

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL YAAS HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR LOCAL COMPETITION

Since 1988, students from across the U.S. and around the globe have been submitting their artwork to SCI's Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS). Many communities have hosted their own local competitions to encourage more engagement from students in their community and their sister cities. Sister Cities International encourages local sister city organizations to organize their local competitions before sending their winners to the Young Artists and Authors Showcase. Although each sister city organization will have its own unique competition format, you can find basic information below to get you started on your planning process.

STEP 1. BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT YAAS

The first step is to make sure your organization knows about our YAAS program, theme, eligibility criteria, categories, and the application deadline. Knowing the details about our Showcase will help your organization create its own materials and minimize the technical issues that might occur throughout the competition process.



STEP 2. CREATING YOUR APPLICATION FORM

To ensure the application is accessible to all eligible students, all submissions will be made through the application form on our website. However, for your local competition, you will need an application form created specifically for your organization. You may use the questions we have on our application form but after you determine your local competition winners, their application forms need to be submitted through the form on our website. We will be happy to provide the complete application form if needed. You may also add new questions to your organization's application form.

STEP 3. THINKING ABOUT SPONSORS



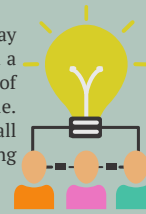
Think about the format of your local competition. Will you be giving cash prizes? Will you be holding a reception for the winners? Do you anticipate any costs to complete your local competition? If so, you may want to approach sponsors (local art galleries, corporations, etc.) to fund your program. This sponsorship can increase your sponsor's visibility while helping you to cover any costs. Although SCI does not charge any application fees to submit artwork to the national competition, local programs may consider adding a nominal application fee to their local competition to cover local costs.

STEP 4. PROMOTION

Promoting your local competition is essential for increasing your organization's visibility. You can start with creating online flyers and utilizing social media to inform your members about your competition. You can also reach out to schools, teachers, art galleries, local artists, photographers, poets, authors, and musicians to promote your program. There are no limitations to how you promote your competition.

STEP 5. JUDGING

You can select judges from a variety of organizations. You may consider art critics, authors, musicians, etc. You might want to plan a few days for the judging process depending on the number of applications you receive. For YAAS, the judging criteria are simple. Entries are judged based on theme interpretation and creativity and all entries must be original. You may add more criteria for your judging process or just use the ones on our website.



STEP 6. AWARDS

- Awards can come in many forms. You may give cash prizes, certificates or other types of awards. You may hold an award ceremony or just send the awards to winners. The format of the awards depends on your budget, sponsors and physical limitations of your organization.
- You may also consider creating a virtual exhibit to display all the artwork. It is a great and low cost way of increasing student and organizational visibility.

STEP 7. SENDING WINNER APPLICATIONS TO SCI



- Please make sure to review the submission limitations on our website. Each local organization and its partner organizations can submit up to 5 applications in each category.
- After you successfully hold your local competition, please make sure to submit an application form for each winner through the form on our website. This step is essential to avoid any technical issues. Once again, we will not be accepting separate application forms in different formats.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- To submit artwork, all students must be affiliated with a dues-paying member of Sister Cities International. Before submitting applications, please make sure to double-check that you are up to date with your dues.
- Please designate one person from your organization to be the point of contact for the YAAS program to avoid communication mistakes.
- If you have any questions please contact us at youth@sistercities.org.

GOOD LUCK!

*Art is a universal language and through it,
each nation makes its own unique
contribution to the culture of mankind.*

Dwight D. Eisenhower

SPECIAL THANK YOU

This handbook uses information from Kay Sargent's 2021 YAAS presentation. Thank you to Kay for sharing her experience on how to hold a successful local competition.