

# NEWS RELEASE



**May 15, 2019**

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## PHOTO ADVISORY

### **UPPER DISTRICT ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2019 “WATER IS LIFE” STUDENT ART CONTEST**

**MONROVIA, CA** – Today the Board of Directors for the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) honored 20 San Gabriel Valley students who submitted award-winning entries to our annual “Water is Life” art contest. The art contest helps raise awareness about conservation and educates students about the importance of preserving our most precious resource.

Students are encouraged to express what water means to them and its impact on our lives through artwork. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year that Upper District has hosted the “Water is Life” art contest introduced by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). 167 art submissions were received and 33 schools participated this year. Schools within the Upper District boundaries were allowed to participate and submit a maximum of five entries per student category as follows: Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>; 6-8<sup>th</sup>; and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

All eligible art entries were displayed at Upper District’s board room for a week to allow the Board of Directors, staff, and members of the public the opportunity to vote by ballot for their top choices in each student category. The votes determined the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place winners. Students were awarded certificates of recognition and check prizes at today’s board meeting. They were joined by their family and teachers in celebration for their achievements.

“Every year we are amazed with how incredibly talented and creative the students are in demonstrating their perspective on life’s dependence on water. Educating students about our local water supply and groundwater basin helps them develop their own understanding of why water is a critical resource in our region. We will continue to support programs that work towards this goal,” said Board President Ed Chavez.

Upper District’s winning entries will now go on to compete in the “Water is Life” student art contest hosted by MWD. The winners for this contest are normally announced in the fall. The student winners of Upper District’s 2019 “Water is Life” art contest are as follows:

#### K- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cindy Xinyi Zhang, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, LA Art Academy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Bianca Lim, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, St. Martha School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Lanlan Li, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, LA Art Academy
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Grace Cheng, K, Clairbourn School
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Sophia Rodriguez-Ibanez, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Cedarlane Academy

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Tiffany Chu, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Cleminson Elementary
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Julia Yu, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, LA Art Academy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Catalina Tsao, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Cleminson Elementary
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Arthur Wang, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, LA Art Academy
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Hayley Fung, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, LA Art Academy

### 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Claire Li, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, LA Art Academy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Iris Xu, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, LA Art Academy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ellie Nakamura, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, South Pasadena Middle School
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Jessica Lu, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, LA Art Academy
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Selina Yu, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, LA Art Academy

### 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mia Dominguez, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Los Altos High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Janice Wu, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, LA Art Academy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jessica Mayo, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, California School of the Arts, San Gabriel Valley
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Charlene Hsu, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, California School of the Arts, San Gabriel Valley
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Phoebe Luo, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, LA Art Academy

Upper District's mission is to provide a reliable, sustainable, diversified and affordable portfolio of high quality water supplies to the San Gabriel Valley; including water conservation, recycled water, storm water capture, storage, water transfers and imported water. Upper District services nearly one million people in its 144 square mile service territory. Governed by a five member elected board of directors, Upper District is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Annually, more than 78 billion gallons of water is used in Upper District's service area. For more information about Upper District, please visit our website [www.upperdistrict.org](http://www.upperdistrict.org) or call 626-443-2297.



*(From left to right) Board of Directors Jennifer Santana, Ed Chavez, and Al Contreras with the winners of the 2019 "Water is Life" art contest.*

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