



news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

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For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Public Schools Students Shine in Prestigious Art and Film Competitions

PITTSBURGH, PA, February 6, 2025— Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the University of Pittsburgh, 1Hood Media, and the August Wilson African American Cultural Center (AWAACC) hosted the second iteration of *Envisioning a Just Pittsburgh*, an inclusive call for art that encouraged artists throughout southwestern Pennsylvania to share their visions for a just and equitable future.

More than 100 individuals submitted their powerful and thought-provoking work, and Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) is proud to celebrate its students who emerged as winners across the competition's Visual Art, Performance Art, and Literary Art categories. Their compelling pieces will be exhibited at Carnegie Museum of Natural History throughout February and into March, with original artwork displayed at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center from February 20 through March 31.

Arya Datta: Award-Winning Filmmaker and PPS Scholar



Arya Datta, a senior at Pittsburgh Obama Academy, has made an extraordinary impact in the world of filmmaking. His short film, [*Fishbone*](#), earned 1st place in the "Envisioning a Just Pittsburgh" art competition, securing him a prestigious exhibition at the AWAACC from February through April. Additionally, Arya will be a featured speaker at a panel discussion on February 8 from 6:30-7:30 PM at the Carnegie Museum, where he will discuss his creative journey and the role of film in advancing social justice.

A high-honor student, Arya has been admitted to Fordham University's film program, where he will continue his pursuit of storytelling through cinema.

Alongside Arya, several other PPS students have been recognized for their outstanding artistic contributions:

- **Anna Molano** (7th grade, Pittsburgh South Hills 6-8) – Winner in the Youth (18 & Under) Visual Art category for her piece, *Pittsburgh for Everyone, Everyone for Pittsburgh*. Her artwork captures the essence of unity and inclusivity, reflecting the strength of Pittsburgh's diverse communities.



- **Jules Carlson** (7th grade, Pittsburgh CAPA) – First Place Winner in Youth (18 & Under) Performance Art for *We Want a Future*, a compelling piece that amplifies the voices of young people advocating for change.
Read the complete poem [We Want a Future](#).

Pittsburgh Public Schools celebrates these remarkable students for their creativity, vision, and commitment to using art as a platform for advocacy and expression. Their achievements underscore the District's dedication to fostering artistic excellence and empowering students to shape the future through their work.

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