

2023 Youth Art Month Award Announcement

- **Claire Flanagan Grand Award**

- **Wisconsin** - Jen Dahl, Kathryn Rulien-Bareis

- **Awards of Excellence**

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

- **Virginia** - Juan Brooks, Kelley Shradley-Horst

- **Texas** - Tiffany Silverthorne

- **Awards of Merit**

- **Alabama** - Julie Harrison

- **Kansas** - Linda Nelson-Bova, Lynn Felts

- **Missouri** - Erin Price

- **Georgia** - Tiffany Weser, Gail Peake

- **Rhode Island** - Kerri Marshall, Tara Villanova



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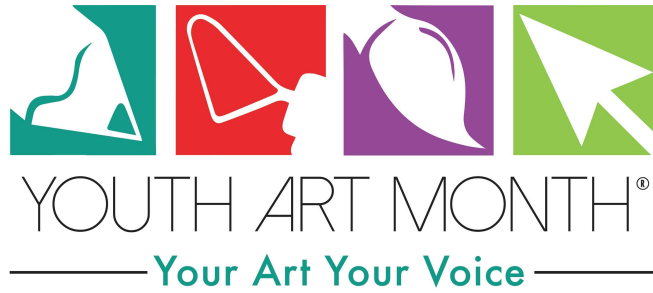
- **Special Recognition by category**

- **Participation**

- **Arizona** for **YAM Revitalization** - Laura Namerow, Elise Kohli
- **Florida** for **Excellent comeback to YAM** – Laura Hobb
- **South Dakota** for **Creative Virtual Tools to gain YAM Participation**– Marica Shannon

- **Promotion**

- **Utah** for **Developing and Sharing a YAM lesson plan** - Elizabeth Sampson
- **Minnesota** for **Utilizing Student Artwork to promote YAM**– Tiffany Erie
- **Illinois** for **YAM Promotion via Social Media and #Illinoisyam** - Ailysh Cooper and Trisha Frost



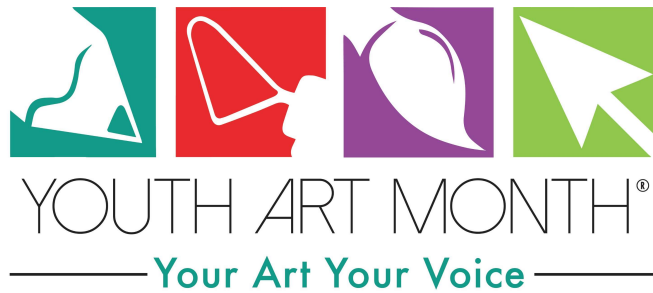
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➤ Proclamation

- **North Carolina for Outstanding YAM Advocacy via Senator's letter** - Jana Farris

➤ Special Materials

- **California for the Use of Special Materials through a YAM Poster-** Ed Lim
- **Maine for the Use of Special Materials through an Artist pin-** Elise Pelletier



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

- **Wisconsin** - One of our keynotes was an artist and entrepreneur. Marianne was able to engage our young artists with her words and her loom design. We used her loom in one of our 5 Make & Takes designed for all ages. The DJ was new this year, hired by our sponsor. He engaged all ages with music, games, and prizes. Another huge success was to have student artwork on display all month. Fan Mail forms and Fan Mailboxes were new this year and provided another engagement between our exhibit viewers and the young artists. Unfortunately, the Flag participation was low. We are remedying this by including a lesson plan complete with slides. We are also promoting it better with a station at the WAEA fall conference. The other struggle is to get art educators in rural areas to participate.
- **New York** - Our most visible addition this year was the lighting of the Mario Cuomo Bridge in Purple and Yellow on March 15th for Youth Art Month organized by members of Region 9 - Nassau County embracing YAM. We had big increases in the number of YAM events, totaling at 314, as well as increases in teacher participation and student participation. We feel that due to our continued outreach via social media, E-blasts, committee meetings, surveys and our annual workshop at the NYSATA conference, along with spending time with our region chairs at our meetings, we have been able to again significantly increase the awareness and celebration of YAM across our state. As well, we plan to give back to our teachers this coming year using the award money from the Claire Flanagan Award which Heather and Donnalyn were so grateful to be able to receive in Texas. We have already ordered new promotional materials, as well as YAM swag, to give away to our very deserving teachers and continue to increase participation. Our biggest challenge is making sure we capture all of the data available to us. We continue to refine our reports and think about the best way to truly capture all of those participating in YAM.



