

**** MEDIA RELEASE ****

LANDMARK “THUNDER & ENLIGHTENING” MURAL BY ADDONIS PARKER UNVEILED TO SOUTH FLORIDA

OneUnited Bank unveils revolutionary mural leaving guests speechless

MIAMI, FL - July 16, 2015 - After 4 months of suspense, this past **Saturday, July 11, 2015** [OneUnited Bank](#) and the **Miami Children’s Initiative (MCI)** unveiled “*Thunder & Enlightening*” a 550 square foot thought-provoking mural by Miami artist **Addonis Parker**. The massive public art project was erected on the façade of the Miami branch of OneUnited Bank, the nation’s largest black-owned bank. The unveiling concluded the [OneUnited Mural Project](#) – an apprenticeship-based program using public art works, youth development and a community beautification program providing arts enrichment through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education. Before the unveiling, the inside of the bank served as an art gallery to display individual paintings from the 21 teen apprentices who assisted Parker.

Parker made his remarks about this experience and working with teens then dramatically cut off the black drape to revealing the mural. Guests were mesmerized and speechless. Parker then received a standing ovation for the depth of images revealed about the urban experience. The mural in its entirety touches on racism, bigotry, protest, the confederate flag, the massacre in South Carolina, Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown to name a few. (Visit www.oneunited.com/mural for visual images.)

Before the unveiling, **Teri Williams**, President & COO of OneUnited Bank, expressed her gratitude to the sea of people and partners for supporting the idea of using the bank as a canvas to add art to Liberty City as she has personally witnessed the impact art can have on the community. “The OneUnited Mural Project and the unveiling of the mural, *Thunder & Enlightening*, helps us bridge the divide between the banking industry and urban communities by recognizing their struggles and hopes for the future,” said Williams. “It is important for us to speak in our authentic voices so that OneUnited Bank can better share financial literacy, attract the unbanked or under-banked customers and help develop the communities we serve.”

During the program, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) **Vice Chair Larry Feldman** awarded Teri Williams; **Addonis Parker**, muralist and creator of *Thunder & Enlightening*; **Cecilia Gutierrez**, President & CEO of MCI; **Carla Rowe**, Mural Program Director; **Hopi Noel Morton**, Center for Social Justice; and **Suzan McDowell**, President & CEO of Circle of One Marketing with medallions as a token of appreciation for the noble accomplishments in the community. Encouraging words about Liberty City’s future, youth and education were spoken by **District 5 Commissioner Keon Hardemon**, **MDCPS Board Member Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall** and **MDCPS Superintendent Alberto Carvalho**.

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ONEUNITED BANK:

OneUnited Bank Is the premiere bank for urban communities with offices in California, Florida, and Massachusetts. Its mission is to provide affordable financial services to support economic development in urban communities and maintain superior financial performance to maximize shareholder value.

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