FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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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:

1st Place Visual Art       Annalise Mirsec - Wilson High School
2nd Place Visual Art      Sofia Farfan - Poly High School
3rd Place Visual Art      Stepan Sevryukov - Sochi Children’s Art School #3
1st Place Literature      Claire Beeli - Wilson High School
1st Place Music           Visud Chang – Poly High School
2nd 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/tZMrcemhqzIuE9FVelGdR5f8AMCR0boy5cVz
For more information go to https://www.sistercitiesoflongbeach.org/yaas/

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