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## Arts Integration Conference Draws Record-Breaking Attendance

More than 850 teaching artists and educators from the Broward County School District and independent programs were captivated and inspired during *Expanding Literacy Through the Arts: A Closer Look* – the fourth annual arts integration conference presented by the Broward Cultural Division, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Dillard Center for the Arts and the School Board of Broward County, FL.

Due to its overwhelming popularity the previous year, the conference was held at two venues in 2007 – Dillard Center for the Arts and Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Such well-known local artists as Romero Britto and David Chang conducted workshops on painting, drawing and multi-media art forms. James T. Perry, president of the Center for Fine Arts Education in Tallahassee, spoke about America's drive toward "The Creative Mind"

as a future tool in the technological race between America, Asia and India. Broward County Mayor Josephus Eggelletion Jr. spoke of his days as a teacher at Dillard High School. Kennedy Center Artist Lenore Blank Kelner, the keynote presenter at Dillard, energized attendees with new techniques that incorporated movement and drama into everyday classroom instruction.

Kennedy Center Artists Sean and Melanie Layne, who conduct teaching conferences all over America, said they "have never seen such an extensive level of presenters of both local and national stature *and* such a large group of local teachers at the same time."

*Expanding Literacy Through the Arts: A Closer Look* focused on literacy instruction through the visual and performing arts. New to the program were workshops designed specifically for teachers of English Speakers of Other Languages

(ESOL) and Exceptional Student Education (ESE). With much interactive participation, the workshops communicated the power of the arts in enhancing learning in all academic areas. The only free event of its kind in Broward County, it is a project of the 1993 Kennedy Center Partners in Education Team. Sponsors for the event included Bank of America, Kaplan University, Offerdahl's and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

The conference, aimed toward teachers, artists, principals, community arts providers and others who work with children and teens, consisted of 17 interactive workshops and seven Kennedy Center-trained teachers who introduced educators to the use of the arts to help students acquire knowledge of word order, phrasing, and punctuation that contribute to the meaning of a written sentence. ★

