



Council for Art Education, Inc.

Sponsor of Youth Art Month

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2011 Youth Art Month Awards Announced

Top Awards to Texas, Georgia, New Jersey and Virginia

For Immediate Release

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The Council for Art Education is honored to announce the 2011 Youth Art Month (YAM) award recipients. At the review of the Youth Art Month state reports in August, the Council voted to recognize the YAM Chairpersons listed below for their outstanding participation in YAM 2011.

Claire Flanagan Memorial (Grand) Award: Alisa Meli of Texas.

Awards of Excellence: Katie Harrison and Pam Morgan of Georgia, Jennifer Tiongson of New Jersey; and Sean Collins and Jimi Herd of Virginia.

Awards of Merit: Anne Uphoff of California; Virginia Berthelot, Nancy Keisman and Denise Tullier-Holly of Louisiana; Julia Lang-Shapiro and Donnalyn Shuster of New York; Amy Harden, Brandy Sitts and Lisa Taulman of Oklahoma; and Jennifer Goodnough and Jen Sweeney of Wisconsin.

Certificates of Commendation: Jerry Foster of Alabama; Camille Mardis of Arizona, Peggy Nolan of Florida; Kristen Peck and Melissa Schaefer of Illinois; Sue Perry of Indiana; Shawny Montgomery of Kansas; Ayla West of Maryland; Summer Nation of Mississippi; Vicki Breen of New Mexico; Lolita Casto-Mullen of Ohio; Jeannie Seamone of Oregon; Jill Armstrong of Rhode Island; Lois Beckner of South Dakota; Jackie Spaulding-Wright, Paige Burchell and Amy Broady of Tennessee; Abigail Krone of Vermont and Mari Atkinson and Amada Lang of Washington.

Special Recognition: Julia Lang-Shapiro and Donnalyn Shuster of New York and Jennifer Goodnough and Jen Sweeney of Wisconsin.

Youth Art Month Chairperson **Alisa Meli of Texas** was selected by the Council to receive the **Claire Flanagan Memorial Youth Art Month Award**, the highest award it bestows. Alisa has been Texas YAM Chairperson for 2 years and she has been a member of NAEA for 7 years. Texas has participated in YAM for 32 years. Governor Rich Perry proclaimed March as Youth Art Month as did numerous mayors, state representatives, universities and community leaders. Texas once again held their TAEA Youth Art Month Capital Celebration. This year there were 101 pieces of student artwork on display in the State Capital Building in Austin. Governor Perry and his staff selected ten pieces of artwork from the Capital display to be framed and hung in his business office for the calendar year. Once this group of artwork, dubbed the “Governor’s 10,” was hung, the Governor hosted a reception for the students, their families and art teachers. The Austin Independent School District sponsored a month long YAM exhibit entitled “Art is Electric” where 1,500 works of art representing 111 schools in the district were displayed for public viewing. To advertise the event, ten billboards were created from a design by a 9th grade student artist from McCallum High School. T-shirts and special posters designed by a student from Casis Elementary were created to advertise the event. The Pearland Independent School District sponsored the second annual Youth Art Month *Artwalk*. Local businesses donating space to students to display their artwork increased from 20 to 33 participants. *Artwalk* participants were presented with a passport that would be stamped at each business they stopped at to see the artwork. Alisa reported that a partnership between the Brazos Valley Art Education Association (BVAEA) and the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum’s Education Department resulted in an outdoor public installation to celebrate Youth Art Month in College Town, TX. Over 300 hand decorated flags, created by area art students, were on display in a field on Barbara Bush Drive from March 9-28, 2011. Congratulations to Alisa for an outstanding celebration of Youth Art Month in Texas!

