

# Announcing the Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS)

*Sponsored by Hays Sister Cities, Hays Arts Council,  
and presented by Sister Cities International*

## ABOUT THE SHOWCASE

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Sister Cities International aims to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time. For decades, Sister Cities International has leveraged the power that art has to transform societies and transcend cultural boundaries through the Young Artists and Authors Showcase, or YAAS. The Showcase has given youth worldwide the opportunity to express their vision for a more unified, peaceful world through original art and literature.

You can learn about the Sister Cities International and the Showcase at: <https://sistercities.org>. For more details about the local contest, review the following sections.

## THE THEME

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The theme for this year's showcase is "United in Hope".

The COVID-19 pandemic is a unique phenomenon in that it has affected every country around the globe. However, as is common in tragedy, hope shines through for those who persevere. Hope is a uniting force during this time as people struggle to cope with its ongoing effects and once again start to imagine a life without social distancing or wearing a mask.

Artists should explore the following questions through the lens of citizen diplomacy and include creative ways that we stand together looking toward the future.

- How can the next generation of citizen diplomats help communities respond during and after the pandemic?
- In what ways does international experience affect an individual or community's ability to stay hopeful?
- What are some examples or illustrations of coming together and celebrating our hope in humanity and its future?
- What are some unique ways that your city, country, or culture has proven to be hopeful during the past year?

## PRIZES

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The first place winner in each category will receive a **\$100 cash prize** courtesy of Hays Sister Cities.

The top five winners in each category will be submitted to the Sister Cities International competition on behalf of Hays Sister Cities. The international showcase awards an overall first, second, and third place winner. The grand prize winner (first place) receives \$1,000, second place receives \$250, and third place receives \$100.

## TIMELINE

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### Local Showcase

**Submissions Due:** Sunday, April 18, 2021

**Judging:** Week of April 19, 2021

**Winners Announced:** Week of April 26, 2021

### International Showcase

**Submissions Due:** May 1, 2021

**Winners Announced:** August 2021

## APPLICATION DETAILS

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There are six (6) categories as part of this showcase. Review the guidelines and criteria carefully and submit your work through the online application form.

**Submit** → <https://forms.gle/WV6SNowk46bbXeMg8>

## GUIDELINES

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- Students must be between 13 and 18 years of age at the time of the 2021 deadline.
- No student may enter submissions into more than one category.
- All works must be original, free from watermarks.
- Only electronic submissions are accepted. Due to the large file types requested, entries should be submitted using a file sharing software such as Google Drive.
- All showcase entries become the artistic property of Hays Sister Cities and Sister Cities International. The artist retains original copyright but Sister Cities retains the right to use and reproduce submitted photos in any future publication, promotional material, and/or online service with credit given to the artist.

## CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

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### Art

- Media accepted in this category include oil, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, colored pencil, crayon, ink, marker, etching, collage, etc.
- Physical artwork is not accepted, only photographs of the artwork. To ensure judges have the best quality view of your work, please confirm that photographs are no less than 180 dpi.
- Judges will evaluate submissions based on theme interpretation, originality, and creativity.

### Photography

- To ensure judges have the best quality view of your work, please confirm that photographs are unframed and no less than 180 dpi.
- Judges will evaluate submissions based on theme interpretation, originality, and creativity.

## **Creative Writing**

- Articles can be creative writing, essays, anecdotes, and other written works following the content guidelines above.
- Article submissions are not to exceed 500 words.
- Submissions must be written in English.
- Judges will evaluate submissions based on theme interpretation, originality, composition, and grammar.

## **Poetry**

- Poetry submissions are not to exceed 200 words.
- Submissions must be written in English.
- Judges will evaluate submissions based on theme interpretation, originality, composition, and grammar.

## **Music (Original)**

- Only solo musicians may compete in this category (i.e. no collaborations, bands, or groups).
- All musical pieces must be 5 minutes or less.
- Students should submit their music pieces in MP3 or WAV format.
- Only audio submissions will be accepted; no videos.
- Judges will evaluate submissions based on theme interpretation, originality, and creativity.

## **Music (Interpretation)**

- Only solo musicians may compete in this category (i.e. no collaborations, bands, or groups).
- All musical pieces must be 5 minutes or less.
- The piece must be a cover or reinterpretation of an existing piece.
- Students should submit their music pieces in MP3 or WAV format.
- Only audio submissions will be accepted; no videos.
- Judges will evaluate submissions based on theme interpretation and creativity.

## **ABOUT HAYS SISTER CITIES**

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Sister Cities of Hays, Kansas is a member of Sister Cities International, the oldest and largest organization of citizen diplomats in the nation. Sister Cities Plaza, located at W. 13th St. and Hall St. is a representation of our efforts to promote citizen diplomacy and make strides toward a unified global community. Hays' sister cities include Santa Maria de las Misiones, Paraguay, and Xinzheng, China.

Follow Hays Sister Cities on Facebook @HaysSisterCities and contact the organization at [hayssistercities@gmail.com](mailto:hayssistercities@gmail.com).