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Steffen Thomas Museum of Art
(STMA)

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Morgan County CrossRoads students admire the results of their efforts – a large painted tile and wood mural now on permanent display at the school.

Morgan County CrossRoads School Student Art Project Unveiled

BUCKHEAD – The young artists of **Morgan County CrossRoads School** were honored on Wednesday, May 19th, when their handsome painted tile and wood mural was unveiled during a ceremony at the school. The mural will be permanently installed on an exterior wall of the CrossRoads School building near the entrance.

The students participated in ***OP Art: Opportunities for Employment and Empowerment through the Visual Arts***, a **Steffen Thomas Museum Arts Outreach Program**. This was the second year of the three-year program designed to introduce students in the tri-county Lake Oconee area to careers in the visual arts and the importance of ecological responsibility.

The Op Art program began at CrossRoads in January and continued through May. After presentations by professional artists, students painted job title logos of careers in the visual arts on recycled ceramic tiles during 16 weekly in-school workshops taught by STMA Lead Artist Karen Strelecki, assisted by Ian Hicks, Nancy Vaughan, Martha Lower, and Dick Whelan.

During a ceremony at the school last March, all the students received Certificates of Participation, and awards were announced for the finest pieces. Finally, select students

worked with our professional team using the prize winners as inspiration for the large painted tile and wood mural.

According to the school's mission statement, CrossRoads strives "to develop students into self-respecting, fully functioning, young men and women who will contribute positively to society." The school serves students who need an alternative form of instructional activity in grades six through 12.

Dr. Jannie Broadnax, Co-Principal at CrossRoads, described the student body as "Good kids who have made bad choices. We approach every student with a clean slate – no biases, no negative expectations. Instead, we offer our pupils the opportunity to begin again, and to turn those bad choices into good," she explained. "We're lucky enough to have an excellent staff who both want to be here and who love what they do. Our doors are always open to the community and potential volunteers. We're truly proud of what we do."

STMA is most grateful to the following sponsors for making this event possible: Bank of Madison; Central Georgia EMC; C.R. Bard; David Crawford, CPA; DreamTeam Technologies, Inc.; Frances Wood Wilson Foundation; Georgia Power – A Southern Company; Georgia Power Foundation; HouseSmart; Jim Boyd and Associates; Madison Studios; Paul Maxey; Morgan County Citizen; Peter and Karen Wibell and the Conrads Family Fund; R.E.M./Athens, LLC; Smith Communications, Inc.; The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta-Morgan Fund; Vanishing Rural Georgia Art; Walmart; Whidby Jewelers; and Yellowbook.

The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, located at 4200 Bethany Road in Buckhead, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 AM to 4 PM. For more information and directions, please call 706-342-7557 or visit www.steffenthomas.org.

