

## **Ocean Bank hosts THE 16TH ANNUAL OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS "ART OF FOUND OBJECTS" ART EXHIBITION & AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Miami, FL (May 1, 2009)** - In honor of Earth Day, Ocean Bank hosted the Education Fund 16th Annual Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials "Art of Found Objects" Art Exhibition & Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 23.

The annual art exhibition combines the power of a child's imagination with the ultimate recycling program, as each original work on display was crafted from materials "found" at The Education Fund's Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials, a warehouse stocked with donated supplies. More than 14,500 teachers have shopped for free at the Center since 1993. Many of the 174 unique works created by students and art teachers from Miami-Dade County K-12 public schools address environmental themes such as "Water & Sewer," "Solid Waste" and the "South Florida Eco-System." As the guest of honor, internationally recognized artist Xavier Cortada discussed art with the children being honored.

Cortada, a renowned Miami artist, has been commissioned to create art for the White House, the World Bank, the Florida Supreme Court, the Florida Governor's Mansion, Miami City Hall, Miami-Dade County Hall, the Miami Art Museum, the Museum of Florida History and the South Pole Station. He has worked with groups across the world to produce numerous large-scale collaborative art projects-- including peace murals in Cyprus and Northern Ireland, child welfare murals in Bolivia and Panama, AIDS murals in Geneva and South Africa. Cortada is also recognized for his environmental art, which includes eco-art installations on Miami Beach and Antarctica. In 2008, as a New York Foundation for the Arts sponsored artist, he brought his art installations to the North Pole.

The art from the annual Art of Found Objects Exhibition will be on sale at The Education Fund's Charity Art Auction on May 29, 2009, at The Doral Golf Resort and Spa. By providing much-needed resources and community-wide recognition for children in the visual arts in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), these highly successful events showcase the essential role of the visual arts in stimulating creativity and academic success for children in our community, particularly those attending low-income schools that often lack basic classroom supplies.

### **ABOUT OCEAN BANK**

Ocean Bank is the largest independent state chartered commercial bank headquartered in Florida, with \$4.8 billion in assets. Chartered in 1982, Ocean Bank operates a network of 21 branches throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The community bank has received numerous awards and accolades from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, The Beacon Council and the Florida Department of Education, among others, for its support of our South Florida communities. For more information, log on to [www.oceanbank.com](http://www.oceanbank.com).

### **ABOUT THE EDUCATION FUND:**

Since 1985, The Education Fund has worked side-by-side with the private sector to direct resources where they are needed most in Miami-Dade schools. Their mission is to design and implement initiatives to improve our schools and bring excellence to public education in Miami-Dade. The Education Fund engages the entire community in making educational excellence a top priority and ensuring that every child learns and succeeds in the Miami-Dade County public schools. The Education Funds programs benefit all of the 390+ schools, 22,000+ teachers and 340,000+ students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.