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## Three Fairfax County Public School Students Honored with Uphoff Scholarships at Scholastic Art Awards Ceremony



*Fairfax County, VA* – The Arts Council of Fairfax County recognized Sarah Boyle from Marshall High School, Razan Elbaba from Oakton High School, and Rosy Molina from Fairfax High School on February 24, 2016 at the annual Scholastic Art Awards ceremony with a 2016 Uphoff Scholarship for their outstanding achievements in mixed media, digital, and collage art. Each student received a \$1,000 prize and their work is on public display at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, NOVA, Annandale Campus, from February 21 through March 3, 2016.

“The Arts Council is very pleased to award these talented students with funds to support further studies in art,” said Linda Sullivan, president and CEO of the Arts Council. “These skilled young artists exemplify the creativity and self-expression we want to reward and support.”

“The Arts Council has become an integral part of the Regional Scholastic Art Awards by annually providing scholarships to graduating seniors. Scholarships like these offered by community arts organizations help us meet the goals of the Scholastic Awards – to provide recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarship opportunities to young artists,” said Aaron Stratten, coordinator of the regional Scholastic Art Awards program.

The Scholastic Art Awards program is the largest, longest-running recognition program of its kind in the United States. Established in 1923, the awards have recognized students who have become some of our nation’s most celebrated artists, including Richard Avedon, Robert Indiana, Phillip Pearlstein, and Andy Warhol. More than 200,000 students participate in the program across the country. Over 2,000 Fairfax County Public School student artworks — ranging from drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, ceramics, sculptures, digital art, architecture, jewelry, fashion, film and animation, and mixed media artworks — are submitted annually for the competition.

The Arts Council provides Uphoff Scholarships at the bequest of the Howard Uphoff estate to assist high school students in the fulfillment of their dream for artistic training. This year’s judges were Jessica Kallista, founder and curator of the new art gallery Olly Olly in the City of Fairfax, and Janay Turner, business manager of the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

“This year’s art submissions displayed imagination, innovation, and expression. It was delightful to jury the Uphoff Scholarship awards,” said Jessica Kallista, founder and curator, Olly Olly.

Since its inception in 2001, the Arts Council has recognized 66 Fairfax County students with scholarships totaling \$68,000. The Arts Council expanded the program in 2013 to include students in all arts disciplines. Community partners include Arts Herndon, Choralis Foundation, Fairfax County Public Schools, George Mason University School of Art, Office of Congressman Gerald E. Connolly, Providence Players of Fairfax, Reston Community Players, and the Virginia Dance Coalition. By forming partnerships with local and national awards programs the Arts Council can serve more students in Fairfax County as they pursue advanced arts studies.

To find out more about the Arts Council’s Uphoff Scholarships program, visit <http://artsfairfax.org/grants/programs/uphoffscholarship>.

**Image Caption: (From left to right)**

Janay Turner, business manager, Arts Council; Linda S. Sullivan, president and CEO Arts Council; 2016 Uphoff Scholarship awardee Razan Elbaba, Oakton High School; Nancy Uphoff; Linda Uphoff; and Jessica Kallista, founder and curator, Olly Olly.

**About the Arts Council of Fairfax County**

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County’s local arts agency. It is the only umbrella organization serving and representing all forms of art in Fairfax County. The Arts Council of Fairfax County is the voice of the arts, dedicated to fostering dynamic and diverse local arts, ensuring that arts thrive by providing vision, leadership, capacity building services, advocacy, funding, education, and information.

The Arts Council is funded in part by Fairfax County, corporations, foundations, individuals, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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