



FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Art of Found Objects

Annual Art Exhibition  
& Awards Reception

# 2026



OCEAN BANK®



Frederick A. DeLuca  
FOUNDATION

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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 30 years, 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 2026 Art Exhibition Awards Reception

## WELCOME

**Linda Lecht**

President, The Education Fund

## AWARDS PRESENTATION

Teachers and Student Honorees

## EMCEE

**Elena Otero**

McDermott Will & Schulte LLP

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The Education Fund wishes to thank  
**Amazon, Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, The Kirk Foundation, Knight  
Foundation, Miami Dade College - Hialeah Campus, The Palley Family,  
and Peacock Foundation Inc.**

for their support of this event;

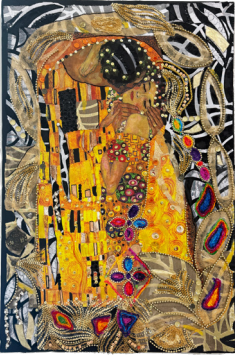
**Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau** for printing  
the program books; and the art contest judges for their  
help with selecting this year's winners.



# Art of Found Objects | Elementary Winners

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THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Grand Prize

*Klimpt 2025*

Group

**Grade:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**School:** Jack D. Gordon  
Elementary

**Art Teacher:** Michael Flaum



## Honorable Mention

*Sea Turtle*

Group

**Grade:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**School:** Jack D. Gordon Elementary  
**Art Teacher:** Michael Flaum

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## A special farewell

to **Michael Flaum** as he retires from a remarkable teaching career. For decades, he has been a cherished part of The Education Fund, inspiring students through incredible artwork and an unwavering passion for creativity. His impact on public education is truly lasting and will not be forgotten.

As he begins this next chapter, we wish him endless joy, fulfillment, and well-deserved happiness. Michael, you will always have a home with us at The Education Fund.



# Art of Found Objects | Elementary Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION

## Best of the Best

*We Are the Future*

Group

**Grade:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>

**School:** West Homestead K-8 Center

**Art Teacher:** Paula Gale



## Award of Merit

*Painted Bunting*

Group

**Grade:** 5<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Pinecrest Academy South

**Art Teacher:** Erika Reboucas



## Honorable Mention

*Mowl Bobby*

Group

**Grade:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**School:** Hubert O Sibley K-8 Academy

**Art Teacher:** Wilson Mape



# Art of Found Objects | Middle School Winners

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THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Grand Prize

*Party Emoji*

Group

**Grade:** 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Hialeah Middle

**Art Teacher:** Marco Alvarez



## Best of the Best

*Under the Gaze of the Gods*

Group

**Grade:** 8<sup>th</sup>

**School:** True North Classical Academy

**Art Teacher:** Sara Alfaro

# Art of Found Objects | Middle School Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION

## Award of Merit

*Portrait of a Hispanic Girl*

Group

**Grade:** 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

**School:** West Homestead K-8 Center

**Art Teacher:** Paula Gale



## Honorable Mention

*Strings and Circuits*

Group

**Grade:** 6<sup>th</sup>

**School:** True North Classical Academy

**Art Teacher:** Roberta Parga Nina



## Honorable Mention

*Faces*

Gabrielle Llano

**Grade:** 6<sup>th</sup>

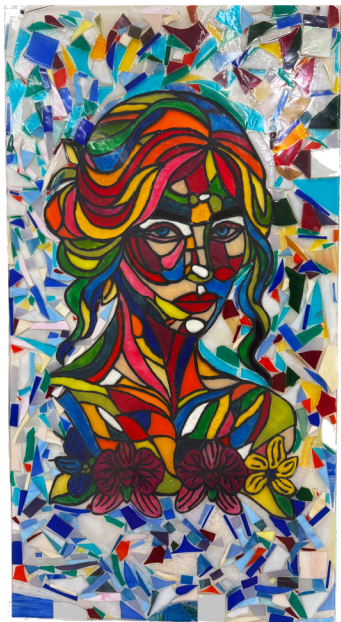
**School:** Miami Arts Studio 6-12

**Art Teacher:** Brian Reedy

# Art of Found Objects | Senior High Winners

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THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Grand Prize

