
SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES 2014 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE WINNERS

Washington, DC -- Sister Cities International is proud to announce the winners and finalists of the 2014 Young Artists and Authors Showcase. For over two decades, the Young Artists and Authors Showcase has given youth from around the globe the opportunity to express their vision for a more unified, peaceful world through original artwork and literature.

The 2014 Showcase encouraged youth to submit entries inspired by what Sister Cities International's tagline: "Connect globally. Thrive locally." means to them. The theme challenged youth to express how connectivity has impacted them for the better and enabled their community to thrive. "For 26 years, youth from around the globe have sent their inspiring work for this Showcase. This year's entries also showcased immense talent and passion. We're very excited to share the work of these talented youth with the world on our website and Tumblr," said Mary D. Kane, Sister Cities International President and CEO.

The 2014 Young Artists Showcase (U.S.) Grand Prize winner is Anna Cho from Houston, TX for her artwork titled "Global Village". Finalists include Aaron Ortega of Santa Barbara, CA, Elizabeth Vaughan of Lakeland, FL; Benjamin Mowers of Winston-Salem, NC; and Amy Wong of Culver City, CA. The 2014 Young Artists Showcase (International) Grand Prize winners are Julia Sokolova and Irina Generalsakya of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia for their artwork titled "Exciting Plenair". Finalists in this category include Momoi Tanigawa of Chiba City, Japan; Sayuri Kaitou of Miyazu, Japan; Emma Rosbotham of North Down Borough, Northern Ireland, UK; and Takumi Honda of Narashino, Japan.

The 2014 Young Authors Showcase (Essay) Grand Prize winner is Brandon Thornton of Chandler, AZ for his work titled "Unity". Finalists include Steven Sawtelle of Phoenix, AZ and Tessa Solee of Hampton, VA. The 2014 Young Authors Showcase (Poem) Grand Prize winner is Amanda Corona for her work titled "Exhilarating Emotions". Finalists include Cole Dignard of Suffolk, VA and Stephanie Avalos of Columbia Heights, MN.

The Grand Prize winners will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize. The winners' and finalists' work will also be on display at Sister Cities International's 2014 Annual Conference in San Jose, CA July 31-August 2. Following the Conference, the artwork will go on a tour to several cities across the U.S. The Young Artist and Authors Showcase is made possible by a generous donation from The Carvey Family.

For more information on the Showcase and copies of the artwork, please email Megha Swamy at mswamy@sister-cities.org. To view all the 2014 Showcase artwork submissions, visit: www.sistercitiesinternational.tumblr.com.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,000 communities in 140 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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