



NEWS RELEASE

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2023 BCPS Film Expo honors 10 projects from 8 schools

Projects available online for public viewing

Towson, MD – What do drinking tea, being on the run, life as a slug, a horticulture class, and a daily routine have in common? They were just some of the subjects explored by the award-winning student films showcased at the [2023 BCPS Film Expo](#).

Held on May 16 at The Senator Theatre, the BCPS Film Expo is Baltimore County's largest student film competition. In its eighth year, the competition attracted 148 film and GIF entries from 27 schools, including the Virtual Learning Program. Ten films were selected as favorites by the competition judges and were awarded prizes. These [10 films](#) can be viewed online.

"BCPS values the arts as vital opportunities for our students to develop skills and express themselves," said BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams. "The annual film competition provides a wonderful platform for students from across the county to showcase their artistic vision and technical ability. I applaud our award winners and every student who submitted a film, and I thank their teachers and families."

The following prizes were awarded for 2023:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Animated GIF

Alexander Olive, Perry Hall Middle School – "The Melee"

Animation

Ashley Coyoy-Ixcot, Perry Hall Middle School – "A Memorable Routine"

Live-Action

Bryanna Taylor and Emmy London, Pine Grove Middle School – "The Life of Sunset"

HIGH SCHOOL

Animated GIF

Nathaniel Fink, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology – "Colorful Cube into Water"

Animation

Emma Plunkert, Hereford High School – "Tea Time"

Documentary

Wilson Liam Siegel, Dulaney High School – "The Art Of Conservation: EPISODE 1, The Horticulture Teacher"

Experimental

Melanie Saenz, Chesapeake High School – "Noise Cancellation"

Live Action

Katheryn Bell, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology – "The Fugitive"

Promotional

Viviana Staicu, Eastern Technical High School – "African Student Association Montage"

Short Form

Ajit Thapa Magar, Perry Hall High School – "Peaceful Scenery"

External judges for the 2023 competition were: Phil Davis, associate professor, digital art and animation, Towson University; David Egan, film and television editor and BCPS alumnus; Christopher Ernst, associate professor of film and moving image, Stevenson University; Vin Grabill, associate professor, emeritus, cinematic arts, UMBC; Jamie Gross, film and television editor; Chung Wei Huang, film director and professorial lecturer, American University; Steve Miller, artist and media professional; Tim Nohe, professor, visual arts, UMBC; and Jeff Otradovec, filmmaker/video instructor, The Sheffield Institute for the Recording Arts.

The 2023 Expo Committee was comprised of the following BCPS educators: Jason Adelung, Western School of Technology; Joel Baldwin, Perry Hall Middle School; Camille Gibson, BCPS Office of Visual Arts; Rebecca Meiller McCullagh, Eastern Technical High School; Brandon Nicklas, Lansdowne High School; Sam Tillman, Hereford High School; Ryan Twentey, BCPS Office of Visual Arts; and Rachel Valsing, Johnnycake Elementary School.

The Film Expo was sponsored by The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools, Inc., the BCPS Office of Visual Arts, and The Senator Theatre.

(Editor's Note: The 2023 film expo posters, designed by [Mercy Nwachukwu](#), a Parkville High School student, and [Stella Sanft](#), a Virtual Learning Program student, can be found on Flickr.)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 22nd largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).