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**Arbor Day Art and Writing Contest Attracts Youth Talent
Beautiful submissions reviewed**

The Arts and Writing for Arbor Day Contest is conducted by the Greater Rochester Arbor Day Committee, whose members include representatives of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County 4-H Youth Development, the City of Rochester Forestry Department, Monroe County Parks Department, and Genesee Finger Lakes Nursery Landscape Association. In 2022, contestants were encouraged to focus on the role trees play in parks or what meaning trees convey to them. Participation was welcomed from K-12th grade artists and writers from local schools, community groups, and families.

About fifty young artists from the YMCA Lewis Street Neighborhood Center, Brooks Hill Elementary School, Saint Kateri School, RCSD School #16, Montessori Academy School #53, and local 4-H clubs submitted creative pieces to the contest. Submissions included watercolor paintings, mixed media drawings, and hand-written comics and stories. Six categories of awards were chosen with themes of Best Message, Most Creative, Best Painting, Best Drawing, Best Mixed Media, and People's Choice. Top recognition goes to:

Best Drawing:

Eddie P. of Brooks Hill Elementary

Best Painting:

Molly S. of Saint Kateri School

Best Mixed Media:

Sharmek L. of Montessori Academy School #53

Best Message

Luna S. of Brooks Hill Elementary

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Most Creative:

Ben S. of Brooks Hill Elementary

People's Choice

Luna S. of Brooks Hill Elementary

Artworks selected for public display appeared at the 2022 Arbor Day Community Ceremony and Celebration at Genesee Valley Park on April 29th, to a warm reception. The widespread response to the arts contest, with participants representing multiple areas of the city as well as Irondequoit and Fairport, aligns with this year's themes of community, as well as the statement in Brooks Hill student Lyla O's piece: "We are stronger together. Be the sun, not the salt." All contestants will receive certificates honoring their participation and indicating their recognition.

The Monroe County 4-H Program is offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe County. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth ages 5 to 19, who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or "experiential" learning about things that interest them.

To learn more about Public Presentations and other 4-H programs, visit <http://bit.ly/4hyouthdevelopment>.



Lucas Potratz shows his Arbor Day paintings in his treehouse. *Photo Credit Amanday Christy.*