



**Item:**

Speak Your Piece Art Contest – Announcing winner Jaden Alfonzo, runner up Francheska Melendez, and second runner-up Lea Sanchez

**Requested Action:**

The Board is asked to receive the information and recognize the winner, runners-up and their guests.

**Background:**

In September 2024, the Children's Trust of Alachua County launched a contest for high school art submissions, titled "Speak Your Piece." The participants were asked to create any form of 2-D art that depicts a theme of anti-violence or peace. The prizes were announced as follows:

- 1st place: \$500, feature on the cover of the 2024 Children's Trust annual report and placed on display at the Children's Trust office.
- 2nd place: \$250 and on display at the Children's Trust office
- 3rd place: \$100 and on display at the Children's Trust office.

High school art teachers collected the submissions over six weeks, selecting their top two or three for the judging process. Artwork was submitted from five schools, with 11 total that moved on to the judging phase.

Three judges, professors from the UF College of Arts, then scored the works on a scale of 1-5 based on the following criteria: Originality, Composition, Degree of Difficulty, Interpretation of Theme, and Overall Impression. The judges' top five were then displayed for Children's Trust staff to vote for their top three picks. In the end, the staff selected the same top three as the judges.

Jaden Alfonzo, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader from First Christian Academy in High Springs, created the watercolor that was selected for first place. Francheska Melendez, an 11th grader from Eastside High School, created a digital artwork that placed second. Lea Sanchez, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader from Lofton High School, created a charcoal drawing that placed third.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$850

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval