

Category Specifications

Essays and Poems

Why are face-to-face interactions and travel still important despite access to instantaneous virtual connection via social media? How are sister cities and citizen diplomacy essential to creating a peaceful future? Authors are encouraged to draw inspiration from their experiences with sister cities, travel, exchange, international friendships, and their own goals to present their vision of where the future will lead.

- Categories: Essay or Poetry.
- Essays are not to exceed 500 words, poetry is not to exceed 25 lines.
- Entries must be submitted in English
- Judges will evaluate entries based on theme interpretation, composition, and grammar.
- All work must be original and inspired by the theme.

Film

- Short films 1-10 minutes in length.
- Films shot in color or black and white; documentary, fiction, and/or animation are all eligible.
- Films must be submitted to <http://cinequest.org/sister-cities-film-submissions>. Access code: sistercities.

What is the Young Artists and Authors Showcase?

Each year, the Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS) encourages youth from around the globe to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork, literature, film, and photography.

The 2017 Theme:

We're Going Places

Sister Cities International aims to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time. This year's theme, "We're Going Places," showcases the importance of travel and exchange in achieving peace. Students are encouraged to draw inspiration from their experience with sister cities, travel, exchange, international friendships, and their goals to present their vision of where the future will lead.

Who's eligible?

- Authors and Artists: students who are between 13 and 18 years old at the time of the deadline, and who are affiliated with a dues-paying member of Sister Cities International or a non-U.S. community that is sister cities with a member of Sister Cities International.
- Filmmakers and Photographers: students who are between 13 and 22 years old at the time of the deadline.
- All submissions must conform to Sister Cities International's policy on plagiarism found at sistercities.org/YAAS.
- **Deadline for submissions: Feb. 18th 2017**
- **Local judging will be completed April 1st 2017**



Richmond Sister Cities Commission
Richmond City Hall,
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Richmond, VA 23219

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Artwork

- One (1) piece of artwork will be accepted from each U.S. member community and one (1) from each of their sister cities. Members with multiple entries are encouraged to form their own local competitions and submit the winner to Sister Cities International's national competition.
- All media is encouraged except for photography. Please submit all photography through the photography challenge.
- Ex. Oil paint, acrylic paint, watercolor, charcoal, colored pencil, crayon, ink, marker, etching, collage, and more!
- Only two-dimensional (2D), unframed artwork will be accepted. All entries must be supported by matting if applicable.
- Dimensions of the art and matting must not exceed 24 in. x 36 in. (61 cm. x 91 cm.).

Photography

- Participants are encouraged to be creative! Photographers may submit original photography inspired by the theme "We're Going Places."
- All entries must be submitted through Instagram and must include @SisterCitiesInt, #YAAS2017, and the city, state, and country where the photographer is from in the photo's caption to qualify.
- Save the original photo to send to Sister Cities International if chosen as a Grand Prize Winner or Finalist.