

With abundant sunlight streaming through the century-old structure, Congressman Blumenauer hosted a reception honoring local high school students for the annual Congressional Art Competition at the YU Contemporary Gallery. Thirty nine students from ten high schools in the Third Congressional District participated in this year's competition; more than twice the number of submissions received from last year.

First launched in 1982, the Congressional Art Competition is an annual event in every congressional district involving hundreds of thousands of high school students. The first place winner from each Congressional District receives two round trip tickets courtesy of Southwest Airlines to Washington D.C. to attend a June reception where their submission will be hung in the United States Capitol.

Judging the Competition this year were Professor Paul Missal, Patrick Forster, and Sara Kaltwasser from the Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA). Participating schools included David Douglas High School, Grant High School, De La Salle North Catholic School, Estacada High School, Pacific Crest Community School, Portland Adventist School, Portland Waldorf School, Rex Putnam High School, Reynolds High School, and St. Mary's Academy.

Now conducting his 15th Competition in the 3rd District, the Congressman honored each participant by featuring the submissions in a local gallery. Sandra Percival from YU opened the reception with a detailed journey of her career leading up the restoration of the gallery, which previously served as an abandoned laundry factory from the early 20th

century. Sandra then introduced Congressman Blumenauer, who thanked the students for lending their creative talent to the competition.

"Looking out across this room, it is absolutely clear that we are witnessing the next generation of artists," Blumenauer said. "Although only one student will be going to Washington DC, it is

obvious that each of you is a winner.”



First place winner Natasha Duncan from David Douglas High School with Rep. Blumenauer and Brendan Korsgren of SW Airlines

Earning first place this year was Natasha Duncan from David Douglas High School with her piece “January Tenth.” Judges from the competition noted that the piece was “sophisticated,” that it “created a conversation with the viewer,” and that they were “shocked that this was produced by a high school student.” She will receive two roundtrip tickets to Washington DC and will have her piece hung in the Capitol.



Second place winner Raya Lieberman from the Portland Waldorf School



Third place winner Ana Sanz Gonzalez from the Pacific Crest Community School

Earning second place was Raya Lieberman from the Portland Waldorf School with her piece "Waiting." Ana Sanz Gonzalez from the Pacific Crest Community School earned third place with her piece "Al-Andalus."

Congratulations to all participants. Keep an eye out for next year's Competition!