

New Student Artwork for Foundation Headquarters

The winners of the 2017 Heckscher Foundation for Children Art Competition, which sought student artwork for installation at the Foundation's headquarters, have been selected. Two photographers won all four categories, and both are alumni of NYC SALT, a nonprofit digital photography and college access program serving low-income immigrant youth in New York City.

Laiza Martinez is a senior at Inwood Early College for Health and Information Technologies who says that "photography has allowed me to interact with other people and get them out of their comfort zones to achieve honest portraits of their identities."

Malike Sidibe, who left Guinea for New York nearly seven years ago and is now studying at Parsons School of Design, says that "photography has affected me in so many ways—not just as an artistic outlet but also to connect with people beyond the limitations of language."

Runners-up (\$1,500):

Portrait (#19, Malike Sidibe)

City Scene or Landscape (#34, Laiza Martinez)

Abstract or "other" (#10, Malike Sidibe)

Grand Prize Winner (\$3,000)

Beings of Joy (#60, Laiza Martinez)

The Foundation's architecture firm, Christoff Finio, selected the winners and chose two pieces to display in our offices: Laiza Martinez's city scene (#34) and Malike Sidibe's abstract photo (#10).

The competition was open to all youth (aged 18 and under) participating in an art program through a community-based organization or school in New York City. There were 65 total submissions this year.