

LAWRENCEVILLE WOMAN'S CLUB FIRST ANNUAL NANCY GULLICKSON FINE ARTS AWARDS COMPETITION

The Lawrenceville Woman's Club Arts CSP had been looking for a signature project for a couple of years to encourage local high school students to pursue excellence in the arts. In 2018, The Arts CSP for the Lawrenceville Woman's Club (LWC), in partnership with the LONA Foundation, began the planning for our first **Nancy Gullickson Fine Arts Award** competition at Central Gwinnett High School (which is a Title 1 school). The Arts CSP is excited about this new signature project that serves to encourage and promote the artistic development and futures of students in our community.

The competition is named after Nancy Gullickson, a former LWC member who was instrumental in establishing the Gwinnett Council for the Arts and later served as the Executive Director at The Hudgen's Center for Arts and Learning.

Our partner, the LONA Foundation, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that focuses on developing, encouraging and supporting Arts in our community with a focus on students of all ages and the Special Needs Community. Their mission is: to offer a universal artistic expression to the community; to provide access to all forms of cultural & creative experiences; and to educate in an inspired environment.

The competition consisted of three categories, creative writing, photography and visual arts with awards of \$250 for 1st place, \$100 for 2nd place and \$50 for 3rd place in each category.

The Arts CSP developed the criteria, rules, forms and publicity for the competition in November of 2018. In December, the Arts Co-Chairs, Carolyn Wright and Janet Hecht, attended an assembly for the Fine Arts students and presented the information for the competition at that time. Following the assembly the co-chairs handed out entry forms and answered questions at all of the lunch periods.



LWC Arts Co-Chairs Carolyn Wright & Janet Hecht presenting the Arts Competition at Fine Arts Student Assembly in December, 2018.

On January 19th we also held a professional artists question and answer session with one of the fine arts classes at the school. Artists Lisa McNeill, an author of children's books, Brandon Tackett, a fashion and entertainment photographer, and Arzell Thompson, Jr., a painter and digital artist were on hand to share their stories with students and answer questions. The event was very well received by both the students and their instructors.



Q & A Session with Carolyn Wright & artists Lisa McNeill, Brandon Tackett, and Arzell Thompson, Jr.

The deadline for entries for the competition was January 31st. This was a juried competition with professional artists judging in each category.



The awards reception to announce the winners and to thank all the participants was held On February 26th, 2019. The event was held in the commons area at Central Gwinnett High School and was well attended by student entrants, parents, family, the LONA foundation, a reporter from the Gwinnett Citizen, local artists, and LWC club members. It included wonderful entertainment by local artists, Jocelyn "JRenee" Wason and Jennell "J Latoy" Smith. We were honored to have Nancy Gullickson in attendance. Nancy's work in the arts in Gwinnett County helped to set the stage for much of the influence of the arts we enjoy today. The best part of the evening was to see the smiles on the faces of the students who all received recognition for their work. Of course our 9 winners had the biggest smiles of all as well as the beaming faces of their family members! LWC Club members generously supplied and served wonderful refreshments that everyone enjoyed.

