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Sister Cities International announces 2013 Young Artists and Authors Showcase Winners

Washington, DC – Sister Cities International is proud to announce the winners and finalists of the 2013 Young Artists and Authors Showcase. For over two decades, the Young Artists and Authors Showcase has given youth from around the globe the opportunity to artistically express their vision for a more unified, peaceful world.

The 2013 Showcase encouraged youth to reflect on the theme “The Power of Exchange”: express how exchange has impacted themselves and their community through original artwork and literature. The entries received this year demonstrated a high level of talent and enthusiasm. ” We were impressed by the variety of perspectives articulated by sister city youth through their exceptional art, essays, and poems,” said Mary D. Kane, President and CEO, Sister Cities International.

Faith Tsou, from Naperville, IL was selected as the Young Artists Showcase Grand Prize winner for her artwork, “Hope.” Finalists included Grace Haddad from Suffolk, VA; Vivienne Salisbury from Houston, TX; Elizabeth Hopwood from Chandler, AZ, and Sara Arthur-Paratley from Lexington, KY. Sister Cities International also announced winners in the international entries category. Katherine Whatley from Abu Dhabi, UAE won the Grand Prize for her piece “Flight of the Butterfly.” Finalists in the international category included Jonathan Hunter from Bangor, Northern Ireland; Yuka Kikuchi from Hanamaki, Japan; Marin Yoshida from Fukui, Japan, and Charmaine Agawin from Sariaya, Philippines.

The 2013 Young Authors Showcase Grand Prize winner was Rachel Beglin, from Chandler, AZ, in the poetry category. Seung Won Choi, from Santa Clarita, CA, was the Grand Prize winner in the essay category for her piece, “The Powerful Exchange of Love.” Finalists in the poetry category were Ronek Padgaonkar from Phoenix, AZ and Sophie Rabb from Phoenix, AZ. Hannah Daniel from Phoenix, AZ and Kiraney Zhang from Suffolk, VA were named finalists in the essay category.

The winners and finalists’ art, essays, and poetry will be on display at the Sister Cities International [2013 Annual Conference](#) in San Antonio, TX, July 12-13, 2013, following which they will embark on a year-long tour hosted by local sister city programs on a monthly basis. The tour schedule as well as the winning and finalist entries is also available on the Sister Cities International website [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org).

The Young Artists and Authors Showcase is made possible through the generous support of the Carvey Family. For more information on the individual winners and interview requests, please email Megha Swamy at [mswamy@sister-cities.org](mailto:mswamy@sister-cities.org).

**About Sister Cities International**

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in nearly 2,000 communities in 140 countries on six continents. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations’ mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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