

2022 Youth Art Month Awards Announcement

- **Claire Flanagan Grand Award**

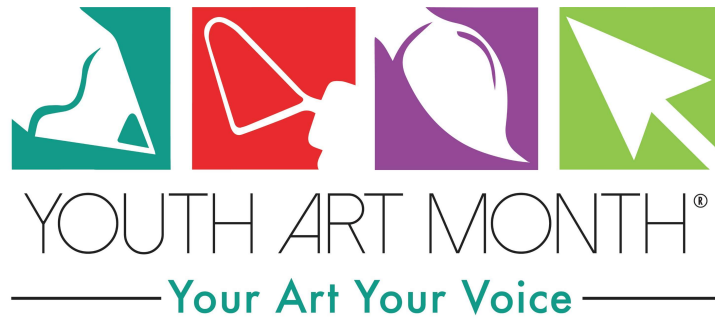
- **New York** - Heather McCutcheon, Tracy Berges, Donnalyn Shuster

- **Awards of Excellence**

- **Wisconsin** - Jen Dahl, Kathryn Rulien-Bareis
- **Virginia** - Jauan Brooks, Kelley Shradley-Horst
- **North Carolina** - Jana Farris

- **Awards of Merit**

- **Utah** - Elizabeth Sampson, Kristy Carter
- **Pennsylvania** - CJ Matz, Liza Johnson
- **Illinois** - Ailysh Cooper
- **Kansas** - Linda Nelson-Bova, Lynn Felts



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- **Special Recognition**

- **Alabama** - Julie Harrison
- **Georgia** - Tiffany Weser, Gail Peake
- **Rhode Island** - Kerri Marshall, Tara Villanova
- **Arizona** - Laura Namerow, Elise Kohli
- **West Virginia** - Katherine Crim
- **Maryland** - Christopher R. Whitehead
- **Texas** - Tiffany Silverthorne
- **South Dakota** - Marica Shannon



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

- **New York**

The 2022 Youth Art Month year was the first time we have had the support of the New York State Education Department and the New York State Union of Teachers. We contacted both entities to ask if they were willing to support Youth Art Month in New York State and share out information on their social media pages. Both The NYS Department of Ed and NYSUT posted several times throughout the month of March. Siting March was Youth Art Month and giving examples of why the Arts are important to the children of New York State. Another highlight of the 2022 YAM celebration in New York State is adaptation. Since Covid our teachers have been able to adapt. Covid was still very real in New York State March 2022. When not able to have receptions we had staggered gallery walls, virtual shows and lots of social media sharing!

- **Wisconsin**

Yahoo-we were finally able to have in person YAM again! I have taken over YAM again after a few years on the WAEA and NAEA boards and boy I'm glad to be back! I was YAM chair about 10 years ago and I am so happy to be back in this role. Kathryn Rulien-Bareis has also stepped in as YAMa (she likes to be called YAMa as in YAM assistant). She retired during the pandemic and is a great fit for YAM.



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

Moving the venue is a BIG deal everyone has opinion good and bad about my decision to move from the state Capitol that we had simply outgrown. We moved to East Towne Mall which you could see was a great move. This unique space (a former Victoria Secret store) brought WAEA the opportunity to have a huge show with over 170 art educators, make and takes, a scavenger hunt, great lighting and display space, free and close parking, free venue, and the help and support of the East Towne Mall marketing team!

- **Virginia**

Our school division was thrilled to bring back our in-person division wide Youth Art Month exhibits and school based activities, displays, and events this year! It was great to be back in person this year for the division exhibit. Covid did however create a bit of distance between art educators in our division therefore making long standing traditions or easy contact between teachers more challenging. Our in person opening was a little different with no food and socially responsible personal artistic activities.

