



**SISTER
CITIES
of
LONG
BEACH
CALIFORNIA**

SISTER CITIES OF LONG BEACH, INC.
P.O. BOX 41492
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90853
info@sistercitiesoflongbeach.org
www.sistercitiesoflongbeach.org
Tax ID: 33-0670943

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: PHYLLIS VENABLE, PRESIDENT, SISTER CITIES OF LONG BEACH, INC.
phvenable@gmail.com; 310-971-1478

VERNESSIE GREEN-HORN, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, THETA ALPHA OMEGA
vernessiehorn08@yahoo.com; 323-719-8471

LOCAL TEEN ARTISTS/AUTHORS TO COMPETE IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Long Beach, CA. - The Young Artists & Authors Showcase (YAAS) is an annual competition of Sister Cities International to encourage teens to express the values of international friendship and cultural exchange through art. Participating Sister City programs hold local contests to select entries to submit to an international competition. The theme this year is "United in Hope", emphasizing hope as a unifying force that shines through for those who persevere. Students were asked to create art through the lens of citizen diplomacy and ways the world can stand together as we face the future. The 2021 Long Beach competition resulted in the identification of six local winners who will receive cash prizes and a chance to become global winners in an international arena.

The local competition is sponsored by Sister Cities of Long Beach, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Theta Alpha Omega Chapter and the Pearl Foundation, Inc. Teens 13-18 were eligible to submit entries in the categories of two-dimensional art, literature, photography, and music. Over 50 entries were submitted from Long Beach teens and those from the Long Beach Sister Cities of Sochi, Russia and Yokkaichi, Japan.

Publicity releases and photos have been obtained from these 2021 local YAAS winners:

1 st Place Visual Art	Annalise Mirsec - Wilson High School
2 nd Place Visual Art	Sofia Farfan - Poly High School
3 rd Place Visual Art	Stepan Sevryukov - Sochi Children's Art School #3
1 st Place Literature	Claire Beeli - Wilson High School
1 st Place Music	Visud Chang - Poly High School
2 nd Place Music	Tiaja Traylor-Morgan - Wilson High School

A virtual awards program to recognize these talented students will be held on July 28 at 6:30 pm. Mayor Robert Garcia will greet and congratulate the local winners. The public is invited, but pre-registration is required.

To register for the awards program go to
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrcehmqzIuE9FVeiGdR5f8AMCR0boy5cVz>
For more information go to <https://www.sistercitiesoflongbeach.org/yaas/>

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