



**High resolution photos available upon request**

Contact: Pierson Grant Public Relations  
954-776-1999

Chris Feeley, ext. 237

[cfeeley@piersongrant.com](mailto:cfeeley@piersongrant.com)

Maria Pierson, ext. 222

[mpierson@piersongrant.com](mailto:mpierson@piersongrant.com)

## **Young At Art Celebrates Grand Opening of New Museum and Broward County Library**

*The Florida museum to be a nationwide model for arts-based education*

DAVIE, Fla. – A new era in arts education and entertainment will be unveiled on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 with the grand opening of the spectacular new 55,000 square-foot Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library in Davie, Fla. A weekend of exciting celebrations and festivities is planned for the new Museum, which will be the epicenter of cultural arts education for children and their families.

Young At Art Museum will feature four permanent, themed galleries: *GreenScapes*, which encourages children and adults to reconnect with nature by discovering the potential of art to call attention to environmental issues; *CultureScapes*, which celebrates and brings new understanding of our culturally diverse world through the eyes and art of contemporary artists; *WonderScapes*, a world of imagery dedicated to childhood development through art, literacy and play; and *ArtScapes*, which provides a thematic journey of art history where art crosses time, place and culture. All four

galleries were designed by the award-winning team of Peter and Sharon Exley of Chicago-based Architecture Is Fun, Inc., whose firm has dedicated its practice to creating family friendly designs meant to stimulate and educate young minds about the world around them. Projects include the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum and the Pritzker Family Children's Zoo at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.

Visitors also will enjoy the unique YAA Institute, Showcased-Artist Studios/Installations, a National Traveling Exhibition Gallery, a Teen Center and Recording Studio, a Museum Gift Shop, the Tossed Up Salad Café and a 10,000 square-foot Broward County Library. A preschool and early childhood learning center will offer parents an arts-based curriculum for their young children.

“Through the joint development of this facility and its many cooperative programs, this is a groundbreaking partnership and one that we know will be a model for other museums and libraries throughout the country,” said Robert Cannon, Director of Broward County Libraries. “This unique facility will provide cooperative, hands-on computer and reading literacy programs and art education activities for families in South Florida as well as visitors.”

The Young At Art Institute features cutting edge equipment and studios that incorporate natural lighting, the truest form of illumination, especially for painting. The Young At Art Institute's design allows students space to work outside, adding a nature component to their art education. Age-appropriate classes in painting and drawing, ceramics, mixed media, cartooning, printmaking, digital and darkroom photography and 4-D video design will be offered.

Showcased-Artists Studios/Installations will feature, among others, Kenny Scharf, Pablo Cano, Edouard Duval Carrie, Kenichi Yokono and Leonel Matheu, who collaborated with museum designers and fabricators to infuse their creative spirit and artful voice throughout the exhibition spaces.

The brainchild of artist and Young At Art Museum Executive Director Mindy Shrago, Young At Art had humble beginnings in a donated, 3,200 square-foot storefront in 1989. At a time when school arts programs were being scaled back, her focus was to make a difference in art education for children and their families in South Florida. The

Museum's exhibitions and programs quickly outgrew the space and Young At Art moved to a new expanded location in Davie in 1998.

To carry out the mission of Young At Art, "One child at a time," Shrago formed collaborations with major corporations such as Target, IKEA, Coventry Health Care of Florida and PNC to create community outreach programs such as Target First Fridays, ArtSTART on the Go and Alice's Wonderscapes. Under Shrago's direction, Young At Art also conducts an arts-based program for at-risk girls in conjunction with PACE Center for Girls and ArtREACH, an after-school program dedicated to bringing the arts to children living in homeless family shelters.

"Building on 22 years of creative educational experiences and having served more than 1.5 million children during that time, Young At Art has mounted its most important exhibition to date, which is the opening of our fantastic new building," said Shrago. "By inspiring families to experience art together in meaningful ways, we are developing a new generation of tomorrow's patrons, advocates and supporters of arts-based education."

Projected to serve more than 500,000 children and families during its first year, the new Young At Art Museum will be a unique community gathering place and a groundbreaking model that bridges the gap between adult-oriented art museums and those specifically designed to appeal to children.

"The opening of our permanent home is testament to the steadfast support of our community, governmental and corporate partners who understand the importance of art and creative thinking and the positive impact it has on our children and families," said Shrago.

