



Council for Art Education, Inc.

Sponsor of Youth Art Month

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2009 Youth Art Month Awards Announced

Top Awards to New Jersey, Georgia, Louisiana, and Wisconsin

For Immediate Release

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The Council for Art Education is honored to announce the 2009 Youth Art Month (YAM) award recipients. At the review of the Youth Art Month state reports in August, the Council voted to recognize the YAM Chairpersons listed below for their outstanding participation in YAM 2009.

Claire Flanagan Memorial (Grand) Award: Carrie Davey of New Jersey

Awards of Excellence: Ana Duhon, Katie Harrison and Pam Morgan of Georgia; Nancy Keisman, Cyndie Saint Perilloux and Denise Tullier-Holly of Louisiana; and Oberon Leslie of Wisconsin

Awards of Merit: Mary Jane Coker of Alabama; Susan Ayers and Lolita Casto-Mullen of Ohio; Michelle Barnes and Rene' Mateo of Oklahoma; Tricia Barry, Joelle Browning and Jeannie Seamone of Oregon; Suzanne Greene of Texas; Ronda Albright, Allison Meley, and Ruth Snyder of West Virginia

Certificates of Commendation: Angela Watts of Arizona; Lori Love of California; Nick Hostert of Illinois; Sue Perry of Indiana; Ayla Buckwalter of Maryland; Marjorie Long of Michigan; Connie Shoemaker and Lori Bockting of Missouri; Mia Thompson of Rhode Island; and Michael Sean Collins and Ann Schumm of Virginia

Special Recognition: Oklahoma Art Education Association; and Mia Thompson of Rhode Island

Carrie Davey, a third-year YAM Chairperson for the state of **New Jersey**, was selected by the Council to receive the **Claire Flanagan Memorial Youth Art Month Award**, the highest award it bestows. Carrie has been a member of NAEA for 5 years and New Jersey has been celebrating Youth Art Month for 48 years. Carrie and art educators all over New Jersey are working to increase the support of YAM not only during March, but throughout the year! In 2009, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, US Senator Frank Lautenberg and 23 New Jersey Mayors proclaimed March as Youth Art Month and over 450 endorsements were signed. New Jersey's use of the World Wide Web to promote YAM increased 30% and their 2009 state report showed 100% county participation. Despite budget cuts, art teachers and arts organizations across the state received millions of dollars in grants and new Arts Academies and Summer Art Programs for students were popping up all over the state. New Jersey's 2009 YAM celebration theme was, "Celebrate Art!." They also incorporated a YAM mascot, "Flat Stanley," into their 2009 YAM observance. A colorful and creative book, documenting Flat Stanley's own YAM adventures, was also included in their report. New Jersey held numerous YAM exhibits and outstanding events throughout the state, many of which included students giving back to their communities. In West Amwell Township, proceeds from the sale of student artwork were donated to help the hungry. Morris Knolls students created handmade greeting cards for the troops, which soldiers would then be able to send home to their loved ones. Somerset County students had their own YAM art exhibit at the Somerset Art Association; and students from Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem turned yams into works of art called, "YAMs on Parade." The Art Educators of New Jersey continue to gain amazing support from VIPs, local business, organizations and museums to advance art and arts education in their state. Congratulations to Carrie on an outstanding celebration of YAM in New Jersey!

Ana Duhon, Katie Harrison and Pam Morgan of Georgia were selected to receive an **Award of Excellence** for their state's YAM observance. Ana is a fifth-year YAM Co-Chair and has been a member of NAEA for eight years, Katie is a first-year YAM Co-Chair and has been a member of NAEA for 3 years, and Pam is a third-year YAM Co-chair and has been a member of NAEA for 11 years. Georgia has participated in YAM for the past 29 years. This year, Georgia used the theme, "Art for All" for their statewide YAM observance. This theme was a wonderful representation of Georgia's YAM celebration and was displayed on everything from T-shirts to stickers, magnets, water bottles, maps, calendars and document forms. Students across the state submitted artwork

within the outline/shape of the state and of the 400+ entries that were received, 9 entries were selected to be used on a variety of promotional materials. The winning designs were also creatively tied together to make up Georgia's 2009 YAM state flag. Georgia received many endorsements for YAM in 2009 and Governor Sonny Perdue proclaimed March as Youth Art Month as did numerous superintendents, school principals, mayors, state representatives, and community leaders. Georgia had 271 articles and 220 photographs featuring YAM activities printed in various newspapers throughout the state, an increase from the 106 articles/photos in 2008. Georgia showed an amazing array of special YAM events and activities throughout their state report, including their "Empty Bowls" event in Richmond County which provided lunch for 600 people and donated thousands of dollars to the Golden Harvest Food Bank. In Gwinnett County there was an Art for All treasure hunt that included families going through the school answering art based questions; and in Henry County, 5th grade students traveled to Macon, GA to paint a marvelous YAM billboard near Hickory Flat Elementary School. Congratulations to Ana, Katie and Pam for all of their efforts in March to promote YAM in Georgia!

