



NEWS RELEASE

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2021 BCPS Film Expo honors 12 projects from 9 schools

Available online for public viewing

Towson, MD – The sense of community in a dance company. Daily morning rituals. The sense of isolation created by the pandemic. The enduring legacy of a family home. A bedroom magically tidying itself. The creativity teachers employ to teach virtually. Those are just a few of the subjects explored by the award-winning films in this year’s [Baltimore County Public Schools Film Expo](#).

In its sixth year, the BCPS Film Expo is Baltimore County’s largest student film competition, receiving more than 130 entries from two dozen schools. In lieu of an in-person screening, this year organizers hosted an online festival featuring winning films and commentary from expo judges. The entire presentation can be seen online from the [BCPS Livestream page](#).

“Our students always impress me with their creativity, determination, and intelligence,” said BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams. “Many thanks to our educators for teaching the skills demonstrated in these films and for encouraging student participation. The Film Expo is a BCPS tradition that continues to grow in size and relevance.”

The following prizes were awarded for 2021:

Live Action Narrative

Ruben Aquino, Eastern Technical High School, “Before”

Animation (3-way tie)

Ray Aoki, Anna Franz, Lilia Halberda, Sienna Lindamood, Izzy Reed, Daniel Schneider, and Joyce Zheng, Towson High School, “Corona Crush”

Kendall Smolenski, Perry Hall High School, "House on Erdman Ave."

Crystal Sumah, Perry Hall High School, "Demo Reel"

Documentary

Hailey Greaves, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, "My life in 4:22"

Experimental

Kara Edington, Carver Center, "Lost Within"

Middle School (2-way tie)

Yehna Kim, Ridgely Middle School, "A Crow's Melody"

Ryan Quentin Beveridge II, Perry Hall Middle School, "Transitions"

Promotional

Bailey Pruitt, Lansdowne High School, "Dance Company"

Short Form

Varun Khushalani, Dulaney High School, "A Day in the Life"

Teacher Demo

David Roy, Perry Hall Middle School, "Mr. Roy, the Chorus Guy"

GIF

Abigail Maffezzoli, Hereford High School, "Social Distancing"

The 2021 Expo Committee was led by co-coordinators Brandon Nicklas of Lansdowne High and Sam Tillman of Hereford High. Committee members are Rachel Valsing, Towson High; Khalid Ali, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology; Rebecca Mieller-McCullagh, Eastern Technical High; Jason Adelung, Western School of Technology; Kathryn Knight, Parkville Middle; Joel Baldwin, Perry Hall Middle; Sarah Deacon, Perry Hall Middle; and Alex Garove, Owings Mills High.

External judges for the competition were David Egan, film and television editor and BCPS alum, Los Angeles; Christopher Ernst, associate professor of film and moving image, Stevenson University; Jamie

Gross, film and television editor, Los Angeles; Meghan Marx, assistant professor of art and visual community design; Stevenson University; Jenee Mater, chair of art and design, Towson University; George Moore, professor of graphic design, Stevenson University; Nate Sager, director of admissions, The Sheffield Institute for the Recording Arts; and Doug Tomecek, owner, Musitech Studios.

(Editor's note – The 2021 film expo poster, designed by Jasmin Bedlu of Eastern Technical High School, accompanies this release.)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).