The highlight this year was being together again, putting up student work, and having students and teachers attend live, in-person events. Two years ago our countywide festival was canceled three days before the event was going to start, due to rising COVID numbers. It was very challenging this year, wondering if we would have to change last minute to a 'virtual' festival. Many educators and community members were skeptical up to the 11th hour it would actually happen. We had a number of community partners back out or tell us they were waiting



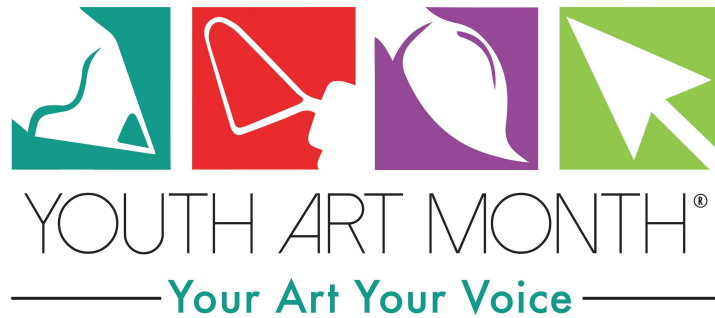
2022 Highlights from the State Reports

until next year to participate again. (which is understandable- but was tough for our planning committee). We had less hand on activities due to COVID concerns and the mask mandate being lifted state wide less than 10 days before was an unexpected hurdle. Surprisingly turnout was fantastic. Our diverse community seemed to really appreciate the opportunity to connect with others again.

- **North Carolina**

2022 marks my first year as the YAM Chair for NCAEA. I have learned a lot so far and am excited to build and grow our program even more in the coming year! Sargent Art sponsoring our prize packages was a huge help with enticing teachers to participate in the Flag Program. Moving forward, I would love to offer even more incentives and continue to work on teacher participation. I am disheartened by the Endorsements from this year since it was shared electronically, so that is something to improve. I am quite pleased that we did receive a Proclamation from our governor!

The vast majority of schools already host Spring Shows, so it is my hope to utilize YAM as their title age and move more toward a March/April time frame. I have begun to partner with the Charlotte Region Scholastics in hopes to have the Gold Key Ceremony/Show lined up with YAM again in the future. I will reach out to other regions for next year as well. I have been speaking with our NCAEA President about beginning a YAM Redbubble account to have stickers, posters, buttons, etc. to help promote YAM and raise funds for YAM events/awards. I was hoping to have a YAM Teacher of the Year, but I would like to see more



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

involvement before celebrating that accomplishment. At our Annual Conference, I will present the YAM TOY expectations and award to begin advertising.

- **Utah**

After a hard few years, the Utah Yam Program is growing and thriving in 2022. 2021-2022 was a year of rebuilding for our Youth Art Month Program. The Springville Museum of Art held our flagship Youth Art Month event with their high school spring show and award ceremony. We reached thousands of visitors with this event and we had the support of both the Governor and the Lt. Governor. We receive support from the highest levels of Government. The senators and legislators also give awards at this event for students in their region.

The president of UAEA, Aleia Nay, is a strong YAM advocate and at our summer planning meeting, she expressed the desire to build a large and thriving YAM program. This gives us hope after a few difficult years. We are confident and excited about the future. (Elizabeth Sampson, Utah Yam Chairperson)

- **Pennsylvania**

Submissions were lower than in years past as many teachers have voiced being "burnt out" and "stressed." Many of our members are more hopeful for next year and have vowed to submit work. For next year, we are working to restructure our submission process to make it easier on members to submit work. We will also



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

be partnering with an organization to print posters for next year and will be displaying artwork in the State Capital rotunda.

This year, in terms of highlights, we have received incredibly positive feedback about the accessibility of our virtual exhibit from community members and leaders, as well as parents. Many have stated that it provides an opportunity to view their child's work which they have not had the ability or resources to do in the past. Over the past two years we have realized the importance of keeping a virtual component of our annual exhibit so we are sharing our youth artists' work with as broad an audience as possible.

- **Illinois**

High participation compared to the last two years, award winners recognized at the Art Connected/IHSAE show in Chicago. Minimal struggle this year, but we are transitioning the chairperson.

- **Kansas**

We were back to an In-Person Exhibit and Celebration this year! There were in excess of 320 people in attendance—our largest to date in this venue. There were 27,806 visitors to the library during the month of March. All visitors had to pass through the Kansas YAM Exhibit! Staff relayed that there was a lot of interest and there were many positive comments. We had 141 pieces in the YAM



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

exhibit, representing 41 different school districts.

