

2025

Art of Found Objects

Annual Art Exhibition & Awards Reception



Celebrating 40 Years of The Education Fund!



OCEAN BANK – MEMBER FDIC



The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials

Annual Art Exhibition

Each year, as part of their commitment to the community and its children, Ocean Bank and The Education Fund sponsor the “Art of Found Objects” exhibition for students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. This exhibition features children’s and teachers’ artwork created with materials recycled from The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials.

The purpose of the “Art of Found Objects” exhibition is to show the many creative ways that items found in The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials can be used. Through this unique exhibition, children learn to work individually and in teams on projects. They gain self-respect from seeing that their artwork is worthy of being displayed. Students receive the encouragement they need from a teacher in whose class they excel, and they take the success of winning an award and translate it into other subject areas in school. Art has a profound influence on children’s lives, and our program helps expand that influence.



Special Thanks to Ocean Bank **OCEAN BANK®**

The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center celebrates its 33rd Anniversary this year, thanks to our signature sponsor, Ocean Bank. Ocean Bank, a pillar in the community, is committed to our school children, ensuring they have the supplies needed to learn through their named sponsorship of the Ocean Bank Center, its art exhibition, and its art auction. For more than a quarter-century, Ocean Bank’s generous gifts have kept the Ocean Bank Center going strong. Its commitment has helped create a lifeline upon which teachers can depend, and their students can flourish. The enduring partnership among Ocean Bank, The Education Fund, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools works to provide every child with the best education possible.

The Education Fund is privileged to see Ocean Bank’s support rewarded through the eyes of grateful teachers visiting the well-stocked aisles of the Ocean Bank Center, and ultimately, through the students who are using these materials in their classrooms every day.

The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials 2025 Art Exhibition Awards Reception

WELCOME

Linda Lecht

President, The Education Fund

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Teachers and Student Honorees

EMCEE

Marieli García

Manager Customer Experience Business
Ford Motor Company



The Education Fund wishes to thank
**Amazon, The Children's Trust, Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, Kirk Foundation,
Knight Foundation, Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation,
Miami Dade College - Hialeah Campus, and Peacock Foundation Inc.**
for their support of this event;
Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau for printing
the program books; and the art contest judges for their
help with selecting this year's winners.



Art of Found Objects | Elementary Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

Rainbow

Melanie Smith & Noah Hyatt

Grade: 2nd

School: Hubert O. Sibley K-8 Academy

Art Teacher: Wilson Mape

Best of the Best

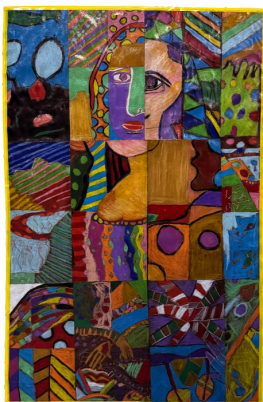
Mini Masterpieces

Group

Grade: 5th

School: Emerson Elementary

Art Teacher: Lilian Villalba



Award of Merit

Mona 2025

Group

Grade: 5th

School: Jack D. Gordon Elementary

Art Teacher: Michael Flaum

Art of Found Objects | Middle School Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION

Grand Prize

Marie Antoinette

Group

Grade: 8th

School: True North Classical Academy

Art Teacher: Sara Alfaro



Best of the Best

Michelle

Augustine Cardoso & Michelle Moran

Grade: 8th

School: Hialeah Middle

Art Teacher: Marcos Alvarez

Award of Merit

Ana - Among My Favorite Things

Ana Morales

Grade: 7th

School: Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy

Art Teacher: Maria Patino



Art of Found Objects | Senior High Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

Deconstructed Rainbow

Group

Grades: 9th - 12th

School: Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High

Art Teacher: Elizabeth Abaya

Best of the Best

Remembering Venezuela

Mariana Isaza

Grade: 12th

School: Booker T. Washington Senior High

Art Teacher: Raydeivis Soguero-Gonzalez



Award of Merit

Hialeah Park Flamingo

Angelina Cabrera-Aguila

Grade: 12th

School: Miami Springs Senior High

Art Teacher: Beth Goldstein

Art of Found Objects | Teacher Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION

Grand Prize

Starry Blues

Maria Vallejo

School: South Miami Heights
Elementary



Best of the Best

Plastic Everywhere

Wilson Mape

School: Hubert O. Sibley K-8
Academy

Award of Merit

Archangel

Michael Flaum

School: Jack D. Gordon Elementary





We extend our heartfelt thanks to the **Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation** for generously sponsoring the “**We Love Yarn**” category. Their support has made it possible to introduce a truly unique and hands-on artistic experience to both students and teachers.

This category encouraged participants to explore the creative possibilities of yarn in all its forms—through weaving, stitching, wrapping, and beyond. The challenge invited imagination and craftsmanship, resulting in intricate, textured works of art that showcased just how versatile and expressive yarn can be.

