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## ARTS COUNCIL OF JOHNSON COUNTY NAMES 2019 SHOOTING STARS PROGRAM FINALISTS

OVERLAND PARK, KS – December 11, 2018 – The Arts Council of Johnson County (ACJC) announces 101 finalists have been nominated for the 2019 Shooting Stars Awards. The Shooting Stars Program promotes the positive impact arts education has on our students by honoring student achievement in the literary, performing and visual arts, providing students with resources to help them achieve their creative career goals, awarding scholarships for college and supporting teachers with honorariums. Shooting Stars scholarship award recipients will be announced at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Shooting Stars Gala at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art and Yardley Hall, Johnson County Community College on Sunday, April 7, 2019.

“This special recognition program was created in 1997 by former ACJC chairman Bob Endres,” said Sarah VanLanduyt, ACJC Executive Director. “Bob’s vision was to create a program that celebrated young Johnson County artists for their artistic excellence in high school. Only the best of the best high school artists are chosen to participate in the Shooting Stars Program.”

Since its founding, the Shooting Stars program has awarded more than \$400,000 in college scholarships and \$65,000 in teacher honorariums. At the Shooting Stars Gala on April 7, 2019, nine first place scholarships of \$1,400 each, nine second place scholarships of \$700 each and nine teacher honorariums of \$350 each will be awarded. The program is supported by Johnson County and area foundations, corporations and individual donors.

Students are nominated by their Arts teachers for this recognition. Arts teachers from schools throughout Johnson County are invited to nominate students each year. Students who live in Johnson County but attend school outside of the county also may be nominated by their Arts teachers.

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To participate in Shooting Stars, students must meet these criteria:

- > be in the 12th grade and will graduate in the spring;
- > live in Johnson County, Kansas;
- > be nominated by an Arts teacher from their high school, and submit an application.

Nominations were accepted from October 11 – 22, 2018 and applications from October 11 – 24, 2018.

After being selected as a finalist, the high school seniors will audition or submit a portfolio of work for review by independent judges in the following categories.

Literature (7 finalists)

Photography (12 finalists)

Production and Design (8 finalists)

Strings (6 finalists)

Theatre Performance (16 finalists)

Three-Dimensional Art (9 finalists)

Two-Dimensional Art (20 finalists)

Voice Classical (11 finalists) and

Winds and Percussion (12 finalists)

"We live in a very analytical world, but creativity needs to be embraced more than ever. We wouldn't have innovators like Elon Musk or the late Steve Jobs without heightened creativity. Embarking on a professional career in the arts requires a degree of boldness and Shooting Stars recognizes young artists for just that! Bold creativity!" said Brian Williams, President of the Arts Council of Johnson County Board of Directors.

"Many Shooting Stars Finalists excel in science, technology, engineering, arts and math," added Sarah VanLanduyt, Arts Council of Johnson County Executive Director. "It's not uncommon for them to major in both the visual or performing arts and pre-med, architecture or engineering.

# 2019 Shooting Stars Program Finalists, Nominating Teacher and Schools

## **Literature**

Alice Wu nominated by Kat Buchanan, Blue Valley North High School

Larissa Gregory nominated by Phillip Hamilton, De Soto High School

Mellenie Redick nominated by Dawn Wilcox, Maranatha Academy

Elizabeth Joseph nominated by Peter Shull, Mill Valley High School

MJ Ferguson nominated by Deirdre Zongker, Olathe North High School

Angela Lombardino nominated by Amy Andersen, Shawnee Mission East High School

Miah Clark nominated by Caroline Ewing, Shawnee Mission South High School

## **Photography**

Anna Krutz nominated by Alison Crane, Blue Valley North High School

Katie Henry nominated by Melanie Mikel, Blue Valley Northwest High School

Elianna Oliver nominated by Sarah McKee, Blue Valley Southwest High School

Grace Dickerson nominated by Carla Roberts, Blue Valley West High School

Emma Leonard nominated by Tim Mispagel, De Soto High School

Kendall Rogers nominated by Michael Pesselato, Notre Dame de Sion High School

Esther Rose nominated by Melissa Sellers, Olathe East High School

Adam Peet nominated by Kathleen Bock, Olathe North High School

Megan Sauer nominated by Hattie Rolston, Olathe Northwest High School

Lindsay Goodmon nominated by Melinda Heaton, Shawnee Mission East High School

Abigail Roberts nominated by Kimberly Ruttan, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

Annie Barry nominated by Annie Barry, Shawnee Mission South High School

## **Production & Design**

Mallori Kabel nominated by Maureen Davis, Blue Valley High School

Christen Seyl nominated by Dan Schmidt, Blue Valley Southwest High School

Breanna Shelton nominated by Jeff Lady, Gardner-Edgerton High School

Emily Martin nominated by Dustin Pence, Olathe North High School

Blake Peery nominated by Tom Defeo, Shawnee Mission East High School

Bryanna Conde nominated by Chris Palmer, Shawnee Mission North High School

Ashley Hays nominated by Ashley Hays, Shawnee Mission South High School

### **Strings**

Jordan Proctor nominated by Brian Scott, Gardner-Edgerton High School

Caroline Shipley nominated by Greg Ferguson, Olathe South High School

William Wei nominated by Stephen Phalp, Blue Valley North High School

Allison Siegwald nominated by Andrew Book, Blue Valley West High School

Stuart Hanson nominated by Adam Keda, Shawnee Mission East High School

Catherine Steinacker nominated by Jeffrey Bishop, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

