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Breathe California announces recipients of $2,100 in prizes at the 5th Annual Clear the Air Film Fest showcasing youth filmmakers

Record-breaking year recognizes 10 student-produced films

San Francisco, CA (March 21, 2016) – On Saturday, March 5th, local nonprofit Breathe California Golden Gate presented the 5th annual Clear the Air Film Fest at San Francisco’s New People Cinema. After receiving a record-breaking 730 submissions, judges selected 10 youth films and two general public films which were screened to a nearly sold out cinema. The films addressed issues relating to the environment and lung health. In addition to screening the finalists’ films, winners of each Film Fest category, based on scores assigned by the Film Fest judges, were announced live. Breathe California awarded $2,100 in prizes to the winners of the festival including Middle School, High School, General Public. The newly created Audience Favorite award was selected by the audience the night of the screening, and the winners were awarded a Breathe California gift bag and a $300 gift certificate from BorrowLenses. The evening culminated with the announcement of the Festival Winner, the film which received the highest scores from the judges. The Festival winner’s film will be screened at the San Francisco Green Film Festival in April.

The 2016 Winning Films:

Middle School Category | “Columbus Discovers Air Pollution” by Zelda Zivny, Milo Wetherall, and Charlie Millenbah

Middle School Category, Runner Up | “Walk to School” by Mitchell Rusitzky

High School Category | “Breathless” by Bryan Bodenlos and Ben Howley

General Public Category 1st Place | “Growing Resistance” by The Survival Media Agency: Daniela Camino, Shadia Fayne Wood, Helena Gonzalez, Bunker Seyfert, and Erin Whitson

General Public Category 2nd Place | “Bike Party” by Green Ninja: Eric Anderson, David Chai, Alejandro Garcia, Brian Kistler, Revathi Kotni, Mark Sho, Keith Silva, Paul Yula, and The English Language (Music Group)

Audience Favorite Award | “Columbus Discovers Air Pollution” by Zelda Zivny, Milo Wetherall, and Charlie Millenbah

Festival Winner | “Breathless” by Bryan Bodenlos and Ben Howley
“We are humbled by the enormous response our Film Fest has received in its 5th anniversary year, both from young artists who submitted films, and the community who attended the screening and supported these extraordinary artists,” said Breathe California President and CEO, Tanya Stevenson, EdD, MPH.

“The message of these films is clear: young people are aware of the environmental and lung health challenges we face today and they see the clear relationship between air quality and their health. They do not accept the status quo and they are ready to change the world. We are honored to provide them this platform to share their voices and enact change.”

Now in its 5th year, the Clear the Air Film Fest inspires and empowers students to become advocates for change in their own communities, through the medium of film. All of the finalist’s films are available to stream online on the Breathe California YouTube Channel, extending the reach of the films.

Since 1908, Breathe California, Golden Gate Public Health Partnership and its predecessors have worked to reduce the impact of lung disease through direct service, advocacy and research that creates individual, institutional and community change for better breathing and better living. To learn more, please contact (650) 994-5868 or visit www.ggbreathe.org.

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