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

- **Virginia** - This was our first In-person YAM season since returning from the COVID shut-down. Family and teacher participation in each of the events doubled from previous years. Families were very excited to view art and participate in the exhibitions and awards ceremonies. Community support exceeded expectations for in-kind donations and providing exhibition spaces. Local museums, universities and libraries were happy to help support the arts and promote Youth Art Month. Struggles were that, even though YAM moments were documented and tagged on social media, the YAM documentation slideshow could have been made as well at the same time.
- **Texas** - One of the greatest highlights for our state was the huge growth in our programs. This was also one of the struggles. We grew so fast with the number of participants that keeping up with all of the information was a full-time job, on top of having a full-time job. As a result, our organization created a facilitator position to help the VP and VP-elect have continuity in the program year to year.
- **Alabama** - Youth Art Month continues to be a success in Alabama. Registration is done by email for participation in the flag design contest. Our participation was down in Flag Design this year. Submissions are gathered, grouped, and voted on by members of our AAEA Board. Google Forms is how I prepare the entries and has worked well since COVID when we were meeting online. Winners are chosen by compiling those votes and finding a majority. All art teachers are encouraged to participate in this and other celebrations in the month of March. Our organization makes an extra effort to spread the word about YAM to any and all art teachers we can. We encourage pictures, articles, social media posts, and announcements when collecting all the wonderful things that our state has accomplished for art. Plans are being made to improve data collection for next year.



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- **Kansas** - Our YAM Celebration was standing room only as we used up all of the seating and people lined the edges of the auditorium. There were 40,310 visitors to the library during the month of March. All visitors had to pass through the Kansas YAM Exhibit! That is almost 17,000 more visitors than last year. We introduced the “People’s Choice” Program. Patrons were given the opportunity to vote for their “favorite” piece 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 sent personal emails to every Kansas Art Educators inviting them to participate in the YAM events along with yam volunteer information for art delivery to try and get more involvement. We had involvement from several smaller districts that had never participated before! We got some publicity coverage on the local KSNT morning news show about the YAM Exhibit at the library--this has been an ongoing struggle to get media coverage. We created a "template" for teachers to use on social media platforms to highlight their student's participation in YAM. We continue to struggle with getting artwork from our Rural districts—which is much of the western half of our state. We do publish area representatives that are willing to collect work and get the art to the exhibit for us—we just don’t have the participation that we would like.
- **Missouri** - This year Missouri made GREAT strides with accessibility and advocacy through YAM! Strategic efforts to increase authentic inclusion, promotion and advocacy are really paying off. Highlights include diversification of representation from across the state, inclusion support through paid shipping, the development of a new annual "Featured Artist" program. Many teachers have begun reaching out to thank us for the opportunity, express sentiments that the program has vastly improved, and describe how much the experience means for their students, and in particular to remove barriers to participation and representation. Teachers on average also still generally feeling overwhelmed and unable to add "one more things" to their list of duties. However, our efforts are also helping to create supportive relationships for art



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

educators as we encourage and carry out preparation events and bring in more new, remote, and previously unrepresented teachers and continue to grow volunteer involvement, including with previously uninvolved Retired Art Educators.

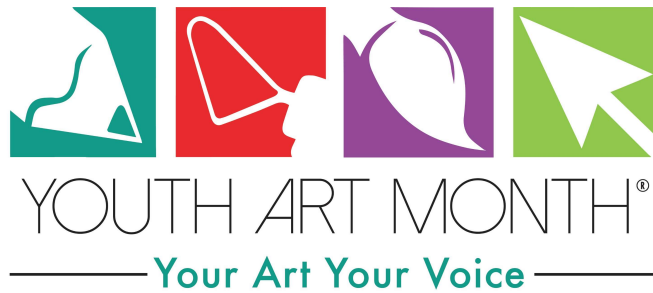
- **Georgia** - Some of the highlights were getting a Special Recognition award for our 2022 digital report. Getting the documentation forms out early so we had more participation was a big help. The streamline google form was easy for teachers to maneuver. There was an increase with promotion on all the GAEA social media platforms. Extending the flag design entry deadline into January helped us get more flag submissions. The YAM article in the GAEA Collage magazine helped get the word out about the flag winners and got people ready to celebrate YAM in March. Some struggles are still getting members to remember about posting for YAM on their socials, and submitting a flag design. Many teachers want to submit and post, but just run out of time. Getting more submission and documentation is something we are working on for this year.
- **Rhode Island** - One of our greatest strengths this year was organizing a master list of events and working closely with RISCA (Rhode Island Council on the Arts) to make our YAM information available to the public. We also launched our own state awards event which had excellent participation and will continue to grow. Now that our YAM representatives have been doing it for a few years now it's been easier to track events and reach out to our art educators and we also are always working on ways to improve. Our biggest struggle was that our YAM representatives were unable to go to the NAEA convention this year and our digital slideshow entries were not showcased.
- **Utah** - The Utah Youth Art Month Program had a great year in 2023. Our UAEA presidency was very supportive and asked us to do everything we could to help our