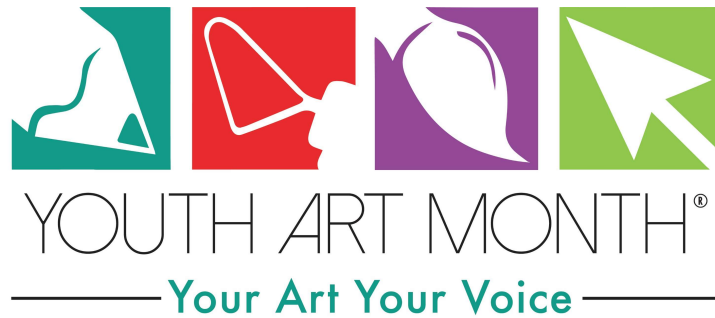
One of our largest school districts (Shawnee Mission) had an over 300% increase in participation in the YAM exhibit! We continued highlighting our students and their art as “Youth Art Month Featured Artists” each day in March on our social media platforms. We added daily recognitions of the Elementary, Middle Level & High School YAM Flag Design winners and the YAM Competition 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention 1, 2, 3 at all 3 levels.

Our mascot, “Vincent YAM Gogh” mingled with the patrons. We added an additional Harry Hart Memorial Senior Scholarship valued at \$500 bringing out total to 3 scholarships given.

- **Alabama**

Highlights this year included great participation across the state for events in March, a supportive art association with art educators, and students and parents that love the arts.

Struggles include a limited number of participants in the middle school flag design contest and lack of creative materials for promotion.



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

- **Georgia**

Coming in as new chairs for YAM for GAEA, during COVID, has been a slight challenge. The state Fall conference was moved due to COVID so the release of the theme for the year was through social media only. It is normally presented at the Fall conference. Getting documentation back this year was a challenge with COVID issues still in effect. The Spring conference YAM breakfast was a hit. The attendees were presented with the theme, photos of student projects for YAM, and an activity to go with the theme. There were many shows and awards documented on social media. One of the best things for YAM this year was the YAM Photo a day challenge. Teachers and students both submitted photos to social media and tagged with #YAM22GA.

- **Rhode Island**

Since taking on the role of YAM Co-Chair for the state of Rhode Island this has been the most participation we've had. We had less entries for the flag contest but we did have more teachers get involved in a variety of ways as you will see in our visual documentation. It has been a struggle to get in touch with art educators that we don't personally know but it's been nice to be closer to the RIAEA board members and get YAM more organized. The senate proclamation was a big highlight in March and trying out some button merch was a success that we will try again.



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

- **Arizona**

Highlights: Partnering with the State of AZ to provide a virtual showcase that not only featured Visual Arts but all Arts contents. State Superintendent with proclamations and support. Working with the different contents to strengthen the arts in the state. 2nd year providing a virtual showcase to provide viewing to all. Return of Sargent Art sponsorship for our state winners and winning teachers. Struggles: Participation from Art Teachers & Students, Communicating what YAM is in general and what opportunities exist. Time Management.

- **West Virginia**

October is when we hold our conference in WV and winning teachers are revealed. Promotion and planning for the YAM exhibit started then with catalyst Katy Crim and Dr. Ray Lowther. January and February contests for the poster/flag are promoted/chosen. The YAM picking parties happen in each county prior to Day in the Studios/drop off. This day is busy for the YAM coordinator, but teachers have workshops to choose from and a pizza party/meeting to round out the trip. The Reception is the following Saturday and colleges set up for portfolio reviews for students prior to awards presentations. Pictures, Pictures, Pictures! Individual Counties sent photos of their own county exhibits for this slideshow which is wonderfully new! At the close of the exhibit, works are packed and transported to the next venue (Charleston) for Arts Alive, a showcase of the best fine arts from students of all ages in our state. At the close of that exhibit all artworks return to students/home counties.