*Mirarte*

*Heilyn Villegas*

**Grades:** 12<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Booker T. Washington  
Senior High

**Art Teacher:** Raydeivis  
Soguero-Gonzalez

## Best of the Best

*Daffodil*

Melissa Moreno

**Grade:** 12<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Miami Arts Studio 6-12

**Art Teacher:** Brian Reedy



# Art of Found Objects | Senior High Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION

## Award of Merit

*Happy Feet*

Shyla Thandani & Melanie Mendoza

**Grade:** 10<sup>th</sup>

**School:** True North Classical Academy

**Art Teacher:** Sara Alfaro



## Honorable Mention

*Felted Starry Night in Aris*

Leonardo Rios

**Grade:** 12<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Miami Springs Senior High

**Art Teacher:** Beth Goldstein

## Honorable Mention

*Jester Mask*

Arianna Munoz

**Grade:** 9<sup>th</sup>

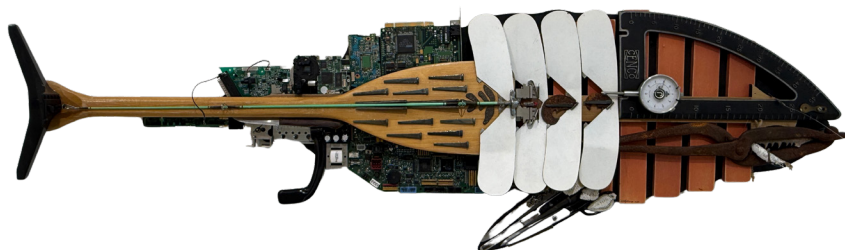
**School:** Miami Springs Senior High

**Art Teacher:** Beth Goldstein



# Art of Found Objects | Teacher Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Grand Prize

*Super Sweet*

Peter Demercado

**School:** Banyan Elementary



## Best of the Best

*But Are We Safe Here?*

Erika Reboucas

**School:** Pinecrest Academy South

# Art of Found Objects | Teacher Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION

## Award of Merit

*My Chair, My World*

Maria Vallejo

**School:** South Miami Heights  
Elementary



## Honorable Mention

*Cafecito*

Carmen Guillen-Casal

**School:** Kelsey L. Pharr Elementary



## Honorable Mention

*Poli*

Miranda Melgarejo

**School:** Youth Co-Op Charter



Frederick A. DeLuca  
FOUNDATION

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation for generously sponsoring the **“Beyond the Page”** 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 paper in all its forms; through cutting, layering, folding, sculpting, and beyond. The challenge invited imagination and craftsmanship, resulting in intricate, dimensional works of art that showcased just how versatile and expressive paper can be.

To further spark inspiration and skill-building, we hosted two engaging paper-focused 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.



