



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

January 8, 2026
Agenda Item No. 4

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Library Services Department
Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director
(949) 717-3801, mhartson@newportbeachca.gov

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager

TITLE: 2025 Newport Beach Student Art Exhibition Winners

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission approve the winning submissions of the 2025 Student Art Exhibition as selected by the Student Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT:

\$525.00 will be expensed from the Cultural Arts Division Programming budget to purchase Amazon gift cards that will serve as contest prizes.

DISCUSSION:

The first Student Art Exhibition, held in 2021, provided an opportunity for young artists, students in pre-K through 12th grades, to submit an original, two-dimensional work of art. Since its 2021 inception, the City Arts Commission has held an annual exhibition to provide an event centered around families with children and teens.

The 2025 Student Art Exhibition was open to all students from grades pre-K through 12. The City Arts Commission received 103 entries in this year's exhibition, which will be on display at the Central Library from January 6, 2026, through February 23, 2026. The Student Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee selected the following submissions as winning entries:

Pre-K – 3rd Grade:

- 1st Place - \$100.00 – The Courage of Creativity, The Henri Matisse Award
Ava Rubiano's Hummingbird's Kiss
- 2nd Place - \$50.00 – A Creation of the Heart, The Marc Chagall Award
Allie Mendes' Owl
- 3rd Place - \$25.00 – Every Child is an Artist, The Picasso Award
Lydia Berube's Ballerina Cherry Blossom
- Honorable Mention – The Claude Monet Honorable Mention Award (no monetary prize)
Aiden Roshdieh's She Drew the Curves No One Else Could See: Tribute to Maryam Mirzakhani

4th – 7th Grade:

- 1st Place - \$100.00 – An Inner Picture of the Soul, The Edvard Munch Award
Allen Lai's Hands of Manipulation

- 2nd Place - \$50.00 – Shapes and Colors as Language, The Georgia O’Keefe Award
Shanaya Joshi’s *Just Another Girl*
- 3rd Place - \$25.00 – By All Means, Paint! The Vincent Van Gogh Award
Kyla Chen’s *Harmony in Patterns*
- Honorable Mention – The Gustav Klimt Honorable Mention Award (no monetary prize)
Luna Squire’s *Sun Falling Sleep in CA*

8th – 12th Grade:

- 1st Place - \$100.00 – An Artist Who Inspires Others, The Salvador Dali Award
Amelia Sanelle’s *Smores*
- 2nd Place - \$50.00 – Art with a Life of Its Own, The Jackson Pollack Award
Zisui Ye’s *A Cup of Sunrise*
- 3rd Place - \$25.00 – Happy as Long as I Can Paint, The Frida Kahlo Award
Angel Zhou’s *Fruit Still Life*
- Honorable Mention – The Vasily Kandinsky Honorable Mention Award (no monetary prize)
Quinn Kelley’s *Lake Como Visit*

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Arts Commission considers the item).

ATTACHMENT A: Student Art Exhibition 2025 Winners