### **Theatre Performance**

Zoey Johnson nominated by Edward Shafer, Olathe East High School

Ashley Strella nominated by Dustin Pence, Olathe North High School

Braden Funk nominated by Maureen Davis, Blue Valley High School

Kaitlin Duncan nominated by Dan Freeman, Blue Valley North High School

Alexandra Marshall nominated by Sarah Cronkleton-Kidd, De Soto High School

Logan Peralez nominated by Jeff Lady, Gardner-Edgerton High School

Morgan Wilcox nominated by Ted Hanlon, Maranatha Academy

Noah Smith nominated by Jon Copeland, Mill Valley High School

Avery Williamson nominated by Robin Murphy, Olathe Northwest High School

Jordan DeLeon nominated by David Hastings, Olathe South High School

Grace Hawkins nominated by Alisha Morris, Olathe West High School

Sophia Egan nominated by Brian Cappello, Shawnee Mission East High

Marcus Merritt nominated by Sydney Kohart, Shawnee Mission North High School

Devyn Trondson nominated by Jason Coats, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

Leah Lissauer nominated by Mark Swezey, Shawnee Mission South High School

### **Three Dimension Art**

Sophia Maher nominated by Carly Kimbrough, Blue Valley Northwest High School

Samantha McCoy nominated by Tim Mispagel, De Soto High School

Kara Groshong nominated by Barb McCormick, Gardner-Edgerton High School

Kysn Paepke nominated by Lisa Hirsch, Olathe Northwest High School

Rylee Jorgensen nominated by Scott Ledbetter, Olathe West High School

Carolyn Simpson nominated by Carolyn Simpson, Shawnee Mission East High School

Jillian Macek nominated by David Hunt, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

Katherine Horner nominated by Cortney Dougherty, Shawnee Mission South High School

Grace Coleman nominated by Lisa Dibble, St. Teresa's Academy

### **Two Dimensional Art**

Keaton Buchert nominated by Mark Mosier, Blue Valley High School

Julia Marks nominated by Tom Holland, Blue Valley North High School

Allison Park nominated by Chris LaValley, Blue Valley Northwest High School

Nada Bayazid nominated by Emily Patterson, Blue Valley Southwest High School

Lucy Sun nominated by Debra Waldorf, Blue Valley West High School

Abigail Smith nominated by Tim Mispagel, De Soto High School

Long Vo nominated by Toni Britt, Gardner-Edgerton High School

Allen Vilchis nominated by Erica Crist, Mill Valley High School

Olivia Weise nominated by Michael Pesselato, Notre Dame de Sion High School

Ryan Middleton nominated by Catherine Bloomer, Olathe North High School

Mackenzie Klaus nominated by Abbey Thomas, Olathe Northwest High School

Bennett Junkins nominated by Bennett Junkins, Olathe South High School

Erin Bailey nominated by Connie Creek, Pembroke Hill Upper School

Abigail Meyer nominated by Anna Johnson, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School  
Lily Murray nominated by Adam Finkelston, Shawnee Mission East High School  
Zoie Mehl nominated by Stephanie Dalley, Shawnee Mission North High School  
Lauren Macek nominated by Melissa Terryberry, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School  
Fernanda Fregozo nominated by Fernanda Torres, Shawnee Mission South High School  
Evi Heinen nominated by Abby Stallbaumer, Spring Hill High School

### **Voice Classical**

Dmitry Tyshlek nominated by Beth Richey-Sullivan, Blue Valley Northwest High School  
Ryan Henn nominated by Pamela Williamson, Olathe Northwest High School  
Alyssa Marks nominated by Derek Cross, Shawnee Mission West High School  
Luke Oldroyd nominated by Marsha Moeller, Blue Valley High School  
Olivia Schmidt nominated by Jason Sickel, Blue Valley North High School  
Cap Kelly nominated by Kimberly Modelski, Blue Valley West High School  
Riley Buck nominated by Kelli Baker, Gardner-Edgerton High School  
Sarah Slightom nominated by Garrett Epp, Olathe North High School  
Pete Elbert nominated by Sam Anderson, Rockhurst High School  
McKenna Neef nominated by Joe Heidesch, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School  
Ava Hauser nominated by Cassie Banion, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

### **Winds & Percussion**

Tyler Aho nominated by Laura Bock, Blue Valley Southwest High School  
Maddie Cain nominated by Patrick McCarty, Olathe North High School  
Evelyn Cheung nominated by Evelyn Cheung, Blue Valley West High School  
Maxwell Sahhar nominated by Maxwell Sahhar, Olathe Northwest High School  
Katherine Long nominated by Will Biggs, Gardner-Edgerton High School  
Jenna Stokes nominated by Chad Coughlin, Olathe South High School  
Nicholas Velicer nominated by Steve Adams, Shawnee Mission South High School  
Hannah Thurlby nominated by Adam Lundine, Blue Valley Northwest High School 8788 Metcalf Ave., Ste

Evan Kappelman nominated by Jeff Smikahl, Olathe East High School

Daniel Smith nominated by Matt Bradford, De Soto High School

Benjamin Crocker nominated by Ben Crocker, Blue Valley North High School

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