

**Beyond the classroom, *Living With Art* is the focus of Bank of Bermuda's Community Action Day Education Project**

**(Hamilton, Bermuda, 3 December 2007)** Taking education beyond the classroom was the inspiration behind Bank of Bermuda's Community Action Day educational project. Bank of Bermuda staff accompanied middle school students to view the *Living With Art* exhibition at the Bermuda National Gallery as the third and final phase of Bank of Bermuda's Community Action Day programme for 2007 was launched today.

The Community Action Day programme, which was introduced last year, offers every Bank of Bermuda staff member with a half day off from work each year to volunteer their time to one of the three initiatives, focusing on the community, the environment and education. As an avid supporter of the community, Bank of Bermuda implemented the programme with a view to providing an innovative approach to community leadership and staff bonding. This year the projects included staff spending an afternoon socialising with seniors, removing invasive species and planting endemic plants at nature reserves and promoting the Arts amongst students.

Over the next four days, 50 volunteers from the Bank will partner up with students from the five public middle schools, involved in the Bank's Partners in Leadership Programme, to tour the Bermuda National Gallery's fall exhibit, *Living with Art*. Following the tour, staff along with students will take part in a scavenger hunt and participate in hands-on activities such as creating their own masterpieces with several on works on exhibit as inspiration. The *Living With Art* exhibition showcases modern and contemporary African American art of various African-American artists from many different periods throughout the twentieth century. The exhibit represents a collection of artwork owned by Alitash Kebede, an Ethiopian-born, Los Angeles collector.

Bank of Bermuda Chief Executive Officer, Philip Butterfield noted, “Earlier this year, Bank of Bermuda provided sponsorship for *Living With Art* and felt that the Community Action Day Programme presented a great opportunity to further profile this exhibit and present it to a whole new generation in a fun and inspiring way. Education doesn’t just begin and end in the classroom, which is why we believe the Arts are so instrumental in inspiring and expanding the mind of the youth, while celebrating our diverse culture and history.”

Lisa Howie, the Bermuda National Gallery’s Education Director, welcomed the Bank initiative saying, “This is an exciting way in which to encourage art appreciation in the community. By providing a place where Bank employees can interact with students we hope it will enable discussion between adults and children via fun, practical activities to stimulate critical thinking. It should be a fun event for both children and adults.”

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**Notes to Editors:**

Founded in 1889, Bank of Bermuda is the leading provider of fund administration, trust, custody, asset management and banking services in Bermuda. Since 2004 it has been a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

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**Media contact:**

Kara Smith

Bank of Bermuda

**Telephone:** (+441) 299 5927

**Fax:** (+441) 299 6559

**E-mail:** [kara.a.smith@bob.hsbc.com](mailto:kara.a.smith@bob.hsbc.com)