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PRESS RELEASE

December 21, 2009

Everglades Coalition Conference Will Feature Student Art

*The exhibit will also travel throughout Palm Beach County
in recognition of 2010, The Year of the Everglades*

Art from Palm Beach County students will be featured at the **Everglades Coalition's (EVCO) 25th Annual Conference** January 7-10 at PGA National Resort and Spa.

The **Palm Beach County Cultural Council** organized the exhibit, *Explore the Changing Face of the Everglades*, which was created by students in the School District of Palm Beach County.

The submitted art, 140 pieces of 2D works (photography, ink, acrylic, watercolor) and 20 3D pieces, will be viewed at PGA resort during the conference. A vetting committee will select 20 outstanding pieces that will embark on a countywide tour of community organizations. The EVCO conference is private, so the tour will allow the artists, and the greater community, to view the works. The tour will also raise awareness of 2010 being declared **The Year of the Everglades** by **Palm Beach County** and the **School District of Palm Beach County**.

Other artistic elements that the Cultural Council helped organize at the conference are a display of everglades-inspired origami pieces created by **Michael LaFosse** and on loan from the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. An everglades-inspired dance recital will be performed by Palm Beach Atlantic University's School of Music and Fine Arts Preparatory Dance Department, directed by **Dr. Kathleen Klein**.

The dance recital and origami pieces are both past Cultural Council Artist in Residency funded projects.

The Everglades Coalition's 25th Annual Conference is hosted by the **Arthur R. Marshall Foundation**. The conference seeks to raise critical, timely issues for in-depth debates in an open, accessible forum. Attended by decision-makers from federal, state, local and tribal governments,

agency representatives, stakeholders and a vast array of public and private interests, the conference is the largest annual forum for debate of Everglades conservation and restoration.

The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of more than fifty local, state and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem, from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Okeechobee and to the estuaries, through the River of Grass, out to Florida Bay and the Keys.

Attached photo:

Foreverglades by **Ken Henry**, South Tech Academy, 12th Grade

For more information about the conference, please visit:

<http://www.evergladescoalition.org/>

For additional information, please contact:

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The Palm Beach County Cultural Council was founded in 1978 by Alexander W. Dreyfoos as the Palm Beach County Council of the Arts to develop, coordinate and promote the arts and cultural activities throughout Palm Beach County. It is officially recognized by the Board of County Commissioners as the County's advisory agency for cultural development and administers a portion of local tourist development funds under contract with county government. It is an independent nonprofit membership organization with 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status, Florida Registration number SC01489. All contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

