

By: Jennifer Jones, Manager of Communications and Public Relations
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Alexandria, Va., Aug. 8, 2018 — Ani Keshishyan, a ninth-grader from Glendale, Calif., has been named the grand prizewinner in NAHMA's annual AHMA Drug-Free Kids poster and art contest. The talented artist's creation will appear on the cover of NAHMA's 2019 calendar. Ani, 14, also receives an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for NAHMA's Biannual Top Issues in Affordable Housing fall conference, Oct. 21-23, as well as a scholarship of \$2,500 from the NAHMA Educational Foundation.

The poster contest is open to children and elderly residents 55 years or older who live in a community of a NAHMA or a local Affordable Housing Management Association (AHMA) member company, as well as residents with special needs who live in a permanent supportive housing community or Section 811 community of a NAHMA or a local AHMA member company.

The underlying message for the annual contest is always a drug-free theme but NAHMA wanted to open the door for more avenues of expression, so a subtheme is incorporated into the poster contest. The subtheme for 2018 is *Hope Is in Bloom: Nurturing Our Community*.

Nearly 5,000 eligible residents participated in the nationwide contest.

Each national winner of the NAHMA contest—regardless of entry category—receives a \$1,000 educational scholarship from the NAHMA Educational Foundation. All winners are also featured as their own month in the 2019 calendar.

Additionally, participants in the annual art contests held by the local AHMAs are eligible to be selected as Regional AHMA Art Contest Honorable Mentions. Those selected for this distinction will have their artwork featured in a special section of the NAHMA 2019 Drug-Free Kids calendar and receive a \$100 scholarship. These participants are in addition to those selected as national winners.

The original winning artwork will be auctioned at the Educational Foundation gala, Oct. 22, with the proceeds supporting the foundation's scholarship program.

For the contest, the artwork is divided into seven categories with winners selected from each of the following: kindergarten–first grade, second–third grades, fourth–sixth grades, seventh–ninth grades, 10th–12th grades, seniors and residents with special needs. Only students are eligible for the grand prize.

Calendars go on sale beginning in September and are available by visiting NAHMA’s [Online Store](http://www.nahma.org) at www.nahma.org. The cost is \$5.50, which is a Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Agriculture allowable project expense.

The following lists this year’s national program winners, with their ages at time of submission, grade completed in June 2018/contest category, community where they live, management company and name of the AHMA that submitted their artwork:

NEAHMA NATIONAL WINNERS

Aubrey Frimpong, 8; third grade; Stratton Hill Park, Worcester, Mass.; Beacon Communities

Jessica Lauzon, 14; ninth grade; Bay Village Apartments, Fall River, Mass.; First Realty Management

Winnie Mei, 18; 12th grade; Charlesview Residences, Brighton, Mass.; Peabody Properties Inc.

Jean Mistretta, 75; senior; The Linwood Mill, Whitinsville, Mass.; Peabody Properties Inc.

Maura Sawyer, 67; senior; Framingham Green Apartments, Framingham, Mass.; Peabody Properties Inc.

