

The U.S. Department of Education's Student Art Exhibit Program features visual and performing arts created by students in U.S. and international schools. Now in its 13th year under the direction of the Office of Communications and Outreach and the Office of Innovation and Improvement, the program provides students and teachers an opportunity to display creative work from the classroom in a highly public place that honors their work as an effective path to learning and knowledge for all. The works also provide the department employees and visitors with both a beautiful environment and the means to be in touch with the department's principal customers—students.

The program features two exhibits at all times throughout the year. The winners of the Scholastic Art and Writing awards are exhibited for a year beginning in August, and another exhibit—rotated every two to three months—accommodates the many educators who want to exhibit their students' work. To schedule an exhibit or a visit to the exhibits contact Jacquelyn Zimmermann at (202) 401-0762 or at Jacquelyn.zimmermann@ed.gov. Visit the Student Art Exhibit Program at ED.gov/Student-art-exhibit.

The PTA Reflections program encourages students of all ages and abilities to explore and be involved in the arts. Through the program, National PTA and PTAs across the country urge students in preschool through grade 12 to create and submit original works of art in the medium of their choice—dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts—reflecting on a specific theme. There also is a special artist division option for students with disabilities to ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in the program. Students are recognized each year for their artistic ingenuity to bring the theme to life in a way that is personal and meaningful. For more information about the National PTA Reflections program, visit PTA.org/Reflections.

COVER IMAGES PROVIDED BY

Priti Godhuly Das, Laila Abumahfouz, Maya Zinkerman, Lucy Samuelson, Catherine Park, Anastasia Logacheva, Julie Kwon, Jayden Choe, Kate Ropp, Madison Echols, Shalaya Farr, Tyler Zehfuss, Tiffany Holt, Alyssa Smith, and Naveena Aishwarya Bontha.



National PTA® Reflections®

The World Would Be a Better Place If...

Student Art Exhibit and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Presented by
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Communications and Outreach
Office of Innovation and Improvement
and **National PTA®**

Lyndon Baines Johnson Education Building
Washington, DC



National PTA® comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501 (c) (3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.

Program

Welcome

Ted Mitchell

Under Secretary
U.S. Department of Education

Laura M. Bay

President, National PTA

The World Would Be a Better Place If...

by Allison Pateros
Film Production Award of Merit
Carlsbad High School PTSA, CA

Remarks and Performances

Teresa Williams

Chair, National PTA Programs Committee

The Brothers' March

by Jarom Gardner
Accompanied by Adam Gardner
Music-Composition Award of Merit
Briarwood PTA, WA

Losing Touch

Choreography and Performance
by Hanna La Londe
Music by Prince Ea
Dance Choreography Award of Excellence
Shawnee Mission West PTSA, KS

Jane Chu

Chairman,
National Endowment for the Arts

Acceptance

by Amal Elhelw
Film Production Award of Merit
Penfield High School PTSA, NY

The Joy of Music

by Kyle Gatesman
Music Composition Award of Excellence
Thomas Jefferson High School for
Science and Technology PTSA, VA

Nathan R. Monell, CAE

Executive Director, National PTA

Recognition of National Honorees Ribbon-Cutting & Exhibit Viewing

Visual Arts

Awards of Excellence & Merit

Special Artist Division

Awards of Excellence

Lucy Samuelson, Utah

High School Division

Awards of Excellence

Grant Pace, Missouri
Elaina Smith, Minnesota
Jeffrey Wang, Utah

Awards of Merit

Kelsey Jean Bills, Iowa
Alice Hu, Connecticut
Julie Kwon, Washington
Madeline Monlezon, Louisiana
Emily Plitnick, Pennsylvania

Middle School Division

Awards of Excellence

Priti Godhuly Das, Washington
Angela Rithner, West Virginia
Margaret Wang, New Jersey

Awards of Merit

Sydney Lauren Carter, Kentucky
Nina Kulikov, Kentucky
Natasha Mannik, Georgia
Keely Olson, Colorado
Natalie Upholz, Ohio

Intermediate Division

Awards of Excellence

Jennifer Kim An, New York
Carly Chappell, South Carolina
Kara Jo, Utah

Awards of Merit

Hana Ichikawa, Michigan
Elliott Koschalk, Maryland
Ashini Modi, Louisiana
Meha Shah, Washington
Maria Elana Tovar, Alabama

Primary Division

Awards of Excellence

Laila Abumahfouz, Indiana
Hosannah Choi, Washington
Ian Rinker, North Carolina

Awards of Merit

Cora Jane Botts, Illinois
Joanna Cai, Georgia
Jayden Choe, Maryland
Olivia Hoo, Colorado
Anastasia Logacheva, California



