

# Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS)

# What is YAAS?

- For decades, Sister Cities International has leveraged the power that art has to transform societies and transcend cultural boundaries through the Young Artists and Authors Showcase, or YAAS. The Showcase has given youth worldwide the opportunity to express their vision for a more unified, peaceful world through original art and literature.
- This year's theme is "United in Hope".
- Sister Cities International aims to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time. The COVID-19 pandemic is a unique phenomenon in that it has affected every country around the globe. However, as is common in tragedy, hope shines through for those who persevere. Hope is a uniting force during this time.





# Eligibility

- Students must be between 13 and 18 years of age at the time of the deadline.
- The students must be affiliated with a dues-paying member of Sister Cities International or an international community partnered with a dues-paying member.
- No more than five (5) submissions per category will be accepted from each member community.
- Member communities with more than five (5) entries are encouraged to form their own local competitions and submit the top five (5) to Sister Cities International.
- No student may enter submissions into more than one category.
- All entries must meet the specified criteria for their chosen category.

# Creating a local program

## Finding a Sponsor

- Write a proposal. Include application information; budget; advertising tactics. Know what you're asking for.
- Prepare to offer sponsor some publicity.
- Look for a gallery, museum or a business that has a gallery.
- Ask for an in-person meeting so you can talk about SCI. Lots of companies are looking for youth programs to sponsor.



## Creating a local application

- Basic information about the program (from SCI Application)
- Contact details for both the student & parent(s)
- Details about school & teacher
- What inspired the student to create the piece?
- Contact details for your Sister Cities office
- Where to send pieces & the due date

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lexington Sister Cities  
Young Artists Competition



2021 Theme:

“United in Hope”



Visit our website for more information [www.lexingtonsistercities.org](http://www.lexingtonsistercities.org)  
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @LexingtonSisterCities

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Young Artists Competition  
“United in Hope”

Submission Guidelines

DEADLINE: Friday, March 19, 2021

Theme:

The COVID-19 pandemic is a unique phenomenon in that it has affected every country around the globe. However, as is common in tragedy, hope shines through for those who persevere. *Hope is a unique fire burning this time* as people struggle to cope with its ongoing effects and once again start to imagine a life without social distancing or wearing a mask. Indeed, the younger generation is capable of dreaming of a human existence that is even more dynamic, more advanced, and more resilient than ever before.

Students should explore the following questions *through the lens of citizen diplomacy and include creative ways that we stand together looking toward the future.*

How can the next generation of citizen diplomats help communities respond during and after the pandemic? In what ways does international experience affect an individual or community's ability to stay hopeful? What are some examples or illustrations of coming together and celebrating our hope in humanity and its future? What are some unique ways that your city, country, or culture has proven to be hopeful during the past year?

Mediums & Specifications:

- o Only two dimensional (2D), unframed artwork.
- o Media accepted include oil, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, colored pencil, crayon, ink, marker, etching, collage. (Photography is a separate category. Application can be found with your teacher or on the Lexington Sister Cities website, [www.lexingtonsistercities.org](http://www.lexingtonsistercities.org))
- o Use of copyrighted or trademarked images is prohibited.
- o Entries must not be plagiarized, stolen, or copied from any other source. Entries must not defame or invade the rights of any person, living or dead.

Entries:

Each participating student artist must be between 13 and 18 years of age by April 1, 2021. All entries must be the original design and artwork of the entrant. Only new pieces inspired by the theme should be submitted.

**This year, we will not be accepting physical artwork, only photographs of the artwork. Please confirm that photographs are not less than 180 dpi**

Email: [lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com)

Judging:

A panel will judge entries on the basis of originality, composition, and theme interpretation. Artist's name, title, description of work and name of school are kept confidential until judging has been completed. The judges' decision will be final.

Awards:

**Local Competition:** First, second, and third places will be chosen and cash prizes will be awarded by **Central Bank** to the students. 1st place will receive \$250, 2nd place - \$150, and third place - \$100. These top three pieces will be sent to Sister Cities International for the worldwide competition.

**International Competition:** First, Second and Third place winners will be selected in the international competition. The Grand Prize Winner (first place) will receive \$1,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> place will receive \$250, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive \$100. The winning art pieces will be published on the Sister Cities International website.

