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## Venice Arts Gets National Recognition

The group's mentoring program is a finalist for the 2011 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award.

By [Paul M. J. Suchecki](#) [Email the author](#) September 16, 2011 [Print](#)

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The [White House announced](#) last week that [Venice Arts'](#) mentoring program was one of 50 finalists for the 2011 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, which recognizes programs that bring arts and humanities learning opportunities to young people.

Since 1993, thousands of children between 10 and 18 years old have participated in the program. Professional artists across a range of disciplines teach small classes on photography, animation, writing, comics and documentary filmmaking. As students approach college, portfolio development, help with school applications and professional internships are offered. Best of all, the program is free to low income families.

The Youth Program Award would come with organizational support during the succeeding year, as well as a \$10,000 grant and the opportunity to visit the White House and accept the award from first lady Michelle Obama.

"These outstanding programs are expanding horizons, changing lives and helping young people fulfill their dreams—across America and around the world. Each of these programs is using achievement in the arts and humanities as a bridge to achievement in life," [Obama said](#).

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