The Museum, which is under consideration for Gold LEED-certification status by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), was designed by architect Margi Glavovic Nothard of Glavovic Studio, Fort Lauderdale. The new Museum integrates beauty, function and energy efficiency with cantilevered walls, natural woods, maximum use of natural lighting throughout the facility, a cistern for collecting rainwater, water-efficient landscaping and preferred parking for hybrid vehicles. The building itself exemplifies Young At Art's mission of providing inspiring, interactive experiences in which art is central to shaping young minds and enriching the community, as well as a commitment

to conservation and recycling. It is both a work of art and a teaching tool, incorporating the latest environmental-conscious technologies.

"There are so many environmental qualities that are an aesthetic expression of the building," said Glavovic Nothard. "As we get ready to open, what strikes me the most about the new Young at Art Museum and the Broward County Library is a sense of the universal. Young At Art embraces everyone, yet, evokes a poetic sense of belonging and a provocative point of view."

Major capital campaign donors include Broward County and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, Broward County Cultural Division, David and Francie Horvitz Family Foundation, Institute of Museum & Library Services, Town of Davie, John S. & James L. Knight Foundation, BankAtlantic, Hudson Family Foundation, Huizenga Family Foundation, State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Craig Zinn Automotive Group, Ezratti Family, Broward County Solid Waste and Recycling Services, Whole Foods Market, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and IKEA Sunrise.

Young At Art is the only children's museum in Florida and one of only six children's museums in the nation to have achieved accreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition to be bestowed on a museum.

For more information about Young At Art Museum, call 954-424-0085 or visit [YoungAtArtMuseum.org](http://YoungAtArtMuseum.org).

###

**Young At Art Museum at a Glance:**

<b>Grand Opening:</b>	Saturday, May 5, 2012
<b>Location:</b>	751 S.W. 121 Ave. in Davie, Fla.
<b>Square Footage:</b>	55,000 square feet
<b>Architect of Record:</b>	AECOM
<b>Design Architect:</b>	Glavovic Studio, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
<b>Construction Company:</b>	Pirtle Construction, Davie, Fla.
<b>Exhibition Designer:</b>	Architecture Is Fun, Chicago
<b>Permanent Galleries:</b>	<i>GreenScapes, CultureScapes, WonderScapes and ArtScapes</i>
<b>Classes and Camps:</b>	Ongoing
<b>Phone:</b>	954-424-0085
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://YoungAtArtMuseum.org">YoungAtArtMuseum.org</a>
<b>Facebook:</b>	<a href="https://facebook.com/YoungAtArtMuseum">facebook.com/YoungAtArtMuseum</a>

*Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts & Culture.*

# Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library FACT SHEET

## OVERVIEW

---

- To establish a museum and library complex whose synergistic relationship between art and reading creates a unique learning experience for families of Broward County, South Florida and beyond.
- To create an art museum for children, a groundbreaking model for museums nationwide that bridges the gap between an adult art museum and a children's museum.
- To transform the way children and families use art to share experiences and shape a community, developing a new generation that will become tomorrow's patrons of the arts, advocates of the arts and supporters of the arts.

## IMPACT

---

- Building Size 55,000 square feet situated on 11.7 acres
- Cost \$26 million (museum and library)
- Opening Date May 5, 2012
- Visitation and outreach 500,000 families annually

## SCOPE

---

- Four Permanent Exhibition Galleries - *ArtScapes, GreenScapes, CultureScapes, WonderScapes*
- National Traveling Exhibition Gallery
- Young At Art Institute Studios: drawing, painting, ceramics, animation, photography & film, printmaking, mixed media, digital computer and 4D video design
- Teen Center with graphic design and recording studio
- Outdoor green space for family gatherings and community events
- Museum Gift Shop
- Tossed Up Salad Café
- 10,000 square-foot Broward County Public Library operated by Broward County Libraries Division

## PROJECT TEAM

---

- Architect of Record AECOM, Miami
- Design Architect Glavovic Studio, Fort Lauderdale
- Engineers Hammond & Associates
- Civil Engineers Craven Thompson Associates, Inc.
- Construction Pirtle Construction Company
- Exhibit Design Architecture Is Fun, Inc., Chicago
- Exhibit Fabrication Redbox Workshop
- Landscape Architects Curtis + Rogers Design Studio, Inc.
- LEED Consultant The Spinnaker Group
- Library Partnership Broward County Libraries Division
- Project Management Broward County Construction Division
- Public Art & Design R & R Studios, Inc.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE**

---

The new Young At Art Museum is under consideration for Gold LEED (Leadership Energy and Environmental Design) certification and upon accreditation will be the second Gold LEED certified building constructed by Broward County.

