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# SISTER CITY NEWS

## ***Sister Cities International Announces 2026 Young Artists and Authors Showcase***

Sister Cities International has announced the launch of its 2026 Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS), an international youth competition inviting students to share their creative vision of the world through art, music, essays, photography, and poetry.

The 2026 theme, “Voices of Today, Visions of Tomorrow,” encourages young people to express how today’s ideas, challenges, and hopes can shape a better future. The application deadline is April 1, 2026.

Students compete in multiple age groups and artistic categories. Grand Prize winners receive \$1,000, second place winners receive \$500, and third place winners receive \$250, along with national recognition through Sister Cities International.

Sedona’s involvement in the program was highlighted in 2025 when Maryam Jaffe, a Sedona student, earned national recognition and a \$1,000 award for her winning YAAS entry. Her success reflects the strong creative

talent emerging from the Sedona community and underscores the value of global cultural exchange through youth expression.



Locally, the program is supported by Sedona Sister Cities Association, which encourages students, families, and educators to participate in this unique opportunity to connect creativity with international understanding.

**Complete contest details, eligibility guidelines, and application instructions are available at:**  
**[www.sedonasistercities.org/yaas-2026](http://www.sedonasistercities.org/yaas-2026)**

## 2026: A Milestone Year for Global Friendship & Local Impact

2026 will be a milestone year for community building across borders. The Sedona Sister Cities Association is a proud member of Sister Cities International SCI which is a supporting partner of America250 the national initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026.

This partnership coincides with SCI milestone year marking 70 years of advancing peace through people to people diplomacy. It also aligns with the Sedona Sister Cities Association fifth year of building meaningful international relationships that strengthen our local community.

For almost 70 years SCI has demonstrated that lasting international relationships are built at the local level said Ricki Garrett President of Sister Cities International. We are honored to celebrate our 70th anniversary alongside America250 and to contribute to this historic national moment by showcasing the power of global friendship cultural exchange and civic engagement.



*March 10 - 11  
SSCA sponsors  
the Banff  
Mountain Film  
Festival World  
Tour Films  
at the Sedona  
Performing Arts  
Center:*

*Special Member  
Event -  
"Mountain High  
Mixer", 4:30 pm,  
March 11 prior to  
evening films.*

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*January 23, 1 PM*

*SSCA Board  
Meeting  
Sedona City Hall,  
Vultee Meeting  
Room*