating diversity will feature the work of 39 artists and writers. The work will be on display March 29 to May 31 at Sarasota's Island Park and Bradenton's Riverwalk.

Final selections, based on artistic excellence and originality reflecting the theme, "enriching lives through diversity," will be made by a panel of professional artists, curators and art professionals.

The artwork will also be evaluated on how effectively it will read when enlarged to the exhibit's billboard-size dimensions of 16 x 12.5 feet.

A total of \$3,000 in awards will be presented.

There is no submission fee or limit on the number of entries.

Submissions must be submitted online or postmarked no later than Jan. 5, 2015. Artists and writers can submit directly online at: www.embracingourdifferences.org/call-for-artists.html. For more information about Embracing Our Differences, call 404-5710 or visit www.embracingourdifferences.org.

"We're always thrilled by the high quality of art and statements we receive, and how powerfully they express the impact and importance of diversity in our lives," said Michael Shelton, executive director of Embracing Our Differences.

New this year is a web portal that enables artists to submit their work online.

— *Submitted by Su Byron*