## **PARTNERSHIP**

---

The new Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library is a groundbreaking public/private partnership with Broward County.

## **YOUNG AT ART MUSEUM PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS AND ART INSTITUTE**

---

### **ARTSCAPES**

**ArtScapes** is a thematic journey of art history where art crosses time, place and culture. This signature exhibit provides an authentic experience by using both real art and replicas in graphic ways to create contemporary environments which are theme-oriented. The **Cave Portal** introduces visitors to the concept of art as the first language. 5,000 years of images of art and its histories set to music flash before their eyes, encouraging children to leave their own messages and pictures on the cave's walls. In the room of **10,000 Slides** children can curate their own exhibit. In **The City & Subway** children and adults will explore how the urban landscape of New York became the source of creative expression. The **Portrait Gallery** pays homage to Victorian art salons with gilded frames covering the walls. Children will create their own self portraits inspired by artists through the ages, using oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, charcoal gesture and contour drawing, clay and wood sculpture, silkscreen and mono-printing and mixed media. **Diggin' the Past**, an archeology lab, houses artifacts that tell stories of past cultures and civilizations.

### **CULTURESCAPES**

**CultureScapes** celebrates and brings new understanding of our culturally diverse world through the eyes and art of contemporary artists. Within narrative-based environments – and through the eyes of artists from Haiti, Latin America, Cuba, Africa and Asia – children and families will learn how a contemporary artist interprets his or her culture and traditions, how the artist's culture, traditions and environment influence their art, how the artists live and what their studio environments are like. **CultureScapes** features an array of installations and cultural experiences by internationally renowned artists including fantasy landscapes and metal sculpture by Edouard Duval Carrie that reflect the oral traditions of Haiti; paintings by artist Leonel Matheu that draw inspiration from the political turmoil he experienced in Cuba; African music and batik textiles by Chisseko Kondowe that bring to life his childhood in Kenya; woodcuts by Japanese artist Kenichi Yokono that juxtapose traditional and contemporary images; and traditional and contemporary crafts including basketry, beading and carving curated by Seminole artist Pedro Zepeda.

### **GREENSCAPES**

**GreenScapes** encourages children and adults to reconnect with nature, discovering the potential of art to call attention to environmental issues. **GreenScapes** captures the essence of the LEED-certified building as a living laboratory, enabling children and adults to make connections through water conservation awareness and implementation of environmentally sustainable practices. Wayfinding signage depicts the building's innovative wastewater technologies and water use reduction. A cistern visible from the **GreenScapes** gallery collects rainwater for use in papermaking workshops.

In the **GreenScapes** gallery, children create ephemeral sculptures made from natural materials in the **Sandscapes** area, drawing inspiration from Land Artists and their Earthworks projects. At the **River of Words**, children and adults experiment with alternative art forms – responsive writing, poetry and lyric composition – bringing art and environmental advocacy together. In **Pablo Cano's Magical Workshop & Theater**, children watch

renowned artist Pablo Cano bring his marionettes made from recycled and reclaimed materials to life on film, create their own Cano-inspired puppets and stage their own puppetry performances alongside life-sized marionettes created by Cano himself.

**GreenScapes** is also home to an urban **STOMP!** streetscape where children can use unconventional musical instruments to create their own versions of the internationally acclaimed theatrical performance group.

### **ALICE'S WONDERSCAPES**

**Alice's WonderScapes** helps build early childhood development through cultural art and play for ages birth to 4. **Alice's WonderScapes** is a world of imagery, with murals painted by poet and illustrator DeLoss McGraw, whose version of *Alice in Wonderland* won the Illustrator's Society Book of the Year Award.

This artful journey encourages young children to cross domains – words, gestures, drawings, painting, sculpture, music, singing, dramatic play, movement and dance – all of which contribute to literacy. **Alice's Pool of Tears** stimulates fantasy play and builds vocabulary as children learn concepts such as empty/full, shallow/deep, fast/slow and under/over. The **Mad Hatter's Tea Party** conveys the concept of scale through sights and sounds, a place where role-play and imagination dominate. In **Alice's Art & Games**, vowel chairs play a dual role of teaching language and art. Children sit and create artwork, copying geometric shapes, identifying basic color palettes and using letters to accompany their illustrations. **Alice's Reading Forest** provides a soft-sculptured reading area that encourages parent-child interaction as well as adult-to-adult socialization in a comfortable environment.