Visual Arts

Outstanding Interpretation Award

Catherine Park "Unity"

High School Division
Langley High School PTSA, Virginia

"My artwork illustrates my belief that everyone should receive an equal opportunity and equal exposure to the culture around us. Regardless of where we come from, we all come from one planet and everyone deserves equal access to education and global culture so we can all unite not under the name of a country, but under Earth." – **Catherine Park**



2015 Reflections Awards

Special Artist

Outstanding Interpretation Award

Maria Quiles "Everything Will Be Ok I'll Just Stay"

Music Composition
Oviedo High School PTSA, Florida

"Giving someone a hurtful nickname, making fun of their medical conditions, claiming you're their true friends and during all this feeling like not even family cares. Having it lead you felt as well, there is no other choice, suicide is the only possible answer for all this to just end. To ignore these problems, bullies, and this non-stop hurtful pain deep inside. Well no, it's not. Believe in yourself instead! To continue staying strong, ignore those bullies, those that have no idea what they are even talking about or what you're truly going through. Tell yourself 'Everything Will Be OK.'" – **Maria Quiles**

About National PTA Reflections Special Artist Division

The Special Artist Division began in 2012 as an option for students with disabilities who receive services under IDEA or Section 504 to have the opportunity and accommodations they may need in order to participate fully in the program. The Special Artist Division offers modified rules and guidelines to ensure that every student has the chance to be part of the National PTA Reflections program.



Standing here for reasons, I cannot say
Is getting more complicated, day after day
I have to leave, I must go
But please know I love you so

I've been thinking long and hard
And it seems there's no other solution
So this is what I have to do
My own self persecution

I feel as if no one cares...
As if I'm in a huge room
Getting cold and silent stares
But I know I will find my way
And in the end, everything will be ok
Everything will be ok

I don't understand why
No one will help me, but I guess
This is how it should be
Maybe I should look inside,
Find the courage within me,
To be strong through anything
I don't understand,

Sometimes I just need a hand
I just want to belong
And I'm learning how to be strong!
I feel as if no one cares...
As if I'm in a huge room
Getting cold and silent stares
But I know I will find my way
And in the end, everything will be ok
Everything will be ok

Throughout all the pain and struggling
I'm still here
When the world keeps throwing stuff at me
I'll still be here
No matter how sad I get
I won't cling to my fear
The answer is within me
Going to keep my mind clear!

When I feel as if no one cares...
As if I'm in a huge room
Getting cold and silent stares
I know I will find my way
And in the end, everything will be ok
Everything will be ok... And I'll just stay....

No matter what's in my way, I'll just stay.
I'll Just Stay.



Dance Choreography

Outstanding Interpretation Award

Madison Duellman
**"The World Would Be a Better Place If
 Everyone Was True to Themselves"**
 High School Division
 Winona High PTA, Minnesota

"When [my friends and I] heard the song "Try" by Colbie Caillat, I was inspired to create a dance about being yourself and not trying to be something you are not. We all feel that if we could dress, look, and be ourselves, we would be happier and if everyone did that, the world would be a better place." – **Madison Duellman**



Photography

Awards of Excellence & Merit

Special Artist Division

Award of Excellence
Gabriel Thomas, Washington

High School Division

Awards of Excellence
Naveena Aishwarya Bontha, Washington
Tiffany Holt, South Carolina
Isaac Lund, South Dakota

Awards of Merit
Megan Fryman, Florida
Rebecca Molinoff, Connecticut
Kiersten Morris, Tennessee
Stephanie Valentina Stumbur, Kentucky
Madeleine Watkins, Texas

Middle School Division

Awards of Excellence
Lauren Atkinson, Michigan
Madison Echols, Texas
Athena Steffany Pentcholov, Washington

Awards of Merit
Shalaya Farr, Utah
Mika Maetani, Hawaii
Bella Morse, Florida
Connor Podjasek, Illinois
Kate Ropp, South Dakota

Intermediate Division

Awards of Excellence
Kayci Baumgartner, Wisconsin
Cade Franklin, Texas
Taiwan Parrish, New Jersey

Awards of Merit
Alexandra Bushard, Minnesota
Dallin Sager, Idaho
Alyssa Smith, Montana
Allison Stromberg, Florida
Charlotte Wilson, South Carolina

Primary Division

Awards of Excellence
Alexis Ebanks, New York
Laney Fowler, Tennessee
Isabella Niemann, European Congress

