



2021 Youth Art Month Awards Announcement

Claire Flanagan Grand Award

Texas - Christine Grafe

Awards of Excellence

Virginia - Jauan Brooks, Kelly Shradley-Horst

New York - Heather McCutcheon, Donnalyn Shuster

New Jersey - Karen Mannino, Jennifer Johnson

Awards of Merit

Kansas - Linda Nelson-Bova, Lynn Felts

Illinois - Tricia Frost

Alabama - Julie Harrison

Pennsylvania - Charles Matz, Christina Franko-Uliano

Maine - Elise Pelletier

Special Recognition

Oklahoma - Shelley Olds

Wisconsin - Beth Dobberstein

Vermont - Rebbie Carlton, Melissa Kristiansen

South Dakota - Marica Shannon

North Carolina - Catherine Cowperthwait

HIGHLIGHTS from State Reports

Texas

While programs across the state definitely struggled thanks to all the Covid restrictions put into place, we were incredibly inspired by the innovative ways our TAEA teachers and administrators rose to the challenge and used whatever means possible to highlight and showcase their programs. I would have to say the highlight of the year occurred this summer when we were finally able to meet in person to celebrate two years of Governor's Gallery artists (2020 artwork was framed last year and languished in my office at school for over a year!). When the Governor's Mansion staff suggested we hold an outdoor event on the lawn of the mansion, we were overjoyed at the prospect. On June 7th, 2021, 97 individuals who included artists, parents, teachers, administrators, and TAEA Board members were welcomed by our incredible first lady, Mrs. Cecilia Abbott, to a fabulous garden party on the mansion lawn complete with a patio art display and refreshments. Even the Abbott family dogs joined in on the festivities, and the joy and smiles of our attendees was infectious! We could not have asked for a more delightful event!

Lubbock ISD is committed to the visual arts and the young artists in our community. To celebrate Youth Art Month, Lubbock ISD student artists have the opportunity to have artwork on display at two separate venues during the month of March: The Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts (LHUCA) and The Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center.

We added virtual exhibits to both Lubbock ISD YAM exhibits. We saw increased participation in Big Art Day. We had two State Capitol Winners and one was selected for the 2021 Governor's Gallery. One of our campuses displayed artwork during YAM in Lubbock's newest facility The Buddy Holly Hall of Performing Arts and Sciences. Scholastic National American Vision Winner



Virginia

The ingenuity and creativity exhibited by the students and teachers in Virginia has been incredible. While some creations were out of necessity, others have started new traditions and exciting paths for the future. Art shows may have been reimaged and celebrations done from afar, but creativity was NEVER cancelled in Virginia.

Fauquier Co. - Due to all of our in-person events being cancelled, we created our first ever Digital Arts Festival (see more info below). Due to quarantining students apart from each other, schools did many YAM events within the classroom. We also had three major transitions throughout the year, we started all virtual which meant that materials were what the student had at home or were able to pick up from school. Then, we moved to AABB Hybrid where students either attend virtually or in-person for only two days a week. Lastly, near YAM we moved to full hybrid where students could either stay virtual or move to a four day a week which combined our AABB classes. All of this transition forced art teachers to be creative with the projects. Students were flexible and despite all frustrations grew creatively! The main highlight from all of this is we all learned how to flex our problem solving muscles (something artists are known for). We came up with new and exciting projects, ways to display, and material solutions!

Lynchburg City was able to have student artists and art teacher interviewed for multiple episodes of Art Talks with TED (a YouTube series from the Academy Center).

The Virginia Beach Public Schools system hosted a Drive-In art exhibit. This event honored those chosen to participate with gift bags and a night time viewing of their work projected.

Comics for Cancer - Nandua Middle School art and English students collaborated to create and sell comics to raise money for cancer research.

New York

This year almost every YAM program was virtual. However this gave teachers and students a chance to focus on YAM events within their school districts. Many times reaching a larger audience as they used technology to post things to social media, use of school websites and other online venues.



Under enormous pressure, our teachers rose to the challenge and implemented innovative strategies to continue their advocacy efforts. Funding remained an issue for teachers as did maintaining day to day teaching in an ever changing environment. Thus, a drop in participation with specific events was noted, and some major shows were canceled.

However, we did see 9 new teachers submit forms and events this year and we are pleased to be able to continue to honor our 5 year participants this fall at our Conference!

New Jersey

We were overwhelmed with the resiliency of the teachers in our state. In a year when most had to relearn their everyday jobs to teach virtually, we are truly grateful for the support of our AENJ members to continue to promote and celebrate YAM. Our biggest success comes with a 31% increase in student work selected for our state show. This was tremendous, as many teachers had not seen their classrooms or their students in-person for more than a year. We continued to have responses for our student artist spotlight. We had an increased response from Dr. Pai about what she did for YAM, and her list of accomplishments to celebrate are inspiring. In June, we reached out to Arts Ed NJ to create a deeper partnership for YAM, and they agreed to fund next year's YAM program. We are looking to come back stronger in 2021-22.

