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Flints Hills Resources *Visionarios* Youth Art Contest Honors Area Students at Family Day Celebration

More than 680 area students participated in annual contest sponsored by Flint Hills Resources and the Art Museum of South Texas

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX – February 1, 2010 – Flint Hills Resources and the Art Museum of South Texas hosted the 9th annual Flint Hills Resources *Visionarios* Family Day Sunday, where young artists from throughout the Coastal Bend were honored for their outstanding artwork. The event marked the opening of the museum's *Visionarios* exhibit, which will display all entries through February 28.

Visionarios Family Day recognizes participating young artists for their artistic skill and for their ability to communicate through art and words their vision of the surrounding community. This year's theme, "Reflections of the Gulf Coast," elicited drawings, paintings and photographs from 680 area students, and over 50 students received awards during the Family Day awards ceremony. (*Note to editors: Full winners list at the end of release.*)

"Every year, we aim to reach as many Coastal Bend students as possible through *Visionarios*," said Joseph Schenk, director of the Art Museum of South Texas. "The *Visionarios* program helps young people nurture vital skills, such as literacy and visual expression, that are essential for becoming successful, productive adults. The extraordinary partnership *Visionarios* creates between businesses, the arts and the community make these goals possible, and we're thankful to Flint Hills Resources for its ongoing support and collaboration."

The *Visionarios* Youth Art Contest, sponsored by Flint Hills Resources, is open to area students from 1st through 12th grade and is also designed to promote literacy by integrating with school curriculum in geography, science, and other age-appropriate subject areas. *Visionarios* is open to students in public, private, and home schools and includes categories for painting, drawing, and photography. Top entries in each category were selected by a panel of education and arts professionals. For more information on *Visionarios*, visit www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org.

Winning students and their schools include:

Grades 1-2, Dry Media

- 1st Hannah Carawan, Welder Elementary, Sinton ISD
- 2nd Michael Hinojosa, Calallen East Primary, Calallen ISD
- 3rd Arjun Kersten, East Cliff Elementary, Gregory Portland ISD
- HM Dante Pucci, Private Instruction, Corpus Christi
- HM Trinity Cervantes, Lamar Elementary, CCISD

Grades 1-2, Wet Media

- 1st Tyler Fairchild, Welder Elementary, Sinton ISD
- 2nd Jackson Allen, Private Instruction, Sinton
- 3rd Josue Benamu, Private Entry, Corpus Christi
- HM Will Dotin, Incarnate Word Academy, Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi

Grades 3-5, Dry Media

- 1st Mikayla Mondragon, St. James Episcopal School, Corpus Christi
- 2nd Cely Victoria Ramirez, Oak Park SES, CCISD
- 3rd Alexandria Manley, Lamar Elementary, CCISD
- HM Jessica Bang, Private Entry, Corpus Christi

Grades 3-5, Wet Media

- 1st Santiago Mendizabal, Private Instruction, Corpus Christi
- 2nd Joseph Taylor, Chula Vista Academy of Fine Arts, CCISD
- 3rd Christopher Garcia, Lamar Elementary, CCISD
- HM Alexis Brown, Private Instruction, Sinton
- HM Danielle Peña, Crockett Elementary, CCISD

Grades 6-8, Dry Media

- 1st Blake Harvey, St. James Episcopal School, Corpus Christi
- 2nd Sam Lathrop, Incarnate Word Academy, Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi
- 3rd Bethany Hardie, St. James Episcopal School, Corpus Christi
- HM Alexia Castillo, Baker Middle School, CCISD

Grades 6-8, Wet Media

- 1st Pablo Mendizabal, Private Instruction, Corpus Christi
- 2nd Itzayana Silva, Calallen Middle School, Calallen ISD
- 3rd Eleanor Bush, St. James Episcopal School, Corpus Christi
- HM Ray Neuberger, Private Instruction, Corpus Christi

Grades 6-8, Photography/Digital Arts

- 1st Gerardo Rodriguez, Wynn Seale Academy of Fine Arts, CCISD
- 2nd Amanda Lopez, Wynn Seale Academy of Fine Arts, CCISD
- 3rd Justus Stafford, Wynn Seale Academy of Fine Arts, CCISD

Art I-II, Dry Media

- 1st Jaime Pease, Sinton High School, Sinton ISD
- 2nd Raul Canchola, Ray High School, CCISD
- 3rd Demi Lea Garcia, Sinton High School, Sinton ISD
- HM Josh Rorer, Sinton High School, Sinton ISD
- HM Fabian Rodriguez, Sinton High School, Sinton ISD

Art I-II, Wet Media

- 1st Dominique Lozano, King High School, CCISD
- 2nd Ricky Ruiz, Ray High School, CCISD
- 3rd Albert Guzman, King High School, CCISD
- HM Eli Gomez, Sinton High School, Sinton ISD

Art I-II, Photography/Digital Arts

- 1st Emily Bissell, Incarnate Word Academy, Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi
- 2nd Bryan Sargent, Flour Bluff High School, Flour Bluff ISD
- 3rd Mary Elizabeth Bailey, Flour Bluff High School, Flour Bluff ISD

Art III-IV, Dry Media

- 1st Sarah Cooper, Incarnate Word Academy, Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi
- 2nd Victor Olvera, Sinton High School, Sinton ISD
- 3rd Sapphire Martinez, Sinton High School, Sinton ISD
- HM Nereo Olvera, Sinton High School, Sinton ISD

Art III-IV, Wet Media

- 1st Kari Kaitlin Powell, Private Instruction, Corpus Christi
- 2nd Sarah Cooper, Private Instruction, Corpus Christi
- 3rd Daniel Rendon, King High School, CCISD
- HM Kristy Rincon, Private Instruction, Corpus Christi

Art III-IV, Photography/Digital Arts

- 1st Caitlin Wang, Incarnate Word Academy, Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi
- 2nd Lynn Pham, Incarnate Word Academy, Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi
- 3rd Jaime León, Incarnate Word Academy, Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi

About Flint Hills Resources

Flint Hills Resources, LP, a leading refining and petrochemical company; has operations in Texas, Alaska, Minnesota, Illinois and Michigan. Flint Hills employs about 3,500, including about 900 in Corpus Christi. For more information, see www.fhr.com.

About the Art Museum of South Texas

The Art Museum of South Texas has been located on the Corpus Christi Bayfront since 1972, in a building designed by noted architect Philip Johnson. An addition designed by Legorreta+Legorreta opened in late 2006, doubling the museum size. The Art Museum is affiliated with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and hosts educational programs, youth art classes and traveling exhibits throughout the year. Program and exhibit information is available on www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org.

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