To further spark inspiration and skill-building, we hosted two engaging yarn workshops, providing valuable guidance and techniques to help bring each artistic vision to life. Thanks to this effort, we were thrilled to receive a wide range of exceptional entries from both students and educators—each one a testament to the power of creativity when supported by opportunity and community.



We Love Yarn | Elementary Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

King Panther

Group

Grades: 4th - 5th

School: Palm Springs Elementary

Art Teacher: Caridad Rojas

Best of the Best

Blooming Beauty

Group

Grade: 5th

School: Pinecrest Academy South

Art Teacher: Erika Reboucas



Award of Merit

Passaritos Felizes

Group

Grade: 5th

School: True North Classical Academy

Art Teacher: Roberta Parga Nina

We Love Yarn | Middle School Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

Mom's Garden

Group

Grades: 6th - 8th | **School:** Shenandoah Middle

Art Teacher: Lourdes Fuller



Best of the Best

Yarn Yard

Group

Grade: 6th

School: True North Classical Academy

Art Teacher: Roberta Parga Nina



Award of Merit

Fiber Pin Wheels

Group

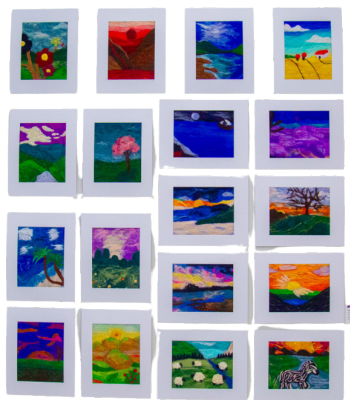
Grade: 8th

School: True North Classical Academy

Art Teacher: Sara Alfaro

We Love Yarn | Senior High Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

Inspired By Sky and Sea

Group

Grades: 9th - 12th

School: Miami Springs Senior High

Art Teacher: Beth Goldstein

Best of the Best

Interior Perspective

Alexa Diaz

Grade: 12th

School: Booker T. Washington
Senior High

Art Teacher: Raydeivis Soguero-
Gonzalez



Award of Merit

Star Puppy

Sofia Herera

Grade: 12th

School: G. Holmes Braddock Senior High

Art Teacher: Mortimer Hechavarria

We Love Yarn | Teacher Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

Everglades Oasis

Christine Cintron

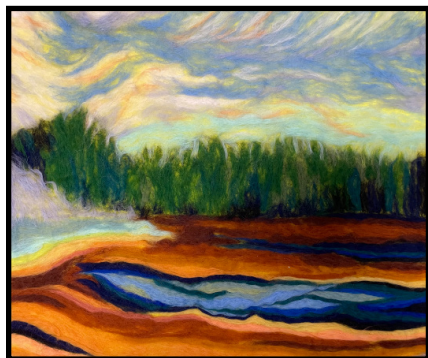
School: Coral Reef Elementary

Best of the Best

Felt Faces

Kristi Atkison

School: Kendale Lakes Elementary



Award of Merit

Yellowstone Dream

Monica Ferrer

School: E.W.F. Stirrup Elementary



In celebration of **The Education Fund's 40th Anniversary**, we're excited to introduce a special new category: **"40 Years of Miami."** Sponsored by **The Frederick A. Deluca Foundation**, this category honors the vibrant spirit of our city—its art, entertainment, and rich cultural history.

We invited students to create artwork that reflects the energy, influence, and love that Miami has inspired over the past four decades. Through this tribute, we not only celebrate The Education Fund's legacy, but also the dynamic city that continues to shape and inspire us all.

40 Years of Miami | Elementary Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

Spirit of Miami

Group

Grade: 5th

School: Jack D. Gordon
Elementary

Art Teacher: Michael Flaum



Best of the Best

Miami Proud

Group

Grade: 12th

School: West Homestead K-8
Center

Art Teacher: Paula Gale

Award of Merit

Lilly's Palms

Group

Grade: 5th

School: Pinecrest Academy South

Art Teacher: Erika Reboucas



40 Years of Miami | Middle School Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

Fun Day at the Beach

Eythan Gonzalez-Ezpana

Grade: 6th

School: True North Classical Academy

Art Teacher: Roberta Parga Nina

Best of the Best

Pink Paradise

Group

Grade: 7th

School: True North Classical Academy

Art Teacher: Roberta Parga Nina



Award of Merit

Soup Du Jour

Group

Grade: 6th - 8th

School: Youth Co-Op Charter

Art Teacher: Miranda Melgarejo



40 Years of Miami | Senior High Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

Miami Loves Vicky's Bakery

Audrey Rodriguez

Grade: 10th

School: Miami Springs Senior High

Art Teacher: Beth Goldstein

Best of the Best

Miami Cuban

Michael Roces

Grade: 11th

School: Miami Arts Studio 6-12

Art Teacher: Brian Reedy



Award of Merit

Key Dear Grazing

Andrea Sanchez-Artiles

Grade: 12th

School: G. Holmes

Braddock Senior High

Art Teacher: Mortimer
Hechavarria

40 Years of Miami | Teacher Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION



Grand Prize

Miami

Brian Reedy

School: Miami Arts Studio 6-12

Best of the Best

Baby Flamingo

Wilson Mape

School: Hubert O. Sibley K-8 Academy



Award of Merit

Our Favorite Rooster

Jeanette Perez

School: Oliver Hoover Elementary

Thank You To All Participants

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2025 ART EXHIBITION

Thank you to everyone who participated. We hope to see your entries again next year!

