

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**2025 Youth Art Month State Exhibit at East Towne Mall, Madison  
“Healing Through Color”**

Youth Art Month (YAM) is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. Established in 1961 and sponsored by the Council for Art Education, Inc., YAM provides a forum for acknowledging skills that are not possible in other subjects. Art education develops self-esteem, appreciation of the work of others, self-expression, cooperation with others, and critical thinking skills. All these skills are vital to the success of our future leaders, our children.

Over 250 entries were sent in for our YAM flag design. The flag designs were created by young artist from grades kindergarten through high school. 12 entries were selected for honorable mention and our winning designer, Aubrey Keller from Fort Atkinson Middle School. Aubrey is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Her art teacher, Randi Niemeyer, submitted her work. Aubrey’s design has been recreated as a large flag. This flag will be part of our Youth Art Month display in Madison as well as displayed at the National Art Education Association Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in March. Aubrey will be receiving her flag at the closing reception in Madison.

Youth Art Month State Exhibit in Madison, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Art Education Association and the East Towne Mall are excited to invite all to the 2025 State Youth Art Month Exhibit. From Saturday, March 1st through Friday, March 28, 2025, artworks from schools across the state of Wisconsin are exhibited at the East Towne Mall in Madison, WI. About 600 youth (preK-12<sup>th</sup> grade) artworks are displayed within one of the stores within the mall. Viewing artwork is during mall hours.

Events happening on Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> include the 600 youth artworks, a scavenger hunt, five different make & takes, and a closing ceremony. Featured speakers will include dignitaries from the Department of Public Instruction. Our featured artist speaker is Jeanne Styczinski, illustrator and author from Colfax, Wisconsin.

Join us on March 28<sup>th</sup> 10am to 12pm and view artwork and create Make & Takes. At noon our closing ceremony with speakers and awards. During this celebration, that honors the act of creating by Wisconsin’s art students, awards will be presented to over 40 students with artistic merit awards in each of the states six Regions from East Towne Mall, Blick, Nasco, Royal Brush Co, Governor’s Office, and the Department of Public Instruction. Students who designed the state YAM flag, will also be honored.

Through exhibitions like Youth Art Month, WAEA works to advocate for, promote the necessity of the arts, and encourage the time and investment to the arts in our children’s lives. Please join us!