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**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
**Liliana Hernandez-Constenla**  
305-375-5829 / [lilianh@miamidade.gov](mailto:lilianh@miamidade.gov)

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES  
2017 “ALL KIDS INCLUDED” STUDENT ART COMPETITION**

**DEADLINE FEBRUARY 6, 2017**

(Miami – October 3, 2016) – Do you know a young artist? Submissions are now being accepted for the 2017 All Kids Included (AKI) district-wide student visual art competition open to all Miami-Dade students in grades Pre K-12. Celebrating inclusion, empowerment, and determination, the contest is held each 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 Family Arts Festival features live performances, interactive arts activities, student field trips, the district-wide student art competition and exhibition, as well as community resources for families.

For the art contest, student artists are invited to submit original artwork depicting the contest theme and are asked to draw on the selected book for inspiration. Semi-finalists’ artwork will be exhibited at one of three Miami-Dade County Public libraries and finalists’ artwork will be exhibited during the AKI Family Arts Festival at the [South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center](#). Winners and awards will be announced at the 11th Annual All Kids Included Family Arts Festival on May 6, 2017.

The 2017 contest theme is “Celebrating Inclusion, Empowerment and Determination,” and is inspired by the award-winning book, [Firebird](#) by African American ballerina Misty Copeland, illustrated by Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Honoree Christopher Myers. [Firebird](#) is a poetic story of encouragement, determination, overcoming self-doubt, and finding the power within yourself to follow your dreams and succeed.

**WHO:** The art competition is open to students in grades Pre K-12, residing in Miami-Dade County

**WHAT:** 2017 All Kids Included District-Wide Student Art Competition

**WHERE:** 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 County Public Library Branch, during normal library hours. For a list of Miami-Dade County Public Libraries, go to: <http://www.mdpls.org/locator/map.html>.

**WHEN:** 2017 Competition Deadline: Monday, February 6, 2017

HOW: Guidelines, required forms, submission instructions, prizes and award information are available from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs at [www.AllKidsIncludedMiami.org](http://www.AllKidsIncludedMiami.org) or call (305) 375-4634.

The AKI district-wide student art competition and the AKI Family Arts Festival are presented by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs as part of its "All Kids Included - Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids" (AKI) program.

**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 funded in part through a grant 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 by making strategic investments in their future. 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@miamidade.gov](mailto:culture@miamidade.gov) at least five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).*