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Steffen Thomas Museum of Art
(STMA)

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Award winning CrossRoads students proudly present their certificates during a celebration held at the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art.

STMA Project Helps CrossRoads Students Hitch Their Art to a Profitable Star

BUCKHEAD – On Wednesday, March 17th, the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art held an awards ceremony at **Morgan County CrossRoads School** acknowledging the young student artists who participated in ***Op Art: Opportunities for Employment and Empowerment through the Visual Arts***, a major school project offered by STMA’s Arts Outreach Program.

This, the second year of ***Op Art***, a three-year program designed to introduce young people in the tri-county Lake Oconee area to careers in the visual arts and the importance of ecological responsibility, began at CrossRoads in January and will continue through May.

During Phase I of the project, working professionals, including a textile designer and an illustrator, spoke to a group of students about careers in the visual arts. Next, STMA began 16 weekly in-school art workshops during the second semester. Under the guidance of STMA's Lead Artist Karen Strelecki, and assisted by Ian Hicks, Nancy Vaughan and local artist Peter Myzyka, students painted job title logos of careers in the visual arts on recycled ceramic tiles.

At the awards ceremony, all the students received Certificates of Participation. Awards were presented for the most outstanding pieces selected by a jury of local artists. The tiles are on exhibit at the museum through mid-April.

For Phase II of the project, a group of students, working with our professional team, will use the prize-winning selections as the inspiration for a large painted tile and wood mural. Once completed, the mural will be unveiled during a ceremony at CrossRoads in May. It will be permanently installed on an exterior wall of the school building near the entrance. A similar program is also taking place at the **Madison-Morgan County Boys & Girls Club**.

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; HouseSmart; Jim Boyd and Associates; Madison Studios; 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; The Herald Journal; 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.

