



What is the NAHYP Award?

The National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award is a signature initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It's the nation's highest honor for out-of-school arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people, particularly those from underserved communities. Each year, the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards recognize 12 outstanding programs in the United States, from a wide range of urban and rural settings, that showcase cultural excellence and enhance the availability of out-of-school arts and humanities programs to children and young people.

Are libraries eligible to submit a nomination?

Yes! Libraries are eligible applicants and encouraged to apply. The nomination cycle for 2013 just opened. You can find application details on www.nahyp.org. All nominations will be due February 4, 2013.

What type of programming qualifies?

Winning programs are well established (in place for at least five years) and offer sustained and consistent out-of-school or afterschool opportunities for young people to engage hands-on with the arts or humanities. Types of programs that qualify might include (but are certainly not limited to) the following:

- poetry/spoken word programs
- teen magazines/newsletters
- book clubs and literacy enrichment
- humanities-based programs

What makes a good nomination?

- being concise and focused
- writing a clear narrative that follows the format outlined in the NAHYP application
- showing strong supporting evidence of program impact
- providing clear evidence that majority of youth served by the program are from underserved communities or considered to be at risk
- providing strong evidence of high-quality, consistent hands-on learning opportunities in the arts or the humanities

What are the benefits of winning this award?

The 12 winners receive

- a \$10,000 one-time grant,
- an award presented by First Lady Michelle Obama at a ceremony at the White House,
- a year of capacity building and marketing support and access to communications experts to help you leverage your award, and
- the prestige of having nation's highest honor for this work.

The 38 finalists receive a Finalist Certificate of Excellence and have their program names listed as finalists in award publications and on NAHYP website.

What library programs have won this award in the past?

2010 Awardee

San Francisco WritersCorps, run by the San Francisco Public Library and the San Francisco Arts Commission in San Francisco, CA

The San Francisco WritersCorps helps participants experience firsthand the power of writing as a tool for exploring and expressing their thoughts and feelings about what's going on in their lives and in the world around them. Accomplished writers teach free workshops in libraries, schools, community centers, immigrant immersion programs, and juvenile detention facilities to accomplish this goal. During the course of the workshops, which last anywhere from 10 weeks to a full academic year, students read a variety of literary genres, write numerous assignments, and discuss each other's work. Some students also participate in public readings or compile anthologies of their creative efforts for publication. All of these activities help to strengthen the participants' sense of identity and self-esteem.

2009 Awardee

TAG Teen Program at Elsie S. Hogan Community Library in Willcox, AZ

The TAG (Teen Advisory Group) Teen Program is an active intellectual and social community that publishes a full-color, 40-page magazine published three times a year. Teens plan, write, and edit the magazine—which includes music and film reviews, poetry, fiction, photographic essays, and opinion pieces—and design it using library computers outfitted with publishing software. These young adults gain analytical and verbal skills as they create, defend, and critique submissions. TAG participants also devote part of their weekly afterschool meetings to devising other ways to address the lack of cultural opportunities in this low-income ranching community 80 miles from Tucson. Invited experts occasionally join the group for collegial discussions on subjects ranging from Hohokam archeology to the impact of music on the brain. Library staff estimates that up to 75 percent of TAG participants go on to college.

2008 Awardee

Word Journeys at Pima County Public Library in Tucson, AZ

Since 2001, high school and elementary students have met after school at the Woods Memorial Branch Library as a part of the Word Journeys program. They have fun with words and expressive arts, and teen mentors build leadership skills while working with elementary school students in workshops facilitated by author Marge Pellegrino. Each workshop includes a story, a writing springboard, and time for sharing, as well as time for mentors and mentees to explore the library via books and targeted activities. Teen mentors plan and setup the weekly workshops, encourage the younger students, write in their journals and reflect upon the week's experiences. As the semester ends, students exhibit their work at a public reading and display. Word Journeys is a unique artistic and literary afterschool program for underserved youth in a racially diverse and socio-economically challenged Tucson neighborhood.

2002 Awardee

PRIME TIME Family Reading Time in New Orleans, LA

PRIME TIME is a unique six to eight-week humanities-based program of reading, discussion, and storytelling at public libraries and other venues, emphasizing the importance of families reading together to discuss significant cultural and ethical themes. Created in 1991 by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, this statewide family literacy program with national affiliates empowers parents and guardians to help their children enjoy reading and improve their reading abilities.