



Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Greetings Dear Friend:

On behalf of the Treasure Coast (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, I am pleased to announce The Links, Incorporated's **2023-2024 Young Master Writers and Artists Competition (YMWAC) Pilot Program**. This program provides our youth with an opportunity to reflect on a theme that is important to our community, creatively respond to the theme, and compete for cash awards and recognition. In addition, the top 4 local winners of the **Young Master Writers and Artists Competition** will be entered into the **National 2023-2024 Young Master Writers and Artists Competition** sponsored by The Links, Incorporated.

Our goal is to encourage creative artistic excellence for students between grades 9 and 12. We want to expand and enhance partnerships with schools, churches, and other community organizations to reach more students. We ask you to help us by spreading the word. The Young Master Writers and Artists Competition Pilot Program seeks entries of original and unpublished works in the genres of poetry, prose, music, dance and drama/spoken word.

The Links, Incorporated consists of more than 17,000 professional women of African descent 299 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and the United Kingdom. It is one of the oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. Our Young Master Writers and Artists Competition Pilot Program helps us achieve this mission.

Please see the attached competition materials for an overview and competition requirements. The 2023-2024 *Young Master Writers and Artists Competition Pilot Program* is already underway and **final submissions are due Friday, February 16th, 2024**, to showcase at The Black Family Wellness Expo held at the Gifford Youth Center on March 2, 2024! Please feel free to contact me at nirlainesmartt@gmail.com or 772-215-8720 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Nirlaine Tallandier Smartt, Esq.
Arts Chair

The target population for this competition is African American high school students and other high school students of African ancestry. Participants will feature their original and unpublished works of poetry and prose, dance, music, and drama in partnership with schools, libraries, places of worship, Greek organizations, and other community organizations.

The submission must align with the National Social Action Initiatives of The Links, Incorporated, which include:

➤ **Link Up the Vote! (Voter Education, Registration and Mobilization)**

Link Up the Vote (LUTV) is the official national voting initiative of The Links, Incorporated led by the national social action committee within the National Trends and Services Facet. LUTV activates during local municipal, state and federal election cycles and national policy issues per the approval of the National President.



The mission of LUTV is to ensure equitable access to the voting process, amplify underrepresented voices of African Americans and people of the African diaspora, and cultivate a culture of informed and active citizenship. LUTV envisions a nation where every citizen, regardless of background or circumstance, is inspired and equipped to participate in the democratic process.

➤ **Police Reform (The Links Police Engagement And Community Education (PEACE) Program)**

➤ **Principles of the Black Lives Matters Movement**

➤ **Prevention of Human Trafficking**

➤ **Environmental Justice (EJ)**

EJ is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” • EJ is achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/>



YMWAC Rules and Guidelines

- ❖ Eligibility: Students in grades 9-12
- ❖ Submissions of **original and unpublished work** in one or more of the following areas will be accepted. Include short thematic descriptions/prompts with each poetry, prose, dance, music, and drama work.
 - Poetry: Submission must include a collection of three poems
 - Essays: Three pages maximum (No biographies or research papers)
 - Short Stories: Maximum word count of 750
 - Dance: Maximum of three-minute dance performance of any genre
 - Music: Maximum of three-minute instrumental or vocal performance
 - Drama: Maximum of three-minute skit/monologue/Spoken Word performance
- ❖ **WORKS WITH PROFANITY OR SEXUAL CONTENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**
- ❖ Instructions for completing Poetry and Prose entries:
 - Must be typed in Microsoft Word (no biographies or term papers)
 - Times New Roman, Size 12 Font with one-inch margins all around
 - Page: Letter-8 ½ x 11; black type; double spaced. Poetry may be single spaced
 - Contestant's name must be typed in the top right corner of each page
 - Each page must be numbered. Cover pages are not required.
- ❖ Instructions for completing Dance, Music, and Drama entries
 - Transmitted via video upload; mp4; resolution to 720p
 - Time: maximum of three (3) minutes
 - Entries may be submitted by an individual or by a group
- ❖ A completed Permission to Publish and Teacher/Program Coordinator/Adult Sponsor Verification Form must accompany all entries.

❖ Submission Entry Deadline: **Friday, February 16th, 2024**



LINKS INCORPORATED YOUNG MASTER WRITERS & ARTISTS COMPETITION

**A National Arts Pilot Program
THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ENTRY**

Permission to Publish

I hereby give The Links, Incorporated the right to publish my submission of poetry, prose, dance, music, or drama/spoken word to the Links Incorporated Young Master Writers & Artists Program Competition on the internet or in a publication of choice.

Title of Submitted Work(s): _____

Student Name: _____ Grade Level _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Links Chapter: **Treasure Coast (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated**

Links Contact Person and Email: **Nirlaine Tallandier Smartt, Esq., nirlainesmartt@gmail.com**

Guardian's Consent

I am the parent and/or the legal guardian of the above-named minor and hereby consent to the use of the submitted work as noted above. I affirm that I have the legal right to give such consent. **

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Media Release

****By applying to this competition, I grant The Links, Incorporated, permission to use my/my child's name to attribute the performance/written submissions properly and publicly to me/my child.**

In addition, I grant The Links, Incorporated, the irrevocable and unrestricted right to use and publish biographical materials, photographs, quotation, and other relevant materials on about me/my child, which I may provide, or in which I/my child may be included. These materials may be published in Links publications, electronic reproductions (web and multimedia), and/or promotional materials, or for any other purpose and in any manner or medium. I grant my permission to The Links, Incorporated, to alter the same without restrictions; and to copyright the same in their publications.

I hereby release the photographer and The Links, Incorporated, from all claims and liability relating to said photographs and other materials.

This agreement shall be binding upon and insure to the benefit of the parties, their successors, assigns, and personal representatives.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Applicant Signature (If age 18 or over): _____

Parent Signature (If applicant is under 18): _____

The student retains ownership of his/her works. The Links, Incorporated is given the right to use and publish the work(s)!