



MIAMIBEACH

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fourth Annual Exhibit of National Arts Program® Opens at Miami Beach City Hall Gallery -- Winners Awarded Cash and Scholarships --

Miami Beach – Over 100 works of art created by City of Miami Beach employees and their families are currently on display in the Fourth Annual Exhibit of the National Arts Program® in the City Hall Fourth Floor Gallery through August 28, 2009. The juried exhibit is judged by professional artists and arts professionals. The winners of this year's show are as follows:

Adult

First Place (\$300.00)

Amateur: April Morgan, **Max**
Intermediate: Elizabeth Wheaton, **M. Sorensen**
Professional: Silvia Ros, **Rodeo Series #8**

Second Place (\$200.00)

Amateur: Patricia Arana, **Underneath Paradise**
Intermediate: Eliza Gonzalez, **Squidy**
Professional: Benita Argos, **Boxing Night**

Third Place (\$100.00)

Amateur: Stephanie Campaniony, **Hidden Lagoon**
Intermediate: Alicia Zaitso, **Daydream**
Professional: Joey Daoud, **Cite Soliel**

Youth

First Place (\$75.00)

Under 12: Jacob Rosenfeld, **Wolf's Prey**
Over 12: Robin McFarlane, **Reflection**

Second Place (\$50.00)

Under 12: Aaron Rosenfeld, **Cruising**
Over 12: Fernanda Hipskind, **No name**

Third Place (\$25.00)

Under 12: Christina Cano, **A Breather**
Over 12: Scott McConachie, **Mug**

Best of Show (\$300.00) Claudia Newman, **On the Beach**

Scholarships for continuing art education at ArtCenter/South Florida were awarded to Matthew Almeida, Gretchen Joan, Brandon Saballos, Nannette Rodriguez, and Nancy Leighton. Certificates of Participation were also awarded to all participants.

The program provides City employees and family members with a rare opportunity to exhibit their original works publicly and to compete for cash and continuing art education scholarships. The exhibit is sponsored by the National Arts Program Foundation, with support and cooperation by the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council and the City of Miami Beach.

“There is a lot of hidden talent amongst the Miami Beach family and this program is a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their artistic talent in a public exhibition,” said Miami Beach Cultural Affairs Program Manager Gary Farmer.

Judges of the exhibit include Silvia Cubiña, executive director of the Bass Museum of Art, Art/Center South Florida Director Jeremy Chestler, Dennis Leyva, City of Miami Beach’s Art in Public Places coordinator, and professional artists, Mark Lancaster and David Bolger.

Works were also classified under several artistic mediums, including: painting (oils, acrylics, etc.), works on paper (pencil, ink, marker, pastel, crayon, watercolor, charcoal, graphic design, etc.), photography (black-and-white or color), sculpture (in the round or relief), and craft/mixed media/pottery (jewelry, weaving, etc.).

The concept of The National Arts Program® is to provide an uninhibited opportunity for all people to present their talents, at whatever level, in a public exhibition, free to artists and the public. By removing obstacles to artistic expression, the program seeks to showcase individual talent and increase the self-confidence of its participants.

The exhibit is free and open to the public through August 28, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Monday through Friday. Miami Beach City Hall is located at 1700 Convention Center Drive.

The National Arts Program® currently runs 83 programs, encompassing more than 450 cities, in 43 states nationwide. Since 1985, The National Arts Program® has provided scholarships for continuing art education, certificates of participation, and cash awards to public employees and their family members who participate in this annual event. The National Arts Program® is sponsored and funded by The National Arts Program Foundation of Malvern, Pennsylvania, in support and cooperation with local city arts agencies and organizations. To learn more about The National Arts Program®, please visit the web site: www.nationalartsprogram.org.

The Cultural Affairs Program in the Department of Tourism and Cultural Development serves as an invaluable resource for the Miami Beach community and beyond. Working closely with the Cultural Arts Council, the advisory board that was founded in 1997, the program sustains, develops and supports the arts in Miami Beach for the enjoyment, education, enrichment, and benefit of residents and visitors. For more information contact Gary Farmer, cultural affairs program manager, at 305.673.7577, ext. 6745.

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