Young Artists Showcase Entry Form  
Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021

Please print clearly or type and enclose this form with the artwork

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Entry (size, medium, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

What inspired you to create this work?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

All competition entries become the artistic property of Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International. Although the artist retains his/her copyright for other uses, Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International will retain perpetual, non-exclusive rights to use submitted artwork in any future publication, promotional material and/or online service with no compensation other than credit with the artist's name and community. Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International reserves the right to free reproduction and exhibition of all submissions. Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International take no responsibility and will not compensate for any lost or damaged artwork. All fees associated with the showcase become the property of Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International and will not be returned.

By submitting the entry, we agree to give Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International, its members and affiliates, permission to publish and display the submitted entry at public exhibits, online, in publications and/or promotional materials, at the discretion of Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International. We agree to abide by all the rules and terms of the showcase and agree to waive all claims of any kind against the showcase organizers.

Artist Signature \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, contact Lexington Sister Cities:  
Kay Saepert, Executive Director  
(559) 258 - 3137  
[lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com)

# Promoting your local program



## Teacher Contacts & School Visits

- The majority of schools should have their teachers listed by subjects, we have a database created for all teachers that is easily updatable each year.
- Don't forget private schools.
- Send out email to the teachers announcing the competition and due date, and send them the application.
- Send follow up email 2 weeks before the applications are due.
- Ask teachers if they are willing to have you speak to their classes about the competition

## Social Media & Flyers

- Make sure to put details about the competition on all of your social media platforms.
- Choose an eye-catching graphic for promotional posts.
- Make your posts shareable.
- Remind followers about the competition, do not just post about it one time.
- Give specific details about where to find your application in the posts.
- Create flyers to be sent out to schools, local businesses, and members.



# Judging, Reception & Awards



## Judging

### Select your judges.

- Example:
  - Art Critics
  - Prominent local Artists
  - Gallery Owner or Curator
  - Local Arts Council

### Plan a day and time for judging

- Give judges the criteria
  - Originality, composition, and theme interpretation

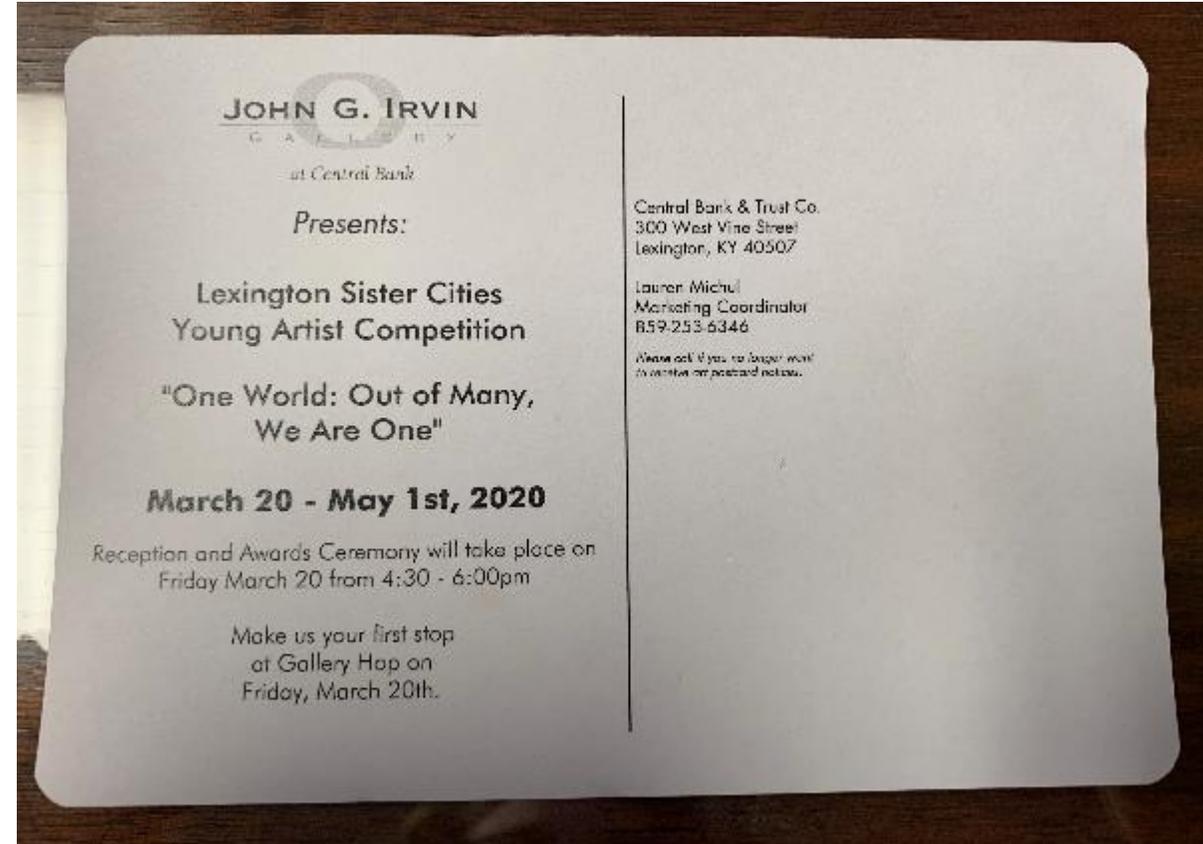
Artist's name, title, description of work and name of school are kept confidential until judging has been completed.