Elizabeth Abaya
Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior
High

Sara Alfaro
True North Classical Academy

Marcos Alvarez
Hialeah Middle

Kristi Atkison
Kendale Lakes Elementary

Maria Cherrez
Linda Lentin K-8 Center

Christine Cintron
Coral Reef Elementary

Ariana Diaz
Miami Coral Park Senior High

Monica Ferrer
E.W.F. Stirrup Elementary

Michael Flaum
Jack D. Gordon Elementary

Andrea Flores
Fulford Elementary

Lourdes Fuller
Senandoah Middle

Paula Gale
West Homestead K-8 Center

Crystal Garcia
Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior
High

Beth Goldstein
Miami Springs Senior High

Mortimer Hechavarria
G. Holmes Braddock Senior
High

Rachel Klein
South Miami K-8 Center

Lisette Madrazo
Meadowlane Elementary

Wilson Mape
Hubert O. Sibley K-8 Academy

Miranda Melgarejo
Youth Co-Op Charter

Roberta Parga Nina
True North Classical Academy

Maria Patino
Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy

Maria Paula Parga Nina
True North Classical Academy

Jeanette Perez
Oliver Hoover Elementary

Erika Reboucas
Pinecrest Academy South

Brian Reedy
Miami Arts Studio 6-12

Teodora Reytor
Brentwood Elementary

Caridad Rojas
Palm Springs Elementary

Edward Rossel
True North Classical Academy

Lisa Samson-Gatto
Lake Stevens Elementary

Valerie Silver
Downtown Doral Upper School

Raydeivis Soguero-Gonzalez
Booker T. Washington Senior
High

Silvana Soriano
Morningside K-8 Academy

Maria Vallejo
South Miami Heights
Elementary

Alina Veloy
Citrus Grove K-8

Lilian Villalba
Emerson Elementary

Jaime West
South Dade Senior High



Please Support Arts Education



A strong arts education promotes the skills children need to be successful. Exposure to arts education promotes self-directed learning, improves school attendance, and sharpens critical and creative skills.

In fact, several recent studies have concluded that the creativity and innovation utilized in the artistic process will be highly valued by employers in the United States in the coming years as we continue to shift into a global economy. Arts education not only enhances students' understanding of the world around them, but also broadens their perspective on traditional academics.

Teachers are usually the first to point out how creative arts programs have strongly influenced their students' self-image and increased their academic success in the areas of math, science,

and language arts. However, during economic downturns, budget cuts have reprioritized classroom spending, targeting arts programs as the first to be sacrificed. In many cases, an entire school's arts program can be wheeled around by teachers from room to room on a cart.

The generous support of Ocean Bank and our partners listed in this program makes it possible for thousands of Miami-Dade students to create, learn, discover, innovate, and thrive. To find out how you can support arts education, visit www.educationfund.org.

The Education Fund wishes to thank our generous sponsors for their support of arts education and encouragement to young artists in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Join The Education Fund as we help our public schools nurture every child's potential. See what we've accomplished:

- \$86+ million raised for public schools
- 34% increase in students' college enrollment
- 71% of students increased science achievement
- 75% of students improved math knowledge
- 203,000+ students and teachers recognized for their artwork
- \$28+ million in classroom supplies donated, benefiting 4+ million children
- 278,500+ harvest food bags provided to low-income students' families
- 7,300+ Food Forest harvests served in students' cafeteria meals
- \$3.1+ million provided for projects in 5,400+ classrooms
- All 420 M-DCPS principals and 360 counselors trained in resiliency strategies
- 3,000+ business professionals recruited to teach for a day and become teacher advocates



Art Exhibition Sponsors



Program Book Sponsor



Goodie Bag Sponsor



The Education Fund is an independent, nonprofit organization established in 1985 that provides private-sector leadership for innovation in public education. We design and implement initiatives that offer opportunities for all residents in Miami-Dade County to become involved in improving our schools with the goal of maximizing every child's potential and opportunity for success. The Education Fund's programs reach all 331,500+ students in 470+ public school centers across the county.

Ocean Bank is the largest independent commercial bank headquartered in Florida. Chartered in 1982, Ocean Bank operates a network of branches throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The bank moved into its current headquarters at 780 NW 42nd Avenue in 1983. Today, Ocean Bank is one of the strongest banking institutions in the state of Florida, meeting the broad financial needs of local businesses, families, and individuals in a personal and professional manner.

THE EDUCATION FUND

6713 Main Street | Suite 240 | Miami Lakes, FL 33014
P. 305-558-4544 | F. 305-558-4964
www.educationfund.org

OCEAN BANK – MEMBER FDIC