Kanas

We had 119 submissions to the Virtual YAM Exhibit with representation from all 7 Kansas regions and all grade levels. These artworks were showcased in a looping presentation when attendees logged onto our Virtual YAM Celebration.

Special guest- Miss Kansas Annika Wooton presented a message to our YAM celebration attendees about the importance of the arts. She shared a video of her speed painting and answered questions from attendees.

Because our YAM celebration was held virtually, we were able to record the presentations and post them on our website for people to be able to watch if they were unable to attend the live Zoom.

Our mascot, Vincent YAM Gogh presented "Zoom Etiquette" at the beginning of the YAM celebration.



We offered virtual "creation station" activities at the end of our celebration for the students. An interactive art making session was available for elementary, middle, and high school students.

We added "closed captioning" to the Virtual Celebration for inclusion of our School for the Deaf Participants. They did log on for the celebration!

Two high school seniors received our annual Harry Hart scholarship for \$500 each.

Illinois

My success story would have to be for myself. I took on this position 4 years ago right after having twins. At the time I was wondering, how do I have newborns and do this role? Well it turns out that when you're determined to grow the importance of the Arts in Education, you can. I felt like I had to learn from scratch as my predecessor had done the role for only a year and was starting new ventures. This turned out to be a plus, as I had to do my research and grow the program in my own way.

As my girls grew, I also did in a professional role that also grew my confidence and leadership. Unfortunately, with the newborns now being 4 and my oldest 6, I find the time I have to dedicate to this position has come to an end. I will be transitioning with our new YAM Coordinator this fall and support and assist her until she is ready to take it on as her own. I know my role with IAEA is not done, but done for now. Thank you CFAE for the opportunity to leave my mark in my own way.

Alabama

Promoting YAM in the state has been successful despite the pandemic. Students embraced the theme "Art Connects Us" with a wonderful array of art flag submissions. Teachers from several areas were also able to host events/displays.

Running the YAM program this year was somewhat of a challenge. All promotional materials, including the recognition and awards, was shared virtually. The participation was average. There was no effective way to deliver materials or promotions in person throughout the state. Sadly, Sargent Art suspended their incentive awards for State Flag Winners.



Pennsylvania

Many art programs were virtual/hybrid, with minimal supplies, making collection of artworks difficult. However, due to the virtual component of the art exhibit, we had a record number of people view the annual exhibit. The virtual nature of the platform, according to many teachers, increased accessibility from past exhibits.

One teacher shared with me that one of her student's families lives in India. Due to the exhibit being virtual, they were able to share in her success of being included in the exhibit. They were able to tour the space and see her work hanging in the gallery. Many parents provided feedback that they were happy to see the exhibit virtually because they would otherwise not have the means to travel Harrisburg to see the event in person.

Maine

The Youth Art Month exhibit held at Portland Museum of Art was very successful despite lower participation numbers. More counties were represented because of the virtual format. Many rural schools are often not able to participate in this show due to travel distances to drop off artwork. The Portland Museum of Art saw an increase in website traffic (43%) during the month of March on the YAM gallery page. Because of the virtual gallery providing greater access, it's been decided to always include a virtual gallery alongside the physical gallery show moving forward.

The Center for Maine Contemporary of Art had great success with their Postcard Art Exchange. They were able to connect with 25 schools, 10 artists, and 15 outside individuals; which served us to send out over 500 postcards by the end of the month (March).

Oklahoma

The highlights were that we were able to still have all of our Art shows and put the artwork together in creative ways on video, slide shows, and other presentations. We were still able to deliver the Door knockers to the representatives. We learned a new way to share art with many more people than ever before. It was a struggle to take the photos of all of the work and put them into video format. It took many hours to get the videos done. It was hard not being able to meet in person with our coordinators leaving some of us to do all of the work. It was a struggle to get teachers to participate in the art contests and shows this year. We had less participation all around.



Wisconsin

The 2021 Youth Art Month Exhibit included over 500 entries from 6 different Wisconsin regions submitted by 135 teachers. The artwork was displayed digitally in virtual shows. Each region had their own show and then there was one final State show. Students in the state show who received awards received a prize package in the mail. The links for the shows were sent to all teachers in our monthly eblast as well as posted on the Wisconsin Art Education Association Website and Facebook page. Positive feedback was received from all stakeholders.

Vermont

We did have a variety of "pop up" galleries throughout Vermont. We created a successful virtual gallery. Participation was down due to teachers being overwhelmed with online and hybrid teachers. Many art teachers were removed from their classrooms and placed on carts.

Our theme "I Am Here" was very powerful and students created strong images of dealing with the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. Students felt they were having their voices heard.

South Dakota

Highlight is that the flag competition/art show could continue in virtual formats.

Some great artwork was created in a very difficult year.

North Carolina

Held Spring Arts Extravaganza that was promoted through social and print media. Virtual school made it difficult for teachers.

