

YAAS 2025

YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE

Friendship: The Heartbeat of Global Peace

DEADLINE TO APPLY: APRIL 1, 2025

Sister Cities International is proud to present the 2025 Young Artists and Authors Showcase, inviting youth from around the world to express their creativity through the theme **“Friendship: The Heartbeat of Global Peace.”** This year’s theme highlights the **power of friendship to foster understanding, collaboration, and peace across borders.**

Open to artists, writers, photographers, and musicians aged 12-18, the Showcase provides a unique platform to explore how global friendships can drive positive change and bridge cultural divides. Submissions will be accepted in various mediums, including visual art, essays, poetry, and music.

By participating in this inspiring competition, young creators will have the opportunity to share their vision of a peaceful world and contribute to the international dialogue about the importance of building friendships across nations. Winning entries will be featured in Sister Cities International’s global network, inspiring communities and leaders worldwide.

2024 Classic Art Showcase Winner



“Reflect,” Lorelee House, Norfolk Sister City Association

Click Here to Apply
(<https://sistercitiesinternational.org/submit/305287/young-artists-and-authors-showcase-2025>)

What is YAAS?



The Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS) is an annual contest that encourages youth worldwide to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork, literature, photography, and music. [\(https://sistercities.org/\)](https://sistercities.org/)

We encourage our youth to be creative and examine all aspects of this year's theme, including but not limited to :



How can friendship transcend cultural, language, or national barriers to create lasting peace?



What symbols or imagery represent the connection between friendship and global harmony?



In what ways can friendships between individuals or communities inspire positive change in the world?



How do acts of kindness and understanding between friends contribute to a more peaceful global society?



What does the “heartbeat” of global peace look like in your personal experience of friendship across borders?

Age **Categories**

This year, we are hosting two separate competitions based on age groups. Applicants aged 12-14 will compete in one showcase, while those aged 15-18 will compete in another. In each age group and each art medium, there will be a first, second, and third place winner.

Prizes

Grand prize winners in each age group and each art medium will receive a \$1,000 prize. Second place winners will receive a \$500 prize, and third place winners will be awarded a \$250 prize.

This year, we are reintroducing an in-person aspect to the competition. Winners will be required to send framed versions of their original artwork to the Sister Cities International National Office in Washington, DC, at their own expense. Further details will be shared with

winners in early summer 2025. The winning artwork will also be featured on the Sister Cities International website after the announcement.



All cash prizes for the 2025 winners **must be claimed within one month** of receiving notification of their win.

Member's
(<https://sistercities.org>)