

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For media inquiries only,
contact Tracy Baskerville
Santiago Nocera
410-752-8632



The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts Now Accepting Submissions as Regional Affiliate for The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for Creative Teens

The **Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA)** announces its role as the regional affiliate for the **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**, the nation's longest running-and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7-12. BOPA will serve as the affiliate for all counties in the state of Maryland for the art region. For the writing region, BOPA serves all counties excluding Anne Arundle, Prince George, and Howard County.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are presented by **the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers**. The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Through the Awards, students receive opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. Students across America submitted nearly 340,000 original works this year in 29 different categories of art and writing.

The Scholastic Awards look for work demonstrating originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Regional recognition includes Gold Key awards, Silver Key awards, and Honorable Mentions. Gold Keys are automatically forwarded for consideration at the national level of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Five works of writing and five works of art from the region are selected by local judges as American Voices & Visions nominees, who are then celebrated in local exhibitions and ceremonies. Submissions are now open and must be postmarked by **Sunday, December 1, 2019**.

"We are thrilled to support and showcase young talent in this way," says **Jocquelyn Downs, BOPA's Director of the Arts Council**. "At the core of BOPA's mission is shining a light on the next generation of writers and visual artists, especially in Baltimore City."

BOPA anticipates more than 5000 submissions from talented teens across Maryland, and will celebrate award recipients at a regional ceremony on **Sunday, March 1, 2020**, location to be announced.

For information regarding submission requirements and more on the **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**, visit www.promotionandarts.org or contact **Sarah Docolo, Arts Education Coordinator**, at 410-752-8632.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization which serves as Baltimore City's arts council, events center and film office. By

providing funding and support to artists, arts programs and organizations across the city, and producing large-scale events such as Artscape, Baltimore Book Festival and Light City BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.

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