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CONTACT:

[depressoffice@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:depressoffice@dep.nyc.gov), (718) 595-6600

## Department of Environmental Protection Hosts 28th Annual Water Resources Art & Poetry Awards Ceremony

### 675 Students Submitted More than 580 Artwork and Poetry Entries about NYC Water

#### The Submissions of the Water Champions Can be Viewed on [DEP's Flickr Page](#)

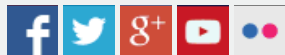
The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today hosted an awards ceremony for participants in the 28th Annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest. 675 students (grades 2-12) from New York City and Watershed communities were honored for creating more than 580 original pieces of artwork and poetry that reflect an appreciation for New York's water resources, wastewater treatment systems, and the importance of water conservation. In addition, through the art and poetry submitted, students raised the awareness about the importance of maintaining New York City's water supply and wastewater infrastructure. The ceremony included remarks from Reggie Harris, Poets in the Branches Coordinator at the Poets House and was held at Manhattan Community College's Tribeca Performing Arts Center.

"The Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest is an engaging way to teach students about the infrastructure that supplies more than half the state's population with clean drinking water and has helped dramatically improve the health of our waterways," said DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd. "I continue to be impressed by the energy and creativity that go into each of the submissions we receive and I am confident that each of our participants will serve as life-long stewards of our shared natural resources."

#### More Information

NYC Department of Environmental Protection  
Public Affairs  
59-17 Junction Boulevard  
19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Flushing, NY 11373  
(718) 595-6600

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Students from 68 schools participated in this year's Water Resource Art and Poetry Contest and all participants were honored as DEP Water Ambassadors and received a certificate recognizing their contribution. In addition, from the more than 580 submissions, a group of judges selected 39 participants as this year's Water Champions.

DEP's Water Resources Art and Poetry program raises awareness about the importance of clean, high-quality drinking water, and what it takes to maintain New York City's water supply and wastewater treatment systems.

The ceremony recognized the student's creative expression of four central themes:

- **Water—A Precious Resource:** To highlight the importance of the quality of our tap and harbor water.
- **The New York City Water Supply System:** To look at the history of the city's drinking water system.
- **The New York City Wastewater Treatment System:** To examine how the City treats more than 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater every day.
- **Water Stewardship: What Can I do to Help Conserve Water?** To bring attention to the value of water and ways to conserve, and the New York City Green Infrastructure Plan as a way to manage stormwater.

This year's Water Champions are:

	<b>Student Name</b>	<b>School</b>
Grade 2-3 Art	Clarissel Nuñez Valdez	PS 208
	Talae Powell Smith	PS 50
	Tariq Bradshaw	PS 95
Grade 2-3 Poetry	Anushri Mahabir	PS 108
	Kanai BeyEnglish	PS 116
	Jaelynn Rivera	Hellenic Classical charter School
	Mateen Nassirpour	Valhalla Union Free School
Grade 4-5 Art	Melanie Rojas	PS 148
	Kate Romero	St. Camillus School
	Keyara Bailey	JCC Cornerstone
	Tyanna Reddick	JCC Cornerstone
	Miranda Torn	The Blue School
	Aiden Pasquin	PS 31
	Kelly Pillcorema	PS 21
Grade 4-5 Poetry	Mrs. Pacheco's Class	Margaretville Central School
	Mrs. Underwood's Class	Margaretville Central School
	James Caro	The Blue School

	Brandon Udairam	PS 50
Grade 6-7 Art	Betty Jin	MS 74
	Shyanne Parson	IS 229
Grade 6-7 Poetry	Jasmine Medrano	St. Elizabeth School
	Di'Anna Bonomolo	MS 244
	Haley Holmes	Notre Dame Academy
Grade 8-9 Art	Sabrina Vee	MS 74
	Brandon Cover	MS 582
Grade 8-9 Poetry	Shawn Questel	Tottenville High School
	Jessica Antal	St. Thomas the Apostle School
	Bridget Pynn	Bishop Kearney HS
Grade 10-12 Art	Sarujen Sivakumar	Brooklyn International High School
	Jose Manuel Cubero	Brooklyn International High School
	Jhon-Kelly Saint Louis	Brooklyn International High School
	Keyla Mero	Brooklyn International High School
	SA Tasnim Ahmed	Newcomers High School
	Armando Fuentes	Art and Design High School
	Amanda Lopez	American Sign Language School
	Dorian Dreyfuss	Riverdale Country School
	Luis Garcia	Bronx Children's School
Grade 10-12 Poetry	Kristin Furfaro	Bishop Kearney High School
	Rebecca Flowers	Riverdale Country School

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of water each day to more than nine million residents, including eight million in New York City. The water is delivered from a watershed that extends more than 125 miles from the city, comprising 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes. Approximately 7,000 miles of water mains, tunnels and aqueducts bring water to homes and businesses throughout the five boroughs, and 7,500 miles of sewer lines and 96 pump stations take wastewater to 14 in-city treatment plants. DEP has nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 in the upstate watershed. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program, with nearly \$14 billion

in investments planned over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. This capital program is responsible for critical projects like City Water Tunnel No. 3; the Staten Island Bluebelt program, an ecologically sound and cost-effective stormwater management system; the city's Watershed Protection Program, which protects sensitive lands upstate near the city's reservoirs in order to maintain their high water quality; and the installation of more than 820,000 Automated Meter Reading devices, which will allow customers to track their daily water use, more easily manage their accounts and be alerted to potential leaks on their properties. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/dep](http://nyc.gov/dep), like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/nycwater](https://facebook.com/nycwater), or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/nycwater](https://twitter.com/nycwater).

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