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Breathe California - Golden Gate Public Health Partnership Announces Finalists for the 5th annual “Clear the Air Film Fest”
Student film festival will screen 12 films in landmark anniversary year.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 28, 2016) — Breathe California Golden Gate announces the finalists of the 5th annual Clear the Air Film Fest. All 12 of the finalist’s films will be screened on March 5, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the New People Cinema in San Francisco, where the winners of the “Best Middle School Film” and “Best High School Film” prizes will be announced. An “Audience Favorite Award” and an “Overall Festival Winner Award” will also be awarded that evening. The Film Fest, now in its fifth year, strives to inspire young people to be a voice for their community and lend their unique perspectives to important environmental health issues, using film as a medium for change. For the 2016 Film Fest, Breathe California will award $500 to one Middle School film and $1,000 to one High School film and, for the first time this year, will also award a $500 prize to the Best General Public Film.

“For the past 5 years, the “Clear the Air Film Fest” has provided a platform for the youth in our community to express themselves through film. The festival encourages them to use film as a medium for creative expression and to educate their peers and the general public on environmental and health issues that affect everyone in their community,” said Breathe California Golden Gate President and CEO Tanya Stevenson, EdD, MPH. “We are thrilled to have the opportunity to nurture these young voices and encourage them to share their messages with diverse audiences year-round. Youth are the key to new lung and environmental health solutions.”

As the 5th anniversary approaches, past winners and contestants have expressed their excitement and gratitude for the event, and are being invited to join in the celebration at the screening on March 5. “It was a whole different experience seeing our film on the big screen. After the screening, some audience members told us how much our film moved them and thanked us for sharing a different perspective,” said Joey Montoya a student of San Jose State University, winner of the College Prize at the 2015 Film Fest. “Clear the Air Film Fest was our first film festival, and it’s inspired us to continue pursuing filmmaking. We’re already working on another film!”

Six judges will select the finalists from the film submissions based on a variety of criteria: creativity & originality, messaging, content and technical quality. The 2016 panel of judges include Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, 15 year old indigenous climate activist, hip-hop artist and global youth environmental leader; Louis Fox, a trained filmmaker and co-founder of a values-based communication Firm –Free Range Studios; Pablo Gomez, a student of UC Berkeley, returns for his second year as a judge; Christopher Ndubuizu who offers his knowledge of tobacco use prevention and lung health; Carol McGruder, who will lend her experience in the fields of tobacco control, social marketing, media advocacy, and health education; and educator and filmmaker Sonia Elena Ortega.
The 2016 Finalists are:

**Middle School Category:**
- *Claymation Film* by Malachi Del Rosario and Emily Fitzgerald
- *Climate Change Movie* by Alex Lira and Josh Campbell
- *Columbus Discovers Air Pollution* by Zelda Zivny, Milo Wetherall, and Charlie Millenbah
- *Plastic Bottles* by Satchel Martin, David Conti, and Elijah Cotapos
- *Stopping Climate Change with Solar* by JJ Svenson, Elijah Geduldig, Owen Winger, and Owen Shea
- *Walk to School* by Mitchell Rusitzky

**High School Category:**
- *Breathless* by Bryan Bodenlos
- *Drowned* by Jack Phillips, Erick Liu, Andy Wang
- *Green Teen 2k15* by Kaitlyn Morrison
- *Rapid Transit* by Adam Geiser and Aaren Stade

**General Public Category:**
- General Public 2nd Place: *Bike Party* by David Chai
- General Public 1st Place: *Growing Resistance* by Shadia Fayne Wood

The films offer a wide range of perspectives on the topics of lung health, climate change and air pollution and provide insight on important issues from a unique perspective.

**CALENDAR**

**WHO:** Open to public

**WHAT:** Clear the Air Film Fest

**WHERE:** Tickets to the screening can be purchased online at [www.classy.org/cleartheair2016](http://www.classy.org/cleartheair2016)

**WHEN:** March 5th, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** Free for students! Adults $25.

**INFO:** events@ggbreathe.org or [www.cleartheairfilmfest.org](http://www.cleartheairfilmfest.org)

Breathe California Golden Gate

Breathe California is dedicated to fighting lung disease, advocating for clean air and promoting public health in our local communities. Since 1908, we have addressed the most serious health threats of our time through grassroots programs that empower individual, institutional and community change for better breathing and healthier living. To learn more, please visit [www.ggbreathe.org](http://www.ggbreathe.org).

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