Katie Harrison and Pam Morgan of Georgia were selected to receive an **Award of Excellence** for their state’s Youth Art Month observance. Katie Harrison has been Georgia Co-Chairperson for 3 years and a member of NAEA for 3 years. Pam Morgan has been Georgia Co-Chairperson for 5 years and a member of NAEA for 13 years. Georgia has been celebrating Youth Art Month for 31 years. March was proclaimed Youth Art Month by

Governor Nathan Deal. Proclamations and endorsements for Youth Art Month were also made by numerous state government officials, mayors, principals and superintendents. Georgia's theme for Youth Art Month was "Art Shapes the eARTh". Art teachers and students were asked "how can we use ART to support a cause and raise money or awareness using ART as your vehicle". Katie and Pam reported that 120 Youth Art Month exhibits, special events and activities were held in March. White Oak Elementary, Gwinnett County held a "Fine Arts Night" which was attended by 500 people from the community. Union Grove High School, Henry County raised over \$1,000 at a Silent Auction and had over 500 volunteers for their Art Festival. Many student artists created items such as posters, bowls, art work and ties in support of such organizations as Relay for Life and Empty Bowls. Congratulations to Katie and Pam for an outstanding celebration of Youth Art Month in Georgia.

Jennifer Tiongson of New Jersey was selected to receive an **Award of Excellence** for her state's Youth Art Month observance. 2011 was Jenn's first year as New Jersey's YAM Chairperson. She has been a member of NAEA for 3 years. New Jersey has been celebrating Youth Art Month for 50 years. March was proclaimed Youth Art Month by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, and 40 New Jersey Mayors. Endorsements were signed by over 500 State Senators, Assemblymen, Freeholders, Superintendents, Principals, teachers, students and parents. A total of 346 art educators participated in Youth Art Month activities. For 2011, 19 art educators participated for the first time. Youth Art Month observances in New Jersey included their exhibit in the State House in Trenton, where student works of art from every county in the state were displayed. In addition, county and school district YAM exhibits were held at public and community art galleries, at community colleges and universities, in municipal buildings, in stores and malls, and in public libraries. New Jersey's 2011 YAM celebration theme was, "Art Sparks Genius". The NJ 2011 YAM poster highlighting the theme was designed by a 9th grade student from Edison High School. Other "Art Sparks Genius" designs were used on buttons, candy wrappers, billboards, a YAM Advocacy calendar, T-shirts, gift bags and magnets. Congratulations to Jenn for an outstanding celebration of Youth Art Month in New Jersey!

Sean Collins and Jimi Herd of Virginia were selected to receive an **Award of Excellence** for their state's Youth Art Month observance. Sean Collins has been Virginia's YAM Co-Chairperson for 3 years and a member of NAEA for 6 years. Jimi Herd has been Virginia's YAM Co-Chairperson for 2 years and a member of NAEA for 6

years. It was reported that despite this challenging economic time, visual arts education has suffered no major setbacks in terms of program availability or time restraints. This success was attributed to efforts by the dedicated and vocal supporters of arts education in the state. Virginia has been celebrating Youth Art Month for 27 years. March was proclaimed Youth Art Month by Mark Warner, United States Senator, Walter Stosch, Virginia State Senator, Richard Baugh, Harrisburg City Mayor and 8 members of the Virginia House of Delegates. Over 562 art educators participated in YAM activities. There was a significant increase in participation statewide including an increase of almost 200% participation in Bedford County, and a first time recorded participation in Charlotte County. Youth Art Month observances included an exhibit of student art at the Front Royal Visitor's Center in Warren County. Charlotte County held an "Arts Fiesta" exhibit highlighting work from art students in all grade levels. An art auction featuring student works to benefit the March of Dimes was held in Suffolk County as part of the Youth Art Month observance. Art works from over 200 students from the Harrisonburg City Schools was displayed at the Harrisonburg Municipal Building. Other Youth Art Month events displayed student art work in shopping centers, banks, libraries and local school buildings. Congratulations to Sean and Jimi for an outstanding celebration of Youth Art Month in Virginia!

A special recognition award is being presented to Julia Lang-Shapiro of New York for Outstanding New Promotion of Youth Art Month.

A second special recognition award will be given to Jennifer Goodnough and Jen Sweeney of Wisconsin for Outstanding Promotion of Youth Art Month to Showcase the Importance of Art Education.

The 2011 Youth Art Month Awards will be presented at the 2012 Convention of the National Art Education Association, being held on March 1-4, 2012 in New York, New York. The Council applauds all award winners on their extraordinary achievements!

For more information about Youth Art Month, please contact Debbie Fanning or Moira Fanning at the Council for Art Education, 1280 Main St., P. O. Box 479, Hanson, MA 02341. Tel. (781) 293-4100. E-mail: debbief@acminet.org or moiraf@acminet.org.

