

**Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34)**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Annual 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Student**  
**Saturday, April 19, 2008**

“Good morning and welcome to the 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Student Art Competition.

Let me begin by thanking Norma Roque for returning as our Mistress of Ceremonies and for her support and dedication to our youth.

Norma, you are truly a role model and an inspiration to our students. Let's give her a big round of applause.

This year's art competition is especially exciting because we're celebrating an amazing milestone – 15 years of showcasing the artistic talents of high school students from the 34<sup>th</sup> congressional district.

In 1994, the first year of the Art Competition, we had only 17 entries.

Today, for our milestone fifteenth anniversary, we have 160 entries representing 11 high schools.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Art Competition is a very special event because it provides our high school students with a wonderful opportunity to express their creativity and showcase their talent.

It also provides an opportunity for us to support and encourage our art teachers who are experiencing diminishing public funds and drastic cuts to many school budgets.

I especially want to acknowledge Debbie Hoover of Ellis Paint Company. Debbie has done a phenomenal job as Chair for the past two years.

Debbie, I truly appreciate all of your hard work and commitment to the youth of the 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. ***(Present flowers)***

I also sincerely thank the committee members, the sponsors, the many volunteers and my staff especially Veronica Flores who worked so hard to make today's student art competition a success. Veronica please come up to the stage and be recognized. ***(Present flowers)***

Thank you also to our Chair Emeritus and photographer, Alycia Enciso for the many years she has dedicated to the art competition.

As we all know, our youth benefit immensely from the arts. Art helps develop their self esteem and it helps enhance our youth's academic, emotional, and creative development.

As the great global language, the arts help us gain a deeper sense of our common humanity.

Our 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Student Art Competition also inspires all of us who are awed by the talent of our students.

When I read the finalists' quotes in the program book about what this contest has meant to them, I am always moved by their experiences, which serve as a constant reminder of how important it is to invest in the arts as an academic subject as well as a catalyst for personal and social empowerment.

Students, congratulations for participating in this year's competition.

You continue to motivate and inspire me as I know you motivate and inspire our sponsors who provide the financial support to make today so special; the committee members, who spend countless hours organizing the event and working with local artists in judging a very difficult competition and your teachers, who guide and encourage you to follow your dreams and make it possible for you to participate in today's event.

I know it can take courage to share your art with the rest of the world, so I'm very proud of you for participating!

In addition to being proud and honored to represent a district filled with so many gifted students, inspirational teachers, and community-minded organizations and businesses, I am proud and honored to represent you, the parents.

Parents, it is you who lay the foundation needed for your children to succeed.

Your nurturing love motivates your children and helps them to realize their full potential. I commend you for being their inspiration.

Will all of the parents and family members please stand?

Let's give all the parents and families a big round of applause.

Again congratulations to all of the students and thank you all for being here in support of our students' and the 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Student Art Competition."

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