

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES 2017 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE WINNERS

Washington, DC (July 5, 2017) – Today, Sister Cities International (SCI) announced the winners and finalists of the 2017 Young Artists and Authors Showcase. For nearly three decades, SCI has leveraged the power that art has to transform societies and transcend cultural boundaries through the Young Artists and Authors Showcase. The Showcase has given youth from around the globe the opportunity to express their vision for a more unified, peaceful world through original artwork and literature.

The 2017 Showcase encouraged youth to submit entries inspired by the theme “We’re Going Places.” Young artists, authors, and photographers shared their vision of peace and expressed how they are able to connect globally.

The 2017 Young Artists Showcase (U.S.) Grand Prize winner is Rodolfo Ledezma from Boynton Beach, FL for his artwork titled “Around the World.” U.S. finalists include Isabelle Rauh of Bloomington, IN; Seaira Siv of Roanoke, VA; Chuyuan Jiang of Delray Beach, FL; Brigitte Nikizag of Houston, TX; and Tesoro Roman of Tempe, AZ. The 2017 Young Artists Showcase (International) Grand Prize winner is Tyumentsev Ignat of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia for his artwork titled “Travel Time.” International finalists include Nanami Sakamoto of Osaka, Japan; Abrefa Kleinheinz of Kumasi, Ghana; Yukimi Arakida of Hanamaki, Japan; Yuno Murai of Fukui, Japan; and Racovita Iulia of Ungheni, Moldova.

The 2017 Young Authors Showcase (Essay) Grand Prize winner is Hanae Yoshida of Lexington, KY for her work titled “No, I Didn’t Need a Bodyguard.” Finalists include Veronica Driz of Chandler, AZ and Hannah Mauser of Osage, IA. The 2017 Young Authors Showcase (Poetry) Grand Prize winner is Jocelin McGrath of Lakeland, FL for her work titled “An Island of Iron Knees (after Haiti).” Finalists include Rebecca Daugherty of Lexington, KY and Jacey Goodale of Osage, IA.

The 2017 Sister Cities Photography Challenge Grand Prize winner is Sophia Rowe of Sacramento, CA. Finalists include Andrea Hernandez of Bakersfield, CA; Anton Kot of New Haven, CT; Zoe Parra of San Antonio, TX; Chelsey Cartwright of San Jose, Ca; Jaina Lanum of Roanoke, VA; Chen Yunzhe of Zhengzhou, China; Daria Tolochko of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia; Chen Yu of Zhengzhou, China; Ryan Joseph Dacoylo of Cagayan de Oro, Philippines and Li Yuxin of Zhengzhou, China.

The Grand Prize winners will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize. The winners’ and finalists’ work will also be on display at Sister Cities International’s 61st Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia July 14-15. Following the Conference, the artwork will go on a tour to several cities across the U.S.

For more information about the Showcase and to request copies of the artwork, email Christina Burchette at cburchette@sistercities.org. To view the 2017 Showcase artwork submissions, visit sistercitiesinternational.tumblr.com.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 member communities with relationships in over 2,000 communities in 145 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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