

# Staten Island fifth-graders honored for artwork | In Class column

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**IN CLASS:** *This feature is part of an ongoing education column highlighting the various activities that engage school communities.*

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Some Staten Island fifth-grade students were recognized earlier this month for their artistic contributions to the Staten Island Board of Realtors' (SIBOR) 2022 Fair Housing Calendar.

Members of SIBOR were joined by Rep. Nicole Malliotakis and local business owners at Rab's Country Lanes, Dongan Hills, on Jan. 16 to celebrate the local students who placed as winners, or received honorable mentions, in the art competition focused on fair housing.

Amy Yao, a fifth-grader at PS 56, Rossville, is joined by Rosanne La Fata, chair of SIBOR'S Diversity Committee, as she displays her original artwork on the front cover of the Realtor organization's Fair Housing Calendar. (Courtesy/SIBOR)

The students received a universal gift card and were praised for their work by: SIBOR CEO Sandy Krueger; SIBOR President Francis (Frank) J. Rizzo; Rosanne La Fata, chair of the organization's Diversity Committee, and Malliotakis, who prepared a personalized Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for each of the students.

"Young children practice diversity, equity and inclusion naturally," Krueger said. "As adults, we need to reinforce the values that have made our country what it is. Fair housing is an ongoing mission that we hope these children will support as they continue to develop."

Frank Wilkinson, proprietor of Rab's Country Lanes in Dongan Hills, joins Rep. Nicole Malliotakis and 2022 SIBOR President Francis (Frank) J. Rizzo in celebrating the accomplishments of students who participated in the creation of SIBOR'S 2022 Fair Housing Calendar. (Courtesy/SIBOR)

## NEW SANITATION INITIATIVE FOR STUDENTS

The Sanitation Foundation, the official non-profit partner of the city Department of Sanitation (DSNY), announced two new initiatives to promote sustainability in schools — [Follow Your Waste](#), a game that shows kids 8 and older the journey trash takes through

the invisible inner workings of our city, and the [Follow Your Waste Prize](#), a prize of up to \$1,000 in new funds to spend on sustainability in schools.

“There’s no such place as ‘away,’ and every item thrown away goes somewhere. The Sanitation Foundation is proud to be sharing this journey with New York’s youngest sustainability advocates, and to be supporting school Green Teams and other projects through the Follow Your Waste prize,” said Julie Raskin, executive director of the Sanitation Foundation.

When playing Follow Your Waste, users can learn how to sort their trash and recycling, and where it goes after it’s collected. Along the way, users learn behind-the-scenes facts about the workings of DSNY, the nation’s largest municipal solid waste and sustainability agency. The game is available in English, Spanish and Chinese.

The game is accompanied by a “Meet the Workers” section, introducing users to the faces behind DSNY — the 10,000 people who remove 12,000 tons of trash and recycling from the streets each day — as well as a set of free curricula for educators of grades four to 12 that align to state learning standards.

For the Follow Your Waste Prize, DSNY and the Sanitation Foundation will award \$1,000 in the spring to city K-12 public schools that participate in the new game and commit to a waste diversion project. [You can go here for more details.](#)

The Follow Your Waste program was developed in partnership with the NYC Department of Sanitation’s Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability’s Schools Unit, housed within the Department’s Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability, and with input from the GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools program.

The game was built and designed by Haruka Aoki, Corey Tegeler and Jon Packles, and the curriculum was developed by Garima Sharma. The program is made possible with support from PepsiCo Recycling and the Lily Auchincloss Foundation.

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Do you have a story idea for the In Class education column? Email education reporter Annalise Knudson at [aknudson@siadvance.com](mailto:aknudson@siadvance.com).