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1,800 New York City and Watershed Students Honored at 30th Annual Water Resources Art & Poetry Celebration



Students Submitted More than 1,600 Pieces of Artwork and Poetry, Breaking an all-time Record

Works of Art and Photos From the Event Can be Viewed on DEP's Flickr Page

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on Thursday hosted a celebration event for participants in the 30th Annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest. About 1,800 students (grades 2-12) from New York City and Watershed communities were honored for creating more than 1,600 original pieces of artwork and poetry that reflect an appreciation for New York's water resources, the drinking water supply, harbor water, wastewater treatment, and the importance of water conservation. This year's competition marks another all-time record for student participation. In addition, through the art and poetry submitted, students raised awareness about the importance of maintaining New York City's water supply and wastewater infrastructure. The ceremony included remarks from Patrick Dougher, Program Director of Groundswell, an organization of community artists and activists that create murals to beautify neighborhoods. Also speaking were Mahoganey L. Browne, a slam poet and writer, and Tem Blessed, a musician and poet. Additionally featured were dance and rap performances by two student groups.

"The Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest allows students to exhibit their wonderful talents by creating original art that demonstrates their knowledge of New York City's essential drinking water and wastewater systems," said DEP Acting Commissioner Steven Lawitts. "Once again this contest had recordbreaking participation, which demonstrates that our creative young people are genuinely curious and concerned about the environment around them and are well-poised to become future stewards of our waterways."

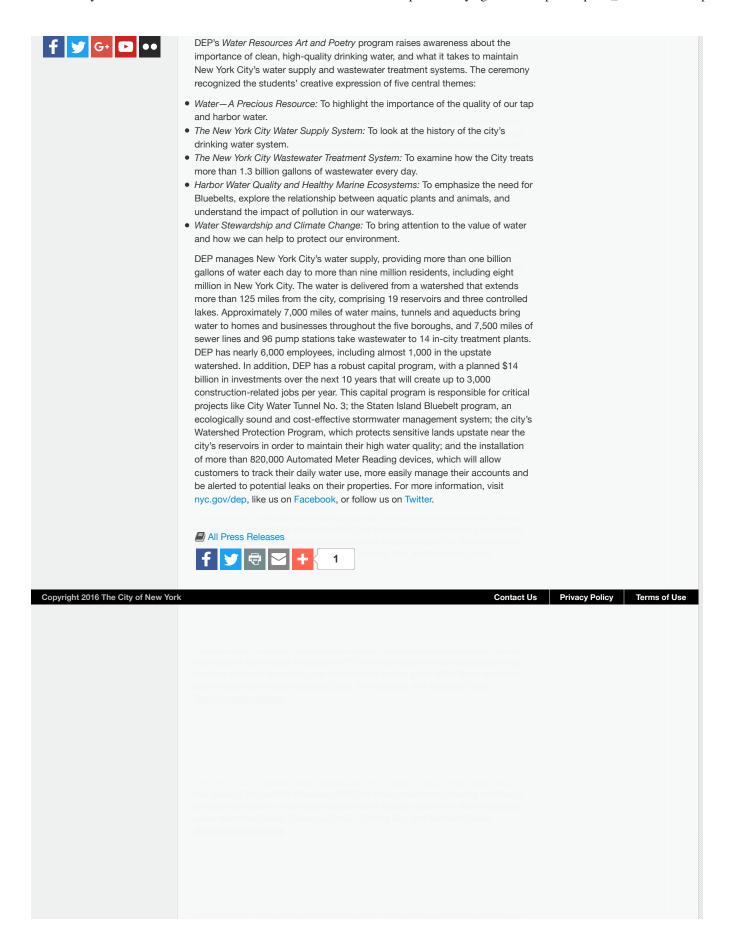
Students from 100 public, independent, charter and parochial schools participated in this year's *Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest*. Participants were honored as DEP Water Ambassadors and received certificates recognizing their contribution. Additionally, from the more than 1,600 submissions, a group of judges selected 66 entries representing 184 student group projects as this year's Water Champions.

More Information

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