Awards of Merit
Sophia A. Boshart, Kansas
Waylyn Davis, Texas
Jackson Ostler, Utah
Tyler Zehfuss, California
Maya Zinkerman, Connecticut



Photography

Outstanding Interpretation Award

Cesily Covey "Determination"

Primary Division
Roosevelt Elementary School PTA,
Oklahoma

"The world would be a better place if we all had determination like this tree. He could not be stopped by a truck or barbed wire." – **Cesily Covey**



Dance Choreography

Awards of Excellence & Merit

Special Artist Division

Award of Excellence
Scott Roy Garretton, California

High School Division

Awards of Excellence
Hanna La Londe, Kansas
Madison Anne McCarty, Washington
Kristi Takanishi, Hawaii

Awards of Merit
Savannah Lee Castleberry, Louisiana
Olivia Hopkins, South Carolina
Madalyn Rupprecht, Maryland
Sweta Sudhir, Iowa
Madison Warnick, Utah

Middle School Division

Awards of Excellence
Isabella Martinez Corridon, Connecticut
Sloane Saludares, California
Kiana Sanderson, Texas*

Awards of Merit
Caroline Henson, Tennessee
Jamie LaFever, Virginia
Jillian Miller, New York
Spencer Stringham, Utah
Molly Whitham, Ohio

Intermediate Division

Awards of Excellence
Chloe Furnstahl, Washington
Saleya Briahn Stuckey James, South Carolina
Morgan Ray, Kentucky

Awards of Merit
Aspen Badura, Texas
Ava Chang, Nevada
Amber Disantis, Rhode Island
Raylene Keliiliki, Utah
Emma Grace Simons, North Carolina

Primary Division

Awards of Excellence
Clara Carter-Klauschie, California
Annabelle Holmes, New Hampshire
Scarlett Szewczyk, Illinois

Awards of Merit
Karoline Duffy, Louisiana
Nina Kobayashi, Michigan
Cayla Reischman, New York
Ciera Roseboro, North Carolina
Benjamin Thomas, Virginia



Film Production

Outstanding Interpretation Award

Jacqueline Fashimpaur "Masks"

High School Division
Washington High School PTA, Iowa

"I always noticed that people act differently around others than they do in private. Even Ida Shel Silverstein wrote a poem comparing this phenomenon to wearing masks, and I thought it was a great metaphor. This film shows how "wearing a mask" can lead people to be isolated and lonely. I think that if people felt free to be themselves, there would be more friendship and understanding between people, and the world would be a better place. Hopefully this film inspires some change in that direction."

– Jacqueline Fashimpaur



Music Composition

Awards of Excellence & Merit

Special Artist Division

Awards of Excellence

Jake Sizemore, Virginia

High School Division

Awards of Excellence

Marlon Caro, Florida
Kyle Gatesman, Virginia
Austin Khoi Nguyen, California

Awards of Merit

Stephen John Cu, Hawaii
Nathan Hardey, Utah
Vaibhav Mohanty, South Carolina
Gregory Watson, Ohio
Alice Ann Yu, Missouri

Middle School Division

Awards of Excellence

Brinn Brammer, Arkansas
Kailynn McCullough, Utah
Jieying Tong, South Carolina

Awards of Merit

Jacob Crookston, Colorado
Christopher Guo, Illinois
Patrick Halim, Michigan
Deryn Lewis, South Dakota
Katherine Roberts, Massachusetts

Intermediate Division

Awards of Excellence

Bailee Baca, New Mexico
Mayah Ding, North Carolina
Vijay Jagarapu, Maryland

Awards of Merit

Jarom Gardner, Washington
Nadia Halim, Michigan
Katelyn Riddle, Utah
Paige Malan, Idaho
Ania Szczeszynski, New Hampshire

Primary Division

Awards of Excellence

Ishya Bhavsar, Kansas
Neel Krishman, Georgia
Aisha Patel, Tennessee

Awards of Merit

Cassidy Rae Benton, Washington
Sadie Gibson, California
Audrey Howell, Utah
Ella Li, Massachusetts
Nikhil Patel, North Carolina



Music Composition Outstanding Interpretation Award

Fritz Hager
"It'd be Better"
High School Division
Robert E. Lee PTA, Texas

"This song [It'd be Better] focuses on the greed that is in the world. My song states that the world would be a better place if we all gave more than we received, and showed love through our giving." – **Fritz Hager**

It'd Be Better by Fritz Hager

Take a look at your life, what do you
have? Got money, in phones, and a car, and a family
that no one else has. But to you all this stuff isn't
good enough. It doesn't satisfy. You have a craving

