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MEDIA CONTACT: Kimberly Maroe, Public Information Manager
PHONE: 954-357-8053
MEDIA CONTACT: Scott Medvin, Public Information Officer
PHONE: 954-357-6015

Mayor joins Tibetan Buddhist Monks in traditional Closing Ceremony of Sand Mandala Exhibition at Broward County Library

Broward County Mayor Josephus Eggleton, Jr. accompanied by Tibetan Buddhist Monks led more than one hundred people from the Broward County Main Library to the New River as part of the closing ceremony for the Medicine Buddha Sand Mandala created by the Monks.

Tibetan Buddhist Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in Southern India began meticulously creating the Medicine Buddha Mandala in the lobby of the library over a five day period that ended on February 6th. Millions of grains of colored sand were painstakingly laid in order to complete the sand art work. At the center of the multi-colored sand design is the lotus flower which symbolizes compassion.

"This exhibition furthers Broward County's commitment to showcase our rich heritage and diversity," said Mayor Eggleton. "The creation of the sand mandala and the closing ceremonies were well received by the public and quite inspirational."

During the traditional sand mandala closing ceremony, the sand is swept into an urn and then dispersed in the nearby water. The destruction of the mandala is meant to serve as an allegory of the impermanence of all phenomena, as something of great beauty is destroyed to show that nothing lasts forever.

"Mandala" is a Sanskrit word meaning cosmogram or "world in harmony." The sand mandala is carefully constructed to generate compassion and to create a social/cosmic healing of the environment.

The Tibetan Buddhist Monks created the sand mandala over the course of the week and displayed and sold items to the public to raise money for the monastery and to educate the public.

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