



NEWS

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MTA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM COMPETITION; ARTWORK TO BE FEATURED INSIDE MTA BUSES THIS SUMMER

The winning work of 14 young artists ranging in age from 13 to 23 will be on display this summer throughout Los Angeles County on the inside of MTA's fleet of 2,000 buses as the culmination of the MTA's Young Artists Program competition.

The Young Artists Program was developed to recognize the artistic talents of local young people, and to build a sense of partnership and respect between the MTA and Los Angeles County youth through the medium of art.

"This is an outstanding program that gives young people a positive outlet for creative expression," said MTA Chairman Michael Antonovich, an L.A. County Supervisor.

The bus card competition's inaugural year drew about 300 entries from aspiring young artists from the Los Angeles area. The winners will receive recognition by having their work reproduced on bus cards and placed in advertising spaces on MTA buses.

"The quality of the work produced for this competition is truly astounding," said Franklin E. White, MTA's chief executive officer. "I wish to personally thank everyone who took the time to submit entries, and congratulate those few whose work will be displayed on our buses."

The Young Artists Program, which is an outgrowth of MTA's ongoing vandalism abatement effort, was actually suggested to MTA by the young people, said MTA Art Program Director Maya Emsden.

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"We invited a number of young people to advise us on how they thought we could involve youth in our efforts to improve the transit environment and reduce vandalism on our buses," Emsden said. "They suggested a creative alternative: an art competition. That is why we now have this program, which will be an annual event."

The winners of this year's competition are as follows:

From Arleta: Manuel Avila.

From Los Angeles: Matthew Ausbury, Louis Cameron, Lauren Cohn, Molly Eastling, Gulshan Ara Lucy, Carlos Nieto, Daniel Ochoa, Eric Walker, and Kehinde Wiley.

From Pasadena: Joseph Galarza and Edward Martinez.

From Whittier: Erik Burns.

From Woodland Hills: John Lee.

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