



SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

*Bringing the World's Best to Houston*

## ***Press Release***

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Calling All Student Visual Artists!**

### **SPA Accepting Entries for 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Wells Fargo Student Visual Art Contest**

#### **This Year's Contest Theme, "Beyond your own Cityscape: Illuminate your Dreams," Inspired by the Broadway Production of *Cirque Dreams Illumination***

HOUSTON (Dec. 10, 2009) — Society for the Performing Arts (SPA), bringing the world's best to Houston, is pleased to present the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Wells Fargo Student Visual Art Contest. The Visual Art Contest offers ALL kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the greater Houston area a chance to showcase their talents and win prizes, while learning more about the performing arts.

Titled "Beyond your own Cityscape: Illuminate your Dreams," this year's Visual Art Contest is being held in conjunction with Gexa Energy Broadway Across America-Houston's presentation of *Cirque Dreams Illumination*. Created and directed by Neil Goldberg, *Cirque Dreams Illumination* is a story of passion and fortitude and has been hailed by the *New York Daily News* as "Dazzling!... a reason to stand up and cheer." Audience members of all ages will marvel and experience a journey of city dwellers who reinvent everyday objects, balance beyond belief, delicately dangle from wires, leap tall buildings and redefine the risks of flight in an array of astounding occurrences that transform the ordinary into extraordinary. Urban acrobatics, musical mayhem, dynamic dancing and bright illusions are ignited by special effects and an original musical score of jazz, ballroom, pop and beats from the street. The show runs from Feb. 23 – March 7, at The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts.

All submitted artwork will be judged on creativity, skill and interpretation of the theme "Beyond your own Cityscape: Illuminate your Dreams." Visual art on paper, including photography, is permitted with a maximum size of 16 in. x 20 in. Entries may be matted or unmatted. SPA requires one entry per student and one artist per entry. Students may submit artwork themselves or teachers may submit students' artwork on their behalf. Please include the following information on the back of the artwork: title of work, student's name, grade, address, telephone number and e-mail, as well as the school name and address, teacher's name, telephone number and e-mail.

## 2009-10 VISUAL ART CONTEST/ADD 2

The deadline for all entries is Friday, Feb. 12, 2010, at 7 p.m. Visual Art Contest entries may be delivered in person or mailed to Society for the Performing Arts; Attention: Education Department; Jones Hall; 615 Louisiana St.; Suite 100; Houston, TX 77002.

Winners will be announced on Friday, Feb. 19. Senior contest winners will be awarded scholarships ranging from \$400 to \$1000. One Best of Show graduating high school senior will be awarded a \$1000 scholarship. A Special Merit graduating high school senior will be awarded a \$400 scholarship. Senior first, second and third place winners will be awarded scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$750. Two of the senior scholarships were donated by SPA Board members Miguel Espinosa and his wife Mary, and Michael H. Sultanik and his wife Dinah.

First, second and third place winners in grades K-11 receive savings bonds ranging from \$50 to \$500. All first, second and third place winners will receive a museum membership provided by various local museums. First place winners for grades K-11 will receive a scholarship to the Glassell Junior School, MFAH.

All winners, including the honorable mention recipients, will receive a gift of art supplies and tickets to see *Cirque Dreams Illumination* provided by SPA and Gexa Energy Broadway Across America-Houston. For more information regarding SPA's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Wells Fargo Student Visual Art Contest, visit [www.spahouston.org](http://www.spahouston.org) or call 713-632-8102.

### **About Society for the Performing Arts**

Founded in 1966, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) is the largest independent non-profit presenting organization in the Southwest. Since its inception, SPA has sponsored more than 850 performances of the world's finest music, dance and theater events, in adherence to the belief that the arts are fundamental to the overall enrichment and quality of life within the community. In addition to presenting artists, SPA seeks to provide a variety of learning experiences for adults and children through master classes, lectures and special student performances, as well as build relationships between the performing arts and other interests within the greater Houston area and throughout the state of Texas.

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