

Teen photo contest awards \$1,500 scholarship

Written by

Minneapolis MOSAIC, a celebration of the city's diverse arts and cultures, will be connecting with teens through photography. To compliment the MOSAIC winning photography commission, teens will celebrate their view of diversity in arts with their own work.

Teens ages 13-19 are invited to submit photos which examine the many faces of the Twin Cities and surrounding suburbs. Deadline for entries is Friday, May 29. Contest and entry details are available at <http://teens.walkerart.org/at15photo> The winning photographer will win a \$1,500 @ 15 scholarship presented by Best Buy.

Young photographers will also join in a 24-hour art-making marathon called *Don't Sleep On It* presented by Walker Art Center Teen Arts Council and mnartists.org. As part Minneapolis' Art-A-Whirl studio and gallery tour, the event will be held at the California Building in NE Minneapolis running Friday, May 15, 6 pm through Saturday, 16, 6 pm with a closing party at 8 pm.

Over 200 submitted teen photographs will be exhibited during *Don't Sleep On It* along with a sneak peak of the winning MOSAIC commissioned photography collection. The event will be followed by a gallery tour and artist talk with award-winning MOSAIC commissioned photographer Sean Smuda on Sunday, May 17 from 1-2:30 pm. Teens will engage in first-hand learning from Smuda.