

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COURTING ART BALTIMORE CONTEST 9TH ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION CELEBRATES
BALTIMORE CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS- OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**AWARDS RECEPTION: MONDAY, MAY 20 FROM 6-7:30PM AT EASTSIDE DISTRICT COURTHOUSE
1400 E North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21213**

The District Court in Baltimore City will unveil the artwork of Courting Art Baltimore's student finalists and winners, whose artwork has been professionally reproduced for long-term display at its Eastside Courthouse, 1400 East North Avenue. Arts Every Day has partnered with Baltimore City Public Schools, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Gordon Feinblatt, LLC, and The Baltimore Bar Association for the 9th Annual Courting Art Baltimore Contest. Courting Art Baltimore is a unique opportunity for Baltimore City high school students to showcase their creative ingenuity, earn scholarships, and connect the legal community with local Baltimore communities reducing stress and anxiety for litigants and visitors by beautifying local courthouses.

This year, 101 students from 18 Baltimore City High Schools submitted entries into this year's contest. Responding to this year's theme *Baltimore Bright*, students created and submitted work that will be considered as finalists for long term display at the Eastside District Courthouse on North Avenue. The finalists will be selected by a panel of jurors made up of local arts and culture partners and representatives from local law offices, to receive CollegeBound Scholarships totaling \$15,000-20,000. Scholarships will be awarded to select participants based on creativity, originality, and artistic merit demonstrated in their work. Additionally, the two top works by non-senior students will receive placements at Maryland Institute College of Art's Young People's Studio, for a summer or fall art program to hone their skills.

Finalists:

Sophie Bender, 12th grade, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Jamiry Blankey, 12th grade, Frederick Douglas High School
Diamon Coulbourne, 10th grade, Western High School
Rayne Davis, 12th grade, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Katherine DeLeon, 11th grade, Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Art
Asani Ellis, 12th grade, Benjamin Franklin High School
Jonathan Johnson, 12th grade, Digital Harbor High School
Steven Johnson, 12th grade, Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School
Tanaja Lily-Williams, 12th grade, Frederick Douglas High School
Yosidaniela Mancias-Mercado, 10th grade, ConneXions Academy
Lucy Mangiavellano, 11th grade, **Baltimore City College High School**
Chloe McNeill, 12th grade, Baltimore School for the Arts
Darlynviolet Njoroge, 11th grade, Western High School
Sukanya Phillip, Reginald F. Lewis High School
Keyry Pichinte, 10th grade, Edmondson Westside High School
Londyn Staton, 12th grade, Digital Harbor High School
Love Stewart, 11th grade, Baltimore Design School
Delia Van Wert, 12th grade, Baltimore City College High School
Jaylyn Walker, 11th grade, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Brianna Washington, 12th grade, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

Jury Panel:

Natalie Estelle, College and Career Readiness Advisor for Baltimore City Public Schools

Jessica Fauntleroy, Licensed Social Worker and Owner, Restoring Destiny Mental Health Services

Iya Jackson, Community Liaison for Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

Brian Katzenberg, Attorney, Cohen, Snyder, Eisenberg & Katzenberg P.A

Twi McCallum, Community Engagement Manager for Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts

Natovian McLeod, Director of Youth & Community Education at Maryland Institute College of Art

Amanda Paige, Counsel at Gordon Feinblatt, LLC

Hon. Halee Weinstein, Maryland District Court Judge

About Courting Art Baltimore

Courting Art is a program that promotes youth artwork, connects the legal community with local communities of Baltimore City, and aims to reduce stress and anxiety for litigants and visitors by beautifying local courthouses. Originally hosted by the District Court of Maryland and in partnership with the Baltimore Bar Foundation, Incorporated and the Bar Association of Baltimore City, the contest is open to all Baltimore City public high school students. Courting Art Baltimore also collaborates with Baltimore City Public Schools, Arts Every Day, and the College Bound Foundation to achieve success each year since its first contest in 2016. Courting Art Baltimore also connects Baltimore City students with a local community college and provides scholarships to the winning artists to pursue higher education after high school.

About Arts Every Day

Arts Every Day serves as a strategic partner to the school district in advancing equitable access to the arts and implementing the 2018 Fine Arts Strategic Plan. The organization provides teacher professional development, arts integration technical assistance, and funding for student arts experiences, school-based public art projects, arts equipment, and supplies. The success of the work relies on the vibrant partnerships with district leaders, schools, educators, parents, students, artists, community and cultural organizations.