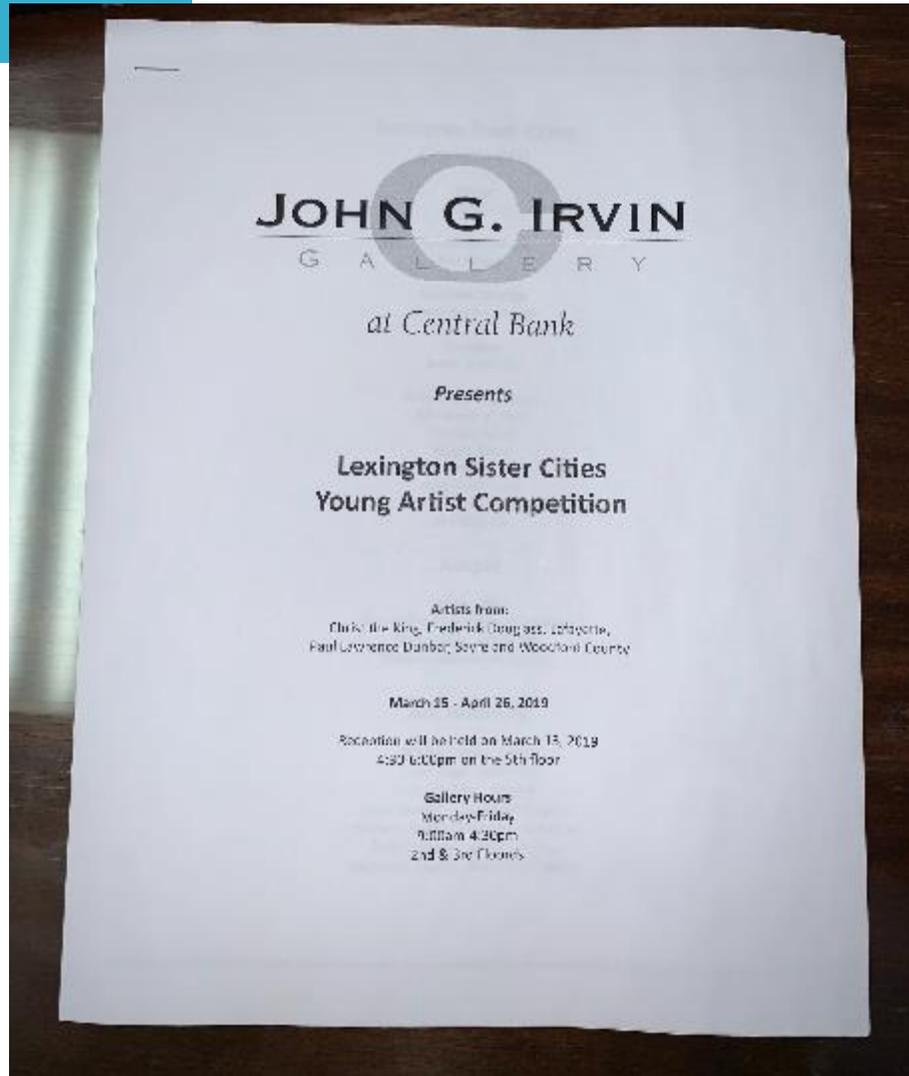
## Reception & Awards

- Local Sponsor provides:
  - Awards Ceremony/Exhibition Opening Reception
    - Invite Sister Cities' members; teachers; students; parents
  - Monetary Awards
    - First, Second, Third Place Awards
    - Plaque for Winner
    - Award for winning student's teacher
- Exhibition
  - One month exhibition of all entries

# Invitation



# Showcase Program



# Presenting Award:

President of Company, Mayor of City, and Chair of Sister Cities Commission.