### **THE YOUNG AT ART INSTITUTE**

The art school at Young At Art, known as the Young At Art Institute, is a series of professionally equipped studios for drawing, painting, sculpture, animation, photography and film, printmaking, mixed media, digital computer and 4D video design, with wall-to-wall windows that let in the natural light. Professional, working artists will be employed – teaching, supplementing their incomes and providing artistic inspiration to children. Visiting guest artists will conduct week-long workshops. The Institute is a place of enhanced learning, where children and adults delve deeper into subject matter, conduct research through the library information system and produce artwork that comes full circle back into the museum and community, whether on exhibition in the Portrait Gallery, as artifacts in the Archeology Lab, at Student Exhibit Showcases or for sale in the museum store or during our Children's Festival of the Arts.

### **PRESCHOOL**

A preschool and early childhood learning center will offer parents an arts-based curriculum for their young children.

### **BROWARD COUNTY LIBRARY**

---

The 10,000 square-foot Broward County Library will include a story-telling room, reading courtyard and up to 30,000 items, including 15,000 books for young people, eBooks, 8,000 DVDs and 1,000 music CDs. In-library use of table computers and special programs related to literature and the arts for all ages also will be provided.

###

Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts & Culture.



## Did you know?

### Fun Facts about Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library

- **Going Green:**

- Before clearing the site, as part of the wetlands and environment protection program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers trained all workers to be aware of any endangered species such as the Eastern Indigo snake. While no snakes were found during the site clearing, the crew relocated raccoons, foxes, turtles, cats and other animals.
- All bushes and trees removed were mulched on site, producing a total of 2,000 cubic yards of mulch.
- YAA's white reflective roof reduces building heat.
- A 60,000 gallon cistern collects rain water, leading to a targeted 58 percent reduction in potable water use.
- Preferred parking spaces are available for low-emission, high occupancy vehicles.
- Bicycle racks and showers are available for employees who pedal to work.
- 20 percent of the materials used in the construction of the building came from local manufacturers within 500 miles of the site.
- Maximum use of natural lighting throughout the museum adds to the projected 20 percent reduction in energy use.
- There are 35 different species of trees on the property including 17 that are native to Florida. There are 15 different types flowering trees and 21 species that are drought tolerant.
- Five of the most exotic trees include the Sausage, Baobob, Royal Poinciana, Kapok and Shaving Bush.
- The building is under consideration for Gold LEED (Leadership Energy and Environmental Design) certification.
- There currently are more than 100 LEED certified buildings in South Florida; Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library will be the third LEED certified building in Davie, Fla.

- **The building structure includes:**
  - approximately 4,300 cubic yards of reinforced concrete, weighing 7,900 tons, equivalent to the weight of more than 7,100 Ford Fiesta cars;
  - approximately 250 tons of steel in all columns, beams and joists;
  - approximately 105 tons of steel in the roof deck;
  - and 2,000 gallons of paint.
  
- **Architects for the Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library:**
  - spent 11 years drawing and designing the building;
  - spent more than 50,000 hours on design documents;
  - and created architecture that will be a model for museums worldwide.
  
- **Designers of the four permanent exhibits at Young At Art:**
  - spent five years on the project;
  - spent nearly 20,000 hours on design and development;
  - and created more than 1,000 drawings which if laid side by side would stretch almost twice around a football field.
  
- **The Young At Art exhibit construction crew used:**
  - 234 sheets of Baltic birch;
  - 605 sheets of plywood;
  - 407 sheets of medium density fiber board;
  - 209 sheets of laminate;
  - 440 gallons of paint;
  - and, more than 10,000 welds on the Gabion Columns and Gabion Tunnel in the *GreenScapes* permanent exhibit.
  
- **During the past 22 years at YAA:**
  - more than 22,500 teens have served as volunteers;
  - 4,576 birthday parties have been enjoyed by more than 137,280 guests;
  - 1.25 million pounds of recycled materials has been used to create art;
  - 722,800 square feet of artwork, more than enough to fill the Louvre which is 652,000 square feet, has been perfected in classes, camps, workshops and outreach programs;
  - and more than 2.5 million children and families have walked through the doors.
  
- **This will be the 37th public library in Broward County, Florida and will include up to 30,000 library items such as:**
  - 15,000 books for young people;
  - 8,000 DVDs;
  - 1,000 music CDs;
  - in-library use of tablet computers;
  - and special programs related to literature and the arts for all age groups.



