

Norton to Kick Off Annual Congressional Art Competition- October 19, 2006

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Washington, DC--Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) will announce a new and exciting feature at the kick-off of the 26th Annual National Congressional Art Competition on Friday, October 20, 2006 at 2 pm at Stuart-Hobson Middle School located at 410 E Street, NE. D.C. Schools Superintendent Clifford Janey will join Norton at the student assembly. She will announce that for the first time 8th graders at all D.C. public and private schools will be able to submit their work to the competition, and the reasons why 8th graders are being included and its importance. Until this year, the national competition was limited to grades 9 through 12.

The Congresswoman will be a part of a unique program that will be conducted in both English and Spanish to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and will expose Stuart-Hobson students to Latino culture from around the world, using music, art, dance, and speakers. Students will perform traditional dances and songs they have learned in Spanish, and will receive educational materials and other information on Hispanic heritage. Norton praised the program's organizer, Russell Edwards, an 8th grade Spanish teacher at Stuart-Hobson and a member of the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee, which sponsors the local contest in conjunction with Norton.

Artwork created by the District's first place winner will be displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol along with other first place winners from across the country. Several top D.C. entries will receive scholarships, U.S. Savings Bonds, merit citations, gift certificates, and other prizes. A scholarship of \$200 will be awarded to the 8th grade winner from Stuart-Hobson Middle School, as selected by the school.

Last year the competition received 230 artwork submissions from 170 students representing 20 public and private D.C. schools. In May, the students got to display their creations and Norton presented awards and prizes to the winners at a program at the Phillips Collection. Competition categories included painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, photography, and computer-generated art. Artwork was judged by a panel of distinguished artists and curators.

"I am impressed with the talent revealed in the work District high school students submit to this competition,"

Norton said. "This year, I am making a special effort to reach out to 8th graders, beginning by going to Hobson myself." Norton said she particularly appreciated the hard work of the volunteer D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee and the support of sponsors, whose donations of scholarships and prizes encourage young people to compete and to value their artistic talents. She said that the public schools, especially the arts faculty, have been very helpful.

Teachers, students and parents can call the Norton office at 202-783-5065 to get information about guidelines and deadlines for the art competition.