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

program grow. We worked more with outside organizations and we did everything we could to support teachers and encourage them to participate in the program. We were excited to start the school year strong and we waited and waited for a national theme. Finally, we thought that we should pick one of our own, so after some discussion, we decided to focus on UNITY and we created a theme, “Art Unites Us!”. We wrote a lesson plan and focused on the theme at all of our events. As a teacher, I created many different lessons with my students that explored the theme in deep and profound ways. My students were powerfully engaged in their art and that was meaningful to me as a teacher. I have decided to make the Youth Art Month theme the focus of my own instruction each year and I hope that I can encourage other teachers to find focus with the Youth Art Month theme as well. Utah is still struggling with a good reporting system and we have many YAM events, but our teachers are busy and it is hard to get them to report their events. This is something we will focus on next year.

- **Minnesota** – We finally had an in person student exhibition! Struggles continue to be participation and/or communication of participation with our state organization. We used social media to try and boost excitement and create some comradery among art educators but didn't hear anything from anyone. Teachers are overwhelmed and it shows. We discovered many teachers are participating in local art shows before or after Youth Art Month but aren't connecting them to YAM but also are then not able to or just aren't participating in our student exhibition. There was a terrible snow storm on the night before our student exhibition which limited participation at our event which was unfortunate but we heard wonderful things from the people that were able to be there and teachers were so glad to be able to have their student work on display in a special place.
- **Illinois** - Highlights include special recognition at the national conference in San Antonio,



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

which is my first time attending and was a great way to connect with sponsors from other states. I also did a presentation at the state conference that was well-attended, and we had some great entries in our contest. Blick provided prize boxes for the winning students and teachers. I also made some graphics to promote Youth Art Month and show teachers some ways that they can celebrate. My biggest struggle this year was managing this role on my own during a particularly busy year.

- **North Carolina** - I have been reaching out to Congressman, Mayors, Supers, other VIP's and I am super excited that Rep. Hawkins responded and would like to host a YAM show with prizes! I have been in touch with several Supers who respond and promote YAM information on their sites. I have just gotten a list of all Arts Directors and will be using that to further communication for this coming year. I am currently working on a YAM Companion to be emailed out in August and added to "swag bags" at our state conference. The Flag Design went very well with some submitting designs in person at conference and door prizes being awarded- fantastic way to motivate involvement! I continue to struggle with participation so I will keep working on that! I am hopeful that between the YAM Companion and prizes we will see an increase next year!
- **California** - From a state-wide, California level, we did not have a Chair. I volunteered and had a huge learning curve. Will be better prepared for next year. Created a CA-wide YAM CA exhibit and that helped with coordination.yamcalifornia.weebly.com. Very intimidated with the Flag contest but will look into it.
- **Maine** - The Youth Art Month exhibition at the Portland Museum of art is an annual exhibition showcasing powerful artwork by K-12 students throughout the state, representing diverse youth perspectives and artistic practices in Maine. Every year, Maine Art Education



2022 Highlights from the State Reports

Association (MAEA) member teachers—the dedicated educators at the forefront of Maine’s school art programs—each select one piece of exemplary work from their classrooms to represent the creative efforts of their students and to honor students with a passion for art. For 2023, Youth Art Month returned to the PMA walls! The exhibition was on view on the Lower Ground Floor of the PMA from March 1–April 2, 2023, and digitally on the PMA’s website. 400 people attended the opening and the Digital Gallery has 2,540 page views during the month of March. This was the first year coming back from the pandemic where Art educators across the state participated in more in-person Youth Art Month shows. It was a year of regrowth with YAM and many other visual art events throughout the school year. Individual school participation in Youth Art Month is not documented (beyond the three large shows) because of voluntary membership in the Maine Art Education Association and communication difficulties to members. I hope to improve upon this for next year and get more teacher participation.