*"We built it and they came."*

## **The History of Young At Art Museum**

- 1986 - 1989 Visionaries Esther and Mindy Shrago, an artist in her own right, create a "museum without walls" that travels around South Florida.
- Assessment surveys and an awareness campaign show that the community embraces the vision of a Young At Art.
- 1989 After three years of successful programming and garnering community support, Young At Art Museum opens in a donated 3,200 square-foot shopping center storefront in Plantation.
- 2,100 people attend the Young At Art grand opening.
- 1990 9,500 people visit Young At Art during its first full year; student field trips are established.
- 1991 Young At Art initiates studio art classes and camps taught by professional artists.
- The first scholarships are offered to children in need, underwritten by corporate partners and foundation sponsors.
- 1992 New, permanent exhibits open that target community needs, including a play space to promote early childhood education and African Impressions, the first multicultural exhibition to support the Broward County Schools' Multicultural Infusion Program.
- 1994 Young At Art conducts its first community-outreach programs throughout South Florida.

- 1997 The Women of Vision, a fundraising auxiliary group, is established to support Young At Art Museum's community outreach programs.
- 1998 With strong support from the community, including \$500,000 raised from donors, Young At Art moves to a new location in Davie, Florida that is eight times larger than the Plantation location.
- 2001 Young At Art Museum launches a \$21 million capital campaign known as "The Art Answer" to fund a new 55,000 square-foot museum.
- Young At Art receives the Business Partners Award from the Florida Department of Education and Broward County District Schools for its groundbreaking program for homeless children living in shelters.
- 2002 David Horvitz and Francie Bishop Good make the lead donor gift of one million dollars to build the new Young At Art Museum.
- Peter and Sharon Exley, Architecture Is Fun, Chicago, are selected as the lead exhibit designers for Young At Art Museum.
- Mindy Shrago receives the Innovator of the Year Award from the Florida Association of Museums.
- Young At Art is named the "Best Children's Art Museum in the Nation" by *Child* magazine.
- 2003 Young At Art receives the National Leadership Award from the Institute of Museum & Library Services.
- 2004 Young At Art launches ArtREACH, an award-winning afterschool program that is a collaborative effort between the Museum and the Broward County School Board serving homeless children from Broward County.
- Young At Art receives the Promising Practice Award from the Association of Children's Museums for ArtREACH.
- 2005 Young At Art receives the Building Bridges Award from the Broward Coalition to End Homelessness for ArtREACH.
- 2006 The partnership between Young At Art and Broward County to build the new museum is established.

Margi Glavovic Nothard, Galvovic Studio, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. is named lead architect for the New Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library.

Young At Art hosts the first annual Recycled Art Fashion Show, featuring fashions created from recycled materials by the the Museum's teen volunteers.

2007 The first official meeting among the county, architects and exhibit designers for the new Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library is held in May.

Broward County awards Pirtle Construction Company the bid to build the new 55,000 square-foot LEED-certified Young At Art Museum, which is being considered for Gold-LEED status.

2008 The exhibit master plan for the new Young At Art is produced in February.

2008 Young At Art receives a \$500,000 Challenge Gift from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and is the only Broward County organization in the visual arts category to be funded.

2009 Young At Art is named the number one children's museum in the state ranked by the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs for its outstanding efforts in youth art education.

*South Florida Parenting* magazine awards Young At Art the "Kids Crown Awards Hall of Fame" for its arts classes, summer camp programs and exhibition experiences. To be inducted into the Hall of Fame, honorees are required to be recognized as Kids Crown Award winners for five or more years.

Young At Art partners with PACE Center for Girls, a non-residential delinquency prevention program, and Girls' Club, an alternative art gallery in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. to create Girls N' Power, an arts-based program for at-risk girls that works to increase their self confidence and self esteem.

2010 Young At Art initiates ArtSTART on the Go, a creative outreach program, in partnership with PNC Bank though the PNC Foundation, that incorporates music, art and culture for underserved preschool children in Broward County child care centers and Head Start schools.

The New Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library officially breaks ground on June 3, 2010.

2011

Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library celebrate construction milestones:

Official wall raising on February 15, 2011

Official topping off ceremony on May 2, 2011

Young At Art achieves the highest national recognition with Accreditation from the American Association of Museums and is the only children's museum in Florida to be accredited and one of only six children's museums in the nation to receive the distinction.