# Beyond the Page | Elementary Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Grand Prize

*My Cat Saicoco*

William Repreza

**Grades:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**School:** Hubert O Sibley K-8 Academy

**Art Teacher:** Wilson Mape

## Best of the Best

*Northbound*

Group

**Grade:** 5<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Pinecrest Academy South

**Art Teacher:** Erika Reboucas



# Beyond the Page | Elementary Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION

## Award of Merit

*A Burst of Spring*

Group

**Grade:** 5<sup>th</sup>

**School:** South Miami Heights Elementary

**Art Teacher:** Maria Vallejo



## Honorable Mention

*Paradise*

Aleena Cortes-Rodriguez

**Grade:** 5<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Coral Reef Elementary

**Art Teacher:** Christine Cintron

## Honorable Mention

*Tropical Mosaic Fish*

Amilia Dovil

**Grade:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Gratigny Elementary

**Art Teacher:** Lucia Navarro Herrero



# Beyond the Page | Middle School Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Grand Prize

*Tiger*

Olivia Torres

**Grades:** 6<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Campbell Drive K-8 Center

**Art Teacher:** Monica Perez

## Best of the Best

*Rolled Out*

Natalie Quinones &

Kylie Saumell

**Grade:** 7<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Youth Co-Op Charter

**Art Teacher:** Miranda Melgarejo



## Award of Merit

*Recordando a mi Colombia*

Julieta Sandoval

**Grade:** 8<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy

**Art Teacher:** Maria Patino

# Beyond the Page | Middle School Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Honorable Mention

*Out of Touch*

Adriana Encarnacion & Jessica Lemus

**Grade:** 7<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Hialeah Middle

**Art Teacher:** Marcos Alvarez

## Honorable Mention

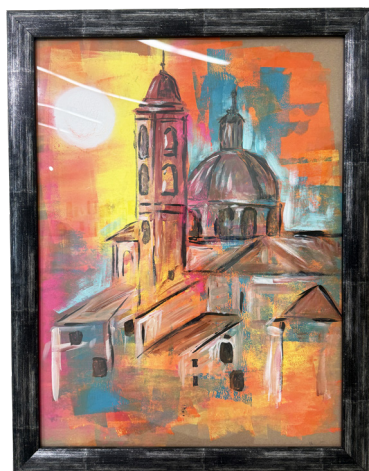
*Tuscany*

Zulet Rodriguez

**Grade:** 8<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Miami Arts Studio 6-12

**Art Teacher:** Brian Reedy



# Beyond the Page | Senior High Winners

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Grand Prize

*Eye of the Jungle*

Anelys Anderson

**Grades:** 12<sup>th</sup>

**School:** South Dade Senior High

**Art Teacher:** Jaime West

## Best of the Best

*Japanese Mirage*

Keillyn Lara

**Grade:** 12<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Booker T. Washington  
Senior High

**Art Teacher:** Raydeivis  
Soguero-Gonzalez



## Award of Merit

*The Blooming Chapters*

Allyson J. Bernales

**Grade:** 10<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High

**Art Teacher:** Elizabeth Abaya

# Beyond the Page | Senior High Winners

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THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Honorable Mention

*Is That All You See?*

Isabella Morales

**Grade:** 12<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Jose Marti MAST 6-12  
Academy

**Art Teacher:** Maria Patino



## Honorable Mention

*The Angel*

Anghel Pulidotorres

**Grade:** 10<sup>th</sup>

**School:** Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High

**Art Teacher:** Elizabeth Abaya

# Beyond the Page | Teacher Winners

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THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Grand Prize

*Fuzzy Dwarf Lionfish*

Jamie West

**School:** South Dade Senior High

## Best of the Best

*All Jazzy*

Roberta Parga Nina

**School:** True North Classical Academy



## Award of Merit

*Paper Garden*

Elizabeth Abaya

**School:** Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High

# Beyond the Page | Teacher Winners

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THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS 2026 ART EXHIBITION



## Honorable Mention

*Trancendance Fowl*

Mortimer Hechavarria

**School:** G. Holmes Braddock Senior High

## Honorable Mention

*My Little June Bug*

Sara Alfaro

**School:** True North Classical  
Academy



# 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

Mildred Castillo  
West Hialeah Gardens  
Elementary

Tanisha Charles  
Comstock Elementary

Christine Cintron  
Coral Reef Elementary

Peter Demercado  
Banyan Elementary

Monica Ferrer  
E.W.F Stirrup Elementary

Michael Flaum  
Jack D. Gordon Elementary

Paula Gale  
West Homestead K-8 Center

Crystal Garcia  
Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior  
High

Beth Goldstein  
Miami Springs Senior High

Carmen Guillen-Casal  
Kelsey L. Pharr Elementary

Mortimer Hechavarria  
G. Holmes Braddock Senior  
High

Eva Ibert Roca  
GW Carver Elementary

Rachel Klein  
South Miami K-8 Center

Evelyn McCloud  
Horace Mann Middle

Wilson Mape  
Hubert O Sibley K-8  
Academy

Miranda Melgarejo  
Youth Co-Op Charter

Lucia Navarro Herrero  
Gratigny Elementary

Maria Patino  
Jose Marti MAST 6-12  
Academy

Roberta Parga Nina  
True North Classical  
Academy

Monica Perez  
Campbell Drive K- 8 Center

Erika Reboucas  
Pinecrest Academy South

Brian Reedy  
Miami Arts Studio 6-12

Valerie Silver  
Downtown Doral Upper

Raydeivis Soguero González  
Booker T. Washington  
Senior High

Maria Vallejo  
South Miami Heights  
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](http://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:

- \$94+ million raised for public schools
- 34% increase in students' college enrollment
- 65% of students increased science achievement
- 73% of students improved math knowledge
- 203,150+ students and teachers recognized for their artwork
- \$32.2+ million in classroom supplies donated, benefiting 4.3+ million children
- 313,000+ harvest food bags provided to low-income students' families
- 8,000+ Food Forest harvests served in students' cafeteria meals
- \$3.1+ million provided for projects in 5,500+ classrooms
- All 347 M-DCPS principals and 676 counselors trained in resiliency strategies
- 3,100+ business professionals recruited to teach for a day and become teacher advocates
- 18,000+ educators joined new Miami Loves Teachers program to recognize and empower current and future teachers





## The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials

# Art Exhibition Sponsors

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### 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 300,000+ students in 400+ 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.

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## THE EDUCATION FUND

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[www.educationfund.org](http://www.educationfund.org)