

For immediate release

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Downtown Doors student art exhibit expands to 113 locations

- 20 new pieces of student art added to downtown landscape in 2017
- Reception this Thursday, May 4, 5 p.m., San Jose Museum of Art

SAN JOSE – The 20 students selected for 2017 Downtown Doors exhibition provided a mix of pensive character sketches and unique perspectives on life and lessons learned, always expressing their emotions through broad swatches of colors and artistic techniques. These thoughtful pieces of art will help beautify the downtown San Jose landscape and offer food for thought for thousands of pedestrian who pass by each week.

The winners of the annual competition -- now in its 13th year -- were selected from 189 submissions from students at 21 San Jose high schools. In 2017, the Downtown Doors program produced by the San Jose Downtown Foundation expanded to 113 sites located in the city's core. Using the same application seen on some light rail trains and buses, their pieces are enlarged, transferred onto vinyl decals and affixed to single- and double-panel service doors of large buildings, and a number of utility boxes throughout downtown San Jose.

Since the program began in 2003, 252 student works have been selected. "Success is often measured by the amount of wealth, however, true success is measured in how we make the world a better place," said Diana Beechie, president of the San Jose Downtown Foundation. "Our students have achieved great success by creating a more beautiful vibrant downtown."

Several of the students put their inspiration, message and other thoughts and feelings on videotape, which can be retrieved by a smart phone at the art locations Yerba Buena High School students Nayeli Galvan and Manuel Beltran, for example, were motivated in distinctly different ways. While Galvan stated her purpose for "My Shattered World" was to use watercolors to paint a mosaic splashed with the brightest colors, Beltran paid respect and sent a strong message of support to his girlfriend, entitling his piece, "Courage."

Chloe Calhoun, a senior at Santa Teresa High School, created an inspirational character, "Mercedes," a woman with one mechanical arm who is strong and can handle all of life's challenges. "I want her to be an inspiration for everyone to keep fighting," Calhoun said. "I'm happy to put her out in the public and to put more art out into the world."

Downtown Doors has proven to be a stepping stone toward better grades, graduation, college and a leadership position in society. Students often claim that the Downtown Doors competition confirms their talent as artists. Every person selected shows excitement at being included on the prestigious list of Downtown Doors winners.

A private reception honoring the artists and their works will take place May 4 at the San Jose Museum of Art.

Program sponsors include: Imwali Properties, City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, Catered Too!, Orchard Commercial, Inc., PG&E, Kimley-Horn, Jeppesen, Republic Services, Councilmember Dev Davis, SVCcreates, KQED, AC Hotel and San Jose Water Company.

2017 site hosts include: Marriott Hotel, 288 S 2nd Street, Fairmont Hotel, City of San Jose, 33 S Third Street Apartments, City View Plaza, The 88, Local Color, Valley Transportation Authority, San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, Hyatt Place, AC Hotel, San Jose Museum of Art and Good Karma

This year's new installations and a walking map of the art sites are posted at sjdowntown.com/foundation. The students' work will be viewable for several years before being replaced.

The Downtown Doors Class of 2017 comes from 12 schools:

Andrew Hill High School



Title: Would you like to come to the Gargantuan Mouth?
Artist: Vincent Nguyen
Location: Local Color, 27 S. First St.

Bellarmino College Prep



Title: Go Around
Artist: Daniel Miller
Location: St. James Light Rail Station, 2nd Street

Homestead High School



Title: Don't Leave Me Behind
Artist: Alyssa Robins
Location: 288 S Second Street



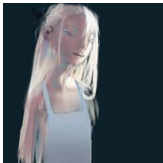
Title: Oversaturated

Artist: Lily Hartenstein
Location: Fairmont Hotel

Independence High School



The Beauty Beneath
Artist: Katya Rivera
Location: San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles



Title: Light
Artist: Shuhong Yang
Site Host: 288 S Second Street

Leigh High School



Title: Tropical Paradise
Artist: Elle Gallmann
Location: Marriott Hotel

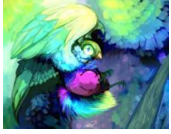


Title: Watch Your Move
Artist: Faith Trout
Site Host: The 88



Title: Reflective
Artist: Heather Ho (also a winner in 2016 for Afternoon Ride)
Location: 288 S Second Street

Mount Pleasant High School



Title: Enfys
Artist: Jasmine Adams
Location: Fairmont Hotel

Notre Dame High School



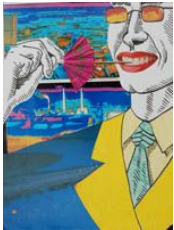
Title: Flowers
Artist: Pauline Nguyen
Location: 288 S Second Street

Piedmont Hills High School



Title: The Weight of the World
Artist: Kole Cabacungan
Location: Good Karma

Pioneer High School



Title: True Grit
Artist: Marta Sharapova
Location: AC Hotel



Title: Industrial Jungle
Artist: Arina Mukhina
Location: San Jose Museum of Art

San Jose High School



Title: Express Yourself
Artist: Brittany Escobar Solis
Location: CityView Plaza

Santa Teresa High School



Title: Macaroni Bob
Artist: Polo Rodriguez
Location: First Street, between Santa Clara and St. John streets



Title: The Magician
Artist: Michelle Nguyen
Location: St. James Light Rail Station, First Street



Title: Mercedes
Artist: Chloe Calhoun
Location: Hyatt Place

Yerba Buena High School



Title: My Shattered World
Artist: Nayeli Galvan
Location: 33 S. Third Street Apartments



Title: Courage
Artist: Manuel Beltran
Location: Corner of San Pedro and Santa Clara Streets

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Art and photos available upon request

About: The San Jose Downtown Foundation (SJDF) promotes cultural awareness and civic participation in San Jose and Santa Clara County through youth education programs, public events and art exhibits. SJDF is the 501c3 arm of the San Jose Downtown Association (SJDA), whose mission is to represent business and property owners to improve downtown and enhance downtown's vitality and livability.

