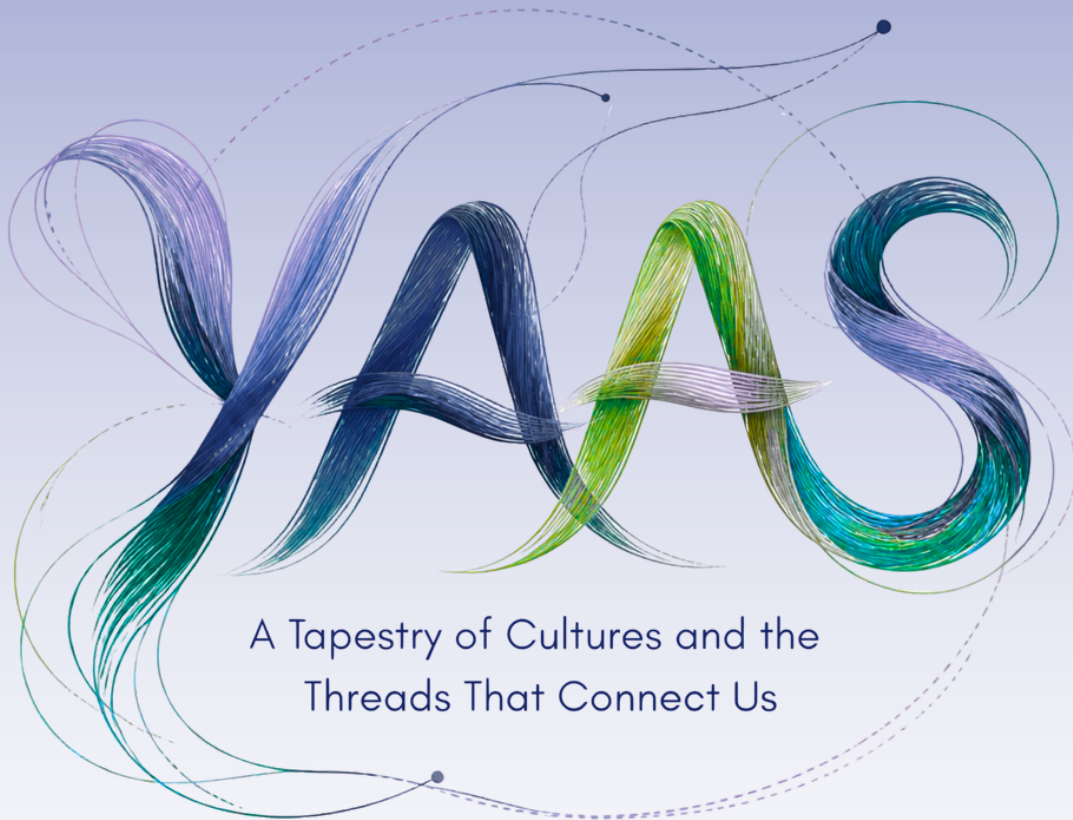


2027 Young Artists & Authors Showcase (YAAS)



A Tapestry of Cultures and the
Threads That Connect Us



CLASSIC ART



DIGITAL ART



PHOTOGRAPHY



ESSAY



POETRY



ORIGINAL MUSIC

What is YAAS?

The Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS) is Sister Cities International's annual global competition that invites young people to explore the power of international friendship and cultural understanding through original creative expression. Participants submit original works of art, writing, photography, and music inspired by the annual theme, bringing the mission of Sister Cities International to life through their unique perspectives.

Who Can Apply?

YAAS is open to youth worldwide in two age divisions: 12-14 and 15-18. Awards are presented separately in each age group and artistic category, with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners recognized.

Prizes

In each age division and artistic category, 1st Place winners receive \$1,000, 2nd Place winners receive \$500, and 3rd Place winners receive \$250.





The 2027 YAAS Theme

A Tapestry of Cultures and the Threads That Connect Us

Every culture, community, and individual contributes a unique thread to the tapestry of our interconnected world. While our traditions, languages, histories, and perspectives may differ, each enriches the whole, creating stronger communities built on mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration.

This year's theme invites young artists and authors to reflect on the relationships that connect people across cultures and borders. Through friendship, cultural exchange, and shared experiences, we weave a future of peace—one shaped by curiosity, compassion, and a commitment to understanding one another. Participants are encouraged to explore how people-to-people connections can bridge differences, celebrate diversity, and inspire positive change within their communities and beyond.

The tapestry is a powerful metaphor for Sister Cities International's mission of building peace through citizen diplomacy and cultural exchange. Just as every thread contributes to the strength and beauty of a tapestry, every individual has the ability to strengthen the bonds that unite communities around the world. Through art, photography, music, poetry, and writing, participants are invited to interpret the threads that connect us and demonstrate how creativity can foster dialogue, deepen understanding, and contribute to a more peaceful and connected future.



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