Nancy Keisman, Cyndie Saint Perilloux and Denise Tullier-Holly of Louisiana were selected to receive an **Award of Excellence** for their state's YAM observance. Louisiana has been celebrating YAM for 37 years. This year, Governor Bobby Jindal proclaimed that March is Youth Art Month along with 14 mayors and superintendents. The state also received 1200 signed endorsements for YAM, including those from Louisiana First Lady Supriya Jindal, Senate President Joel Chaisson, Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu, as well as several senators, representatives, numerous superintendents, principals, educators and community leaders. In addition to her endorsement of YAM and becoming honorary YAM Chairperson, First Lady Supriya Jindal continues to support the arts with a display of student artwork in the front hall of the Governor's mansion. The children's artwork, which has become a continuous display in the mansion, is changed monthly and can often be spotted in the background when Governor Bobby Jindal speaks or is photographed and can also be seen on a local TV station in Baton Rouge which features the children's art. Some of the wonderful programs and events held across Louisiana in support of Youth Art Month included: *Pinwheels for Peace* where students decorated pinwheels in support of World Peace Day; *ArtBreak*, the south's largest student arts festival which included 33,000 students and parents participating and 150,000 visitors over a two week period; *Art in Bloom* where 30 teachers from Jefferson and Orleans Parish

featured a student exhibit of paper flowers, sculptures and scenes at the New Orleans Museum of Art; and KID smART, an organization dedicated to working with the arts to engage children in learning about themselves and world in which they live. Other special events included students in Lake Charles who decorated mini stepping stones in celebration of YAM and St. Charles Parish Public Schools holding their first arts event, *Arts Awareness Day*, with much success. Congratulations to Nancy, Cyndie and Denise for holding such a successful YAM celebration!

Oberon Leslie of Wisconsin was selected to receive an **Award of Excellence** for her state's Youth Art Month observance. Oberon has been Wisconsin's YAM Chairperson for 2 years and has been a member of NAEA for 34 years. Wisconsin has been celebrating Youth Art Month for 37 years. As with many states, art educators across Wisconsin from pre-K through college, are ceaselessly fighting to maintain the visual arts in their school districts and universities. Despite budget cuts, job loss and the elimination of programs in the state, Wisconsin's state report showed a 50% increase in statewide YAM exhibits over last year. Two teachers in the Northland Pines School District in Eagle River were able to maintain full time positions, even though their district went through a tough referendum, due to their involvement in YAM not only in March but throughout the year. The Wisconsin Art Education Association distributed an amazing Youth Art Month DVD, sponsored by NASCO, to art educators at their state conference. The DVD, a wonderful advocacy tool, was also sent to state legislators asking for their support of the arts. A sizeable increase in school districts posting explanations of Youth Art Month along with an increased number stating the importance of the arts was also reported. Wisconsin once again held their Youth Art Month Capitol exhibit. This year there were 300+ student works of art on display along with the state flag design display, an informational photo display on speakers, and 52 matted endorsements from all corners of the state. Many legislators stopped by and left notes for the student artists in their districts. Some other outstanding YAM events/activities included, "Bagging Groceries Creatively" where elementary students from local school districts in Hudson decorated grocery bags used in the month of March at local grocers. In Eagle River, March for all Arts where middle schools and elementary schools incorporated all of the arts throughout March, including an 8th grade production of, "Peter Pan." Students did everything for the production from program design, to costumes and scenery, to lights and action! Each year during Youth Art Month, the New Visions Gallery in Marshfield holds an

“Emerging Talents” exhibit. The exhibit honors both outstanding student talent and dedicated art educators from that community. Congratulations to Oberon for an outstanding celebration of Youth Art Month in Wisconsin!

A special recognition award is being presented to the Oklahoma Art Education Association for outstanding service to National Youth Art Month by mentoring another state to begin a viable Youth Art Month Program.

A second special recognition award will be given to Mia Thompson of Rhode Island for an outstanding job promoting Youth Art Month despite the state’s high unemployment rate and economic crisis.

The 2009 Youth Art Month Awards will be presented at the 2010 Convention of the National Art Education Association, being held April 14 - 18, 2010 in Baltimore, Maryland. The Council applauds all award winners on their extraordinary achievements!

For more information about Youth Art Month, please contact Debbie Munroe or Debbie Fanning at the Council for Art Education, 1280 Main St., P. O. Box 479, Hanson, MA 02341. Tel. (781) 293-4100. E-mail: debbiem@acminet.org or debbief@acminet.org.