



Laguna Beach Sister Cities Association - Young Artists & Authors 2026 Showcase "YAAS"
Competition theme "Voices of Today, Visions of Tomorrow."

As a leading nonprofit citizen diplomacy organization, Sister Cities International has been promoting peace through mutual understanding since its origins in 1956. The overarching theme for its 2026 Young Artists and Authors Showcase is **"VOICES OF TODAY, VISIONS OF TOMORROW."** The showcase provides students aged 12-18, a unique platform to share their creativity and perspectives of how today's voices and visions can shape tomorrow's world.

Laguna Beach Sister Cities Association, in conjunction with **Laguna Beach County Water District**, through its outreach, highlights the power of voice and vision to foster understanding, collaboration, and peace across borders. We invite youth to submit positive, original, creative, and impactful art, music, and poetry, to share their vision of a peaceful world and contribute to the international dialogue about the importance of their voice and their vision in building tomorrow's progressive world. For inspiration and an idea of quality of last year's winning works, visit: [SCI YAAS 2025 Winners](#). As a project, we encourage local students to have discussions with students in our sister cities of Menton (France), San Jose del Cabo (Mexico), St. Ives (England), and Friendship City, Fuji Five Lakes (Japan).

Entry Deadline March 29th, 2026 (by 11:59 pm local time)	This Application Form, creative submission, either in Word, PDF or MP3 format (for music) and essay to be emailed to LBSCAssociation@gmail.com by March 29th, 2026 (11:59 pm local time). Please note age and eligibility requirements. AI-generated content may not be submitted and will be disqualified.
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2026 LOCAL YOUNG ARTISTS & AUTHORS SHOWCASE AWARD WINNERS WILL RECEIVE:

Art Competition	Art Award	Music Competition	Music Award	Poetry Competition	Poetry Award
1st Place	\$500	1 st Place	\$500	1 st Place	\$500
2 nd Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$250
3 rd Place	\$100	3 rd Place	\$100	3 rd Place	\$100

1st through 5th place winners will receive certificates, advance to the Sister Cities International Competition, and have an opportunity to win more cash awards. 1st Place winners may be showcased at our Laguna Beach Fête de la Musique (time permitting).

SHOWCASE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES (PICK ONE ARTFORM CATEGORY ONLY)

Requirements for Art	Students may select one (1) piece of originally created student artwork submitted either in oil, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, colored pencil, crayon, ink, marker, etching, or collage, etcetera. Please mention medium type. We will accept Digital medium. Important note: we will be accepting only .JPEG .PNG files and not downloads that require various digital software for viewing the art. To ensure our judges have the best quality view, please confirm that photographs are no less than 1350x1080 pixels.
Requirement for Music	Students may select one (1) original piece of music, created by the student, and submit it in MP3 format (no videos). Submissions must be only of original solo (not group) and not reinterpreted audio performances, and may not exceed 4 minutes. Judges will evaluate submissions based on theme interpretation, and creativity.

Laguna Beach Sister Cities Association – 2026 Young Artists & Authors Showcase (YAAS) Entry Form
"VOICES OF TODAY, VISIONS OF TOMORROW", Student Art, Music, and Poetry Competition
DUE BY 11:59 PM on SUNDAY, March 29th, 2026

Requirement for Poetry	Students may select one (1) original, student created poetry piece, which must be typed in English, with a maximum of 200 words, double-spaced, in either .doc or .pdf format. Judges will evaluate works based on theme interpretation, composition, and grammar.
Age & Eligibility	Applicants must be between ages 12 and 18 before April 1, 2026. To be eligible, student must either reside in Laguna Beach or attend middle or high school in Laguna Beach. If student is selected as a top five contestant to move on to the Sister Cities International competition; student will become an honorary student member for one year.
Local Selection	You will receive confirmation after we receive your entry. Local jury picks local winners in two age categories: 12-14 and 15-18, and selects five entries per category to advance to the Sister Cities International competition in Washington, D.C., where contestants will have the opportunity to win additional cash awards, up to \$1,000.
Sister Cities International Winners	International competition winners in each category will be announced at the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit. Date will be posted as soon as available. Please view the website for the update. *Trip cost not included, and each individual pays to attend.
Public Presentation	1 st Place Winners may be invited to present at the Fête de la Musique in Laguna Beach on Saturday, June 20 th , 2026, depending on number of entries and time permitting.

You may download this application form from LagunaBeachSisterCities.com complete it in **black or blue ink** and email it to: LBSCAssociation@gmail.com by **11:59 PM local time on March 29th, 2026. Please type YAAS Entry in email subject line.** (PLEASE DO NOT SEND to Sister Cities International unless you have been notified that you won locally.)

CATEGORY (Pick One Only)	ART (Classic, Digital) Medium _____	MUSIC	POETRY
	ARTIST/AUTHOR INFORMATION		PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION
Name (Last/First)		Name (Last/First)	
Birth Date		Email	
Gender		Phone Number	
Email		Address	
Phone Number		City, State, Zip	
Address		LBSCA USE ONLY	
City, State, Zip			
Grade/ School			

(Please provide an email address and phone number that you check regularly. Email is our primary contact method followed by text).

ENTRY TITLE & ESSAY	(Name of the Art /Music /Poetry is Required)
<p>Judging Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Interpretation of the theme * Originality and creativity * Technical skill * Overall Impact <p>On a separate sheet of paper, student should address one of these ideas in no more than 500 words, which can be personal anecdotes or creative writing: 1.) How have the voices of the past shaped the world we live in today and what are ways new voices must be heard to build a better, peaceful tomorrow in which we would like to live? 2.) How can young people honor tradition while reimagining what values or ideas could guide design in the next 250 years? 3.) What does your “vision of tomorrow” look like, and how can you start building it today? 4.) How can your voice or vision transcend cultural, language, or national barriers to create lasting peace? 5.) What sounds, symbols or imagery can you use today that will create a vision for tomorrow? (You may provide examples.)</p> <p>Required. You may either send as a .doc or scan as a .pdf and email along with your submission and this entry form.</p>	

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Artist/Musician/Author Waiver: Although as the artist I retain my copyright for other uses, by submitting this entry I agree to give Laguna Beach Sister Cities Association, its members and affiliates, perpetual, non-exclusive, rights and license to use, reproduce, publicly perform, display, and distribute the submitted artwork through all media now known or hereafter developed, including without limitation any future publication use in promotional material, online service, and public exhibition, with no compensation other than credit with the artist's name, and community. The license rights granted to Laguna Beach Sister Cities Association shall include the right to translate, alter, modify, and make derivative works of the artwork without limitation, and at its discretion. By submitting a photograph of the artwork, I represent and warrant that I have the right to grant to SCI the unrestricted use of the photograph. I have secured all licenses necessary for creating audio recordings if unique words or scores are used to create derivative works. Laguna Beach Sister Cities Association takes no responsibility and will not compensate for any lost or damaged artwork. I agree to abide by all the rules and terms of the showcase and agree to waive all claims of any kind against the showcase organizers.

All submissions must conform to Sister Cities International's policy on plagiarism described on the website: https://sistercities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/YAAS-Plagiarism_AI-Policy-1f

Date		Signature of Artist/Author	
Date		Signature of Parent/Guardian	