Young At Art partners with Coventry Health Care of Florida to create Alice's Wonderscapes, an early childhood outreach program based on the new Museum's permanent exhibition, *WonderScapes*, offered to Broward County schools.

Young At Art receives the Knight Foundation Challenge Grant to provide free admission for 2,500 low-income children to experience artistic discovery through *The Spirit of Haiti* exhibition and family workshops created and conducted by renowned Haitian artist Edouard Duval Carrie in the new Museum.

Young At Art becomes the eighth Cultural Institution in Broward County as defined by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

The Friends of YAA, an organization of community-minded, dynamic and dedicated volunteers with a passion for arts accessibility, awareness and education, is established to support Young At Art Museum.

2012

The American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, Israel honors Mindy Shrago as one of the 2012 Women of Vision for her decades of service in bringing art education to the children of South Florida.

May 4: Love YAA An Evening of Wonder celebrates the opening of the new Young At Art Museum.

May 5 & 6: The grand opening of Young At Art is a multicultural theme, live performances and art activities representing nations from around the world and guest appearances by artists whose works are featured in the new museum.

Young At Art will be the epicenter of cultural arts education for children and their families and serve as is a model for other museums to follow nationwide.



## **Mindy Shrago**

### **Executive Director**

As a co-founder and executive director of Young At Art Museum, Mindy Shrago is one of South Florida's most outspoken advocates on the subject of arts in education.

She plays a pivotal role in the operations management and strategic development of Young At Art Museum overseeing administration, programs, marketing communication and exhibits.

Together, with her mother, Esther, and a staff of volunteers, Shrago opened the doors of Young At Art Children's Museum to the community in 1989 in a donated 3,200-square-foot shopping center storefront in Plantation, Florida. In 1998, she relocated the Museum to a 25,000-square-foot home in Davie, Florida. She was the driving force behind the Museum's aggressive expansion to build a larger facility in Broward County that will serve as the region's premier arts, culture and literary focal point. On May 5, 2012 the new 55,000 square-foot Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library will open to the public.

As a pioneer in the field of art education, the Young At Art continually forges new ground by integrating the arts with math, vocabulary, geography, language and multi-cultural understanding to educate more than one million children and their families.

Under her tutelage, the Museum has received numerous commendations from South Florida Parenting magazine for its arts classes, summer camp programs and exhibition experiences. It was recently ranked the number one museum in Florida among all museums by the Cultural Institutions Program. In 2002, Child magazine named Young At Art as "Best Children's Museum in the Nation for Specialty Arts." In 2011 Young At Art Museum achieved highest national recognition with Accreditation from the American Association of Museums. YAA is the only children's museum in Florida to be accredited and one of only six children's museums in the nation to receive the distinction.

Shrago's enthusiasm for children and art is only matched by her passion for education and her commitment to public service. She has served as a professor at Miami-Dade Community College, has been the key note speaker at the Art Institute in Fort Lauderdale, held numerous workshops in Dade and Broward County Public Schools, has taught ceramic workshops for the

Ceramic Leagues of Broward and Palm Beach Counties and has lectured on the subject of art in education at a variety of private institutions. She presently serves on the board of directors for the Florida Association of Museums, is a panelist for Broward County Public Art & Design, is a grant review panelist for Florida Department of State and is a member of the Cultural Enrichment Committee of Broward County. Shrago also served as a past chairperson for Public Art & Design for the Broward County Cultural Council.

Shrago is a respected and celebrated role model whose honors include the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Commissioners' Business Recognition Award (2002); "Strategy " Award from the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University and National Arts Stabilization (2001); First Ladies of Broward Award for Community Service (2000) and Arts for a Complete Education (ACE) Leadership Award (1998). She has been profiled in the recent exhibit Jews of Broward County at the Jewish Museum of Florida and was listed in *Who's Who Faces to Watch* in 1990. In 2012 The American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, Israel honored Shrago as one of the 2012 Women of Vision for her decades of service in bringing art education to the children of South Florida.

An accomplished studio artist, Shrago's personal artwork is featured in the permanent collections of the Andy Warhol Estate, the Smithsonian, the Norton Museum, the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, Mitchell Wolfson, and Purdue University.

Shrago holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of South Florida and a Bachelor of Art Education from Florida Atlantic University.

As a mentor and mom to two children – both involved in the art world, she continues to be a consultant for emerging children's museums, art centers and the community-at-large.

###