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VENICE

Venice Arts honored by President's Committee on Arts and Humanities

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The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities has recognized the art mentoring program of Venice Arts as one of the top programs of its kind in the country.

Venice Arts is among 50 organizations nationwide to be honored as a finalist for the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards, which promote the creativity of America's young people and celebrate the learning opportunities that arts programs provide to the community.

"These outstanding programs are expanding horizons, changing lives, and helping young people fulfill their dreams — across America and around the world," First Lady Michelle Obama, honorary chair of the President's Committee, said in a statement. "Each of these programs is using achievement in the arts and humanities as a bridge to achievement in life."

Venice Arts offers education and mentoring programs in documentary photography, filmmaking and multimedia primarily targeting low-income youths.

One Venice Arts student who said the organization has opened up many opportunities for her is 16-year-old Jocelyn Ramirez. With the support of her Venice Arts' artist-mentor, Ramirez received full scholarships to the Lycee Franaise High School, Idyllwild Arts Camp, and the California State Summer School for the Arts.

An Advanced Studies student, Ramirez has worked as a Venice Arts youth art intern, editing film, assisting in the gallery, and mentoring younger students.

Venice Arts will celebrate its students and achievements, including this most recent honor, at a gala benefit on Sunday, Nov. 6 at The William Turner Gallery at Bergamot Station in Santa Monica.

The event will showcase outstanding student work and honor individuals who have been key to Venice Arts over the years, including founding board member Dr. V. Joy Simmons, volunteer artist-mentor Wynn Miller, and Venice Arts supporters Steven Oritt and The Selma Oritt Foundation.

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