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## **Submissions are now being accepted for the “2018 All Kids Included” student art competition**

***Deadline is February 5, 2018***

(Miami – October 10, 2017) – Do you know a young artist? Submissions are now being accepted for the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs’ 2018 All Kids Included (AKI) district-wide student visual art competition open to all Miami-Dade students in grades Pre-K through 12. **Celebrating inclusion, empathy and choosing kind, the contest is held every year in conjunction with the AKI Family Arts Festival, an annual interdisciplinary community arts festival for children and families with or without disabilities.** The AKI art contest winners and awards will be announced at the 12th Annual All Kids Included Family Arts Festival held at the [South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center](#) on May 5, 2018.

The 2018 contest theme is **“Celebrating Inclusion, Empathy and Choosing Kind,”** which is inspired by the book [“We’re All Wonders”](#) - written and illustrated by R.J. Palacio. The book is an inspirational story that taps into every child’s longing to belong and to be seen for who they truly are.

Student artists are invited to submit original artwork depicting the contest theme and are asked to draw on [“We’re All Wonders”](#) for inspiration. Semi-finalists’ artwork will be exhibited at the Miami-Dade Public Library System’s Main Library on April 14, 2018 and finalists’ artwork will be exhibited during the AKI Family Arts Festival. Submissions are being accepted now through Miami-Dade County Public School art teachers, or individual students can submit their artwork directly to the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs or at any Miami-Dade Public Library System branch. For a list of Miami-Dade Public Library System locations, go to: <http://www.mdpls.org/locator/map.html>

Contest information, guidelines and required forms are available from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs All Kids Included webpage at [www.AllKidsIncludedMiami.org](http://www.AllKidsIncludedMiami.org).

**All Kids Included** promotes inclusive arts and cultural programs in school settings and throughout the community enabling kids of all abilities and their families to participate fully in the arts. All Kids Included continually raises the bar with excellence in programming

that demonstrates and promotes the benefit and importance of inclusionary arts and cultural programs for children and youth. All Kids Included is an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and in part through grant funding provided by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County. For more information about AKI and its programs, visit [www.AllKidsIncludedMiami.org](http://www.AllKidsIncludedMiami.org).

Follow us on social media @MiamiDadeArts and #AllKidsIncluded #AKIartcontest.

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*The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council develop cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and our residents and visitors who are their audiences. The Department directs the Art in Public Places program and serves its board, the Art in Public Places Trust, commissioning, curating, maintaining and promoting the County's art collection. The Department also manages, programs and operates the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, a campus of state-of-the-art cultural facilities in Cutler Bay, as well as Miami-Dade County Auditorium, Joseph Caleb Auditorium and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, all dedicated to presenting and supporting excellence in the arts for the entire community. Through staff, board and programmatic resources, the Department, the Council and the Trust promote, coordinate and support Miami-Dade County's more than 1,000 not-for-profit cultural organizations as well as thousands of resident artists through grants, technical assistance, public information and interactive community planning. The Department receives funding through the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, The Children's Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida through the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Other support and services are provided by TicketWeb for the Culture Shock Miami program, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, the South Florida Cultural Consortium and the Tourist Development Council.*

*It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in any Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs program or meeting, please contact Francine Andersen at 305-375-4634 [culture@miamidadegov](mailto:culture@miamidadegov) at least five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).*