# Showcase/Display of Works



# Sending to Sister Cities International

1. Send your International Sister Cities the application to participate.
2. Either have your Sister City send their entries to you to be sent to SCI together; or they can send direct to SCI.
3. This year, SCI will not be accepting physical artwork, only photographs of the artwork.
4. Entries in all categories will be virtual this year.



**SisterCities**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Connect globally. Thrive locally.

# Categories



**Photography**



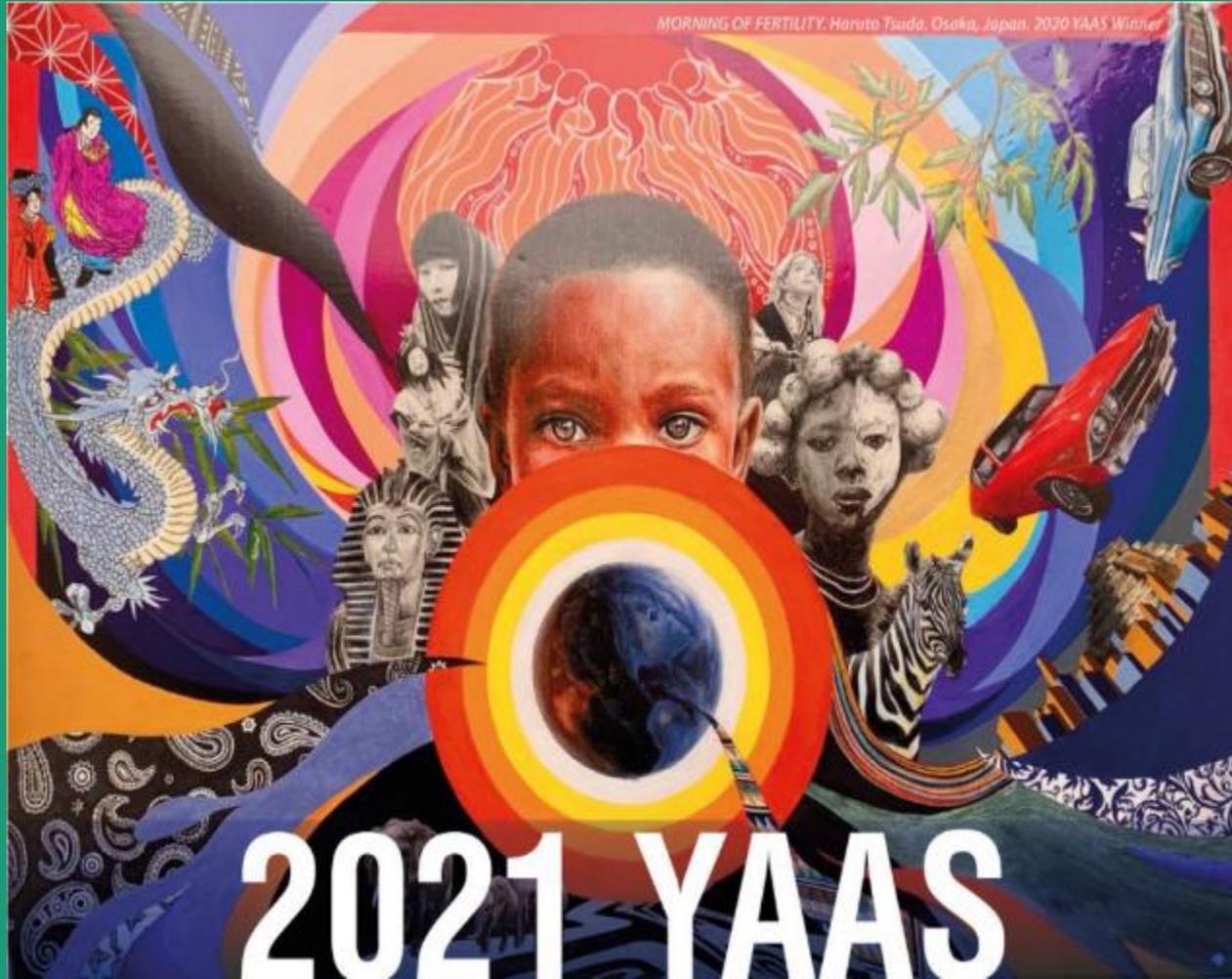
**Literature**



**Poetry**



**Music**



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