

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paul Palmer - 954-771-9290

Siegi Constantine - 754-214-0041

## **Oakland Park Main Street's Partnership with Northeast High School draws Honor and Praise from Broward School Board**

May 30, Oakland Park, Florida...Oakland Park Main Street, Inc, the volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to the vision of a vibrant downtown in Oakland Park received a singular honor on May 21<sup>st</sup> when it was named recipient of Broward County's High School Partnership Award of the Year.

Main Street Executive Director Siegi Constantine and Northeast High School Principal Jonathan Williams accepted the award at the Broward School Board's Annual Community Awards brunch at the Broward County Convention Center.

More than 1300 attendees gathered at the Convention Center as TV 6 Meteorologist John Gerard hosted this year's annual event honoring those school/business partnerships which have provided exceptional learning opportunities for Broward County students.

The partnership between Oakland Park Main Street and Northeast High School was **deemed the county's premiere partnership of the year at the high school level** thanks to the extensive collaboration between Oakland Park Main Street and Northeast's Academy of Architecture and Design. This collaboration ultimately led to the construction of three visionary models of a restored downtown area in Oakland Park including the new downtown park dedicated to jazz legend Jaco Pastorius.

These models are currently on display in the Main Street office.

The project required many hours of student-teacher involvement as students took dozens of pictures walking and driving through the downtown area. In addition, students collaborated with Main Street as they learned about property rights, public utilities, flood control, landscaping, eminent domain, traffic patterns, and much more.

Architecture teacher Ed Lewis oversaw the extensive student involvement in the monthly meetings, lunches and City Commission meetings necessary to keep all parties informed as the work progressed.

The Broward School Board considered the unique nature of the Northeast/Main Street partnership particularly valuable due to the opportunity it provided for students to learn the intricacies of community growth and redevelopment while at the same time participating in a project which will positively affect the entire City of Oakland Park.