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**Youth for Unity - Cultural Diversity Project
Opening Reception
First Thursday, May 7, 2009 (7 – 9 pm)**

Alexandria, VA (May 5, 2009) Del Ray Artisans is pleased to announce that the City of Alexandria is hosting a reception at their gallery to present the Youth for Unity posters to the public. The Youth for Unity posters were developed by high school students as part of a City-sponsored project to promote appreciation of our city's cultural diversity. The posters will be unveiled on Thursday, May 7th from 7 – 9 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

Entitled Youth for Unity, the project entailed students coming together for a "Bash" on Friday, October 20, 2008. In addition to pizza and music from a DJ, the events included guest speakers, small group sessions, and skits. At the conclusion of the "Bash", students met in small groups with artists from the Del Ray Artisans (DRA) to discuss their thoughts about diversity and to garner their suggestions for poster themes.

The art works have been given to a graphic designer who inserted the images into a template to form posters with a unified appearance and the logo of Youth for Unity. The posters will be mass produced and distributed to venues around the city. The City government is funding the production of posters featuring the participating artists' artwork produced in collaboration with the students.

Appreciation goes out to participating DRA artists: Michele Reday Cook; Charlotte Corcoran; Milagros Mateu; Stacy Rausch; Randy Scheessele; and Margaret Slipek.

The Del Ray Artisans gallery is located at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301 and is wheelchair accessible. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more information or directions or call 703.838.4827.

Special thanks to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Alexandria for their continued support of Del Ray Artisans, a 501(c)(3) organization.