Film Production Awards of Excellence & Merit

Special Artist Division

Award of Excellence
Keane Dyllon Wijeratne, California

High School Division

Awards of Excellence
Ann Bailey, South Carolina
Christine Sheehan, Utah
Anna Woldstad, Washington

Awards of Merit
Amal Elhelw, New York
Randal Ladd, New Jersey
Alison Pateros, California
Will Robinson, Arkansas
Michael Aaron Rose, Alabama

Middle School Division

Awards of Excellence
Lillian Dube, New Hampshire
Hannah Marschell, Washington
Skya Theobald, New York

Awards of Merit
Rose Cano-Ruiz, California
Hannah Cascio, New Jersey
Ashley Jacobson, Michigan
Maya Lundmark, European Congress
Dylan Alexander Tate, South Carolina

Intermediate Division

Awards of Excellence
Jack Allore, Michigan
Kendall Bullock, Florida
Elizabeth Leann McAfee, Nevada

Awards of Merit
Lily Cantwell, New Jersey
Elijah Chin, California
Kai Davis, Arkansas
Charlie Dorset, Tennessee
Amelia Krigelski, Minnesota

Primary Division
Awards of Excellence
Aubri Altman, Utah
Matteo Alvarez, European Congress
Yuvraj Kapoor, Connecticut

Awards of Merit
Tyler Davis, Pennsylvania
Ayush Doshi, Tennessee
Aishni Gollacharaka, California
Anisha Kuppili, New Jersey
Grace Marie Schmidt, Iowa



Literature Outstanding Interpretation Award

Sarah Murphy "The World Would Be a Better Place..."

Middle School Division
Williamsburg Middle School PTA,
Virginia

"The world would be better if hatred, jealousy, war, and disease were eliminated. Focusing on the negative makes life harder. The world has flaws and sadness but we must also see the good to appreciate what we have. I used alliteration in the beginning to show anger and agitation when talking about the "bad" things. The second part has no alliteration to convey accepting the good with the bad. The spacing emphasizes the meaning. The "negatives" are on the left side, the contrasting feelings are on the right. The conclusion is in the middle to combine the two."

– Sarah Murphy

The World Would Be a Better Place...

– by Sarah Murphy

if wars were waged with words;
if tears were terminated, and no longer ran;
if legions left luxurious lifestyles for love;
if spirit spread like smallpox;
if disease dried up like the desert;
if time ticked to a tuned tap, tremendously tranquil;
if sadness suddenly settled, still and shuttered silence;
if the world was a wonder to witness;
if people pondered – if pretty was purely a phrase;
if communities came closer and cared about
character over condition;

however,

without wars, there is no peace;
without the rich, there is no ambition;
without sadness, there is no joy;
without time, there is no intent;
without disappointment, there is no hope;
without sacrifice, there is no love;
without sickness, there is no health;
without tears, there are no smiles;
without ugly, there is no pretty;
without rivalries, there are no
accomplishments;

so maybe,
just maybe,
the world is not,
so broken after all.

Literature Awards of Excellence & Merit

Special Artist Division

Awards of Excellence

Peter Tran, California

High School Division

Awards of Excellence

Savannah Donnelly, Louisiana

Cole Lahmann, Maryland

Angela Wang, Arkansas

Awards of Merit

Trevaris Byrd, Florida

Amanda Checkowsky, Michigan

Olivia Gregory, Tennessee

Cameron Haradon, New Hampshire

Keandra Alexis Pope, Alabama

Middle School Division

Awards of Excellence

Logan Baker, South Carolina

Gia Lee, Texas

Dani Rae Nielsen, Utah

Awards of Merit

Julia Bessenbacher, Missouri

Maya Cherne, Minnesota

Lidet O'Connor, New Hampshire

Gea Torres, Ohio

Avery Young, Colorado

Intermediate Division

Awards of Excellence

Eloise Fountain, Virginia

Heather Mimikos, Washington

Abigail Slama-Catron, Utah

Awards of Merit

Olivia Brummert, Maryland

Kaley Cock, Texas

Kyler Gause, Indiana

McKenna Aspen Reed, South Carolina

Lily Wood, Ohio

Primary Division

Awards of Excellence

Isabelle Palmer, Utah

Lily Ringrose, Texas

Wyatt Youngblood, Pennsylvania

Awards of Merit

Aditya Amdoskar, Michigan

Hudson Burgeson, South Dakota

Emily Duncan, Virginia

Ajayteja Kavuri, Kentucky

Gabriel Velinov, Ohio