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## The Wichita Center for the Arts **\$2.3 Million in Scholarships Awarded at 2015 Scholastic Art Awards**

**WICHITA, KS — March 11, 2015** —Over 825 people attended the Scholastic Open House and Gold Key Ceremony this weekend at The Wichita Center for the Arts. This year's scholarship and cash award recipients received more than \$2.3 million, surpassing last year's total by \$300,000.

Each year, exceptionally talented high school and middle school artists from Wichita and 70 surrounding counties are recognized and awarded with cash prizes and scholarships. This year's scholarships were awarded by Mindfire Academy at Bethany College, Bethel College, Cowley CCC, Friends University, Fort Hays State University, Sterling College and McPherson College.

The Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition was hosted by the Elizabeth B. Koch Foundation and The K.T. Wiedemann Foundation, Inc. This year's master of ceremonies for the Gold Key Ceremony was Ashley Arnold, news reporter at KSN Channel 3, with introductions by Howard W. Ellington, director emeritus at The Wichita Center for the Arts.

A total of 2,700 entries were submitted to this year's Scholastic Art Awards from 70 Kansas counties. All submissions were reviewed by a panel of art professionals for originality, technical skill, and emergence of personal voice or vision and only 662 student works were selected for this year's exhibition.



The Scholastic Art Awards offer early recognition of creative teenagers and scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors. The awards are national in scope and administered by the Alliance for Youth Artists and Writers. The process begins as students from across the country in grades 7 through 12, supported by their visual arts teachers and other community mentors, create and submit their best works of art. For more information about The Scholastic Art Awards visit [wcfta.com](http://wcfta.com).

**About The Wichita Center for the Arts**

Originally founded as the Wichita Art Association in 1920, The Wichita Center for the Arts is the area's oldest and most comprehensive visual and performing arts organization. For 95 years The Wichita Center for the Arts has made art and art education available to the citizens of Wichita and the surrounding communities as a privately funded organization. For more information about The Wichita Center for the Arts, visit [wcfta.com](http://wcfta.com) or call (316) 634-2787. The gallery at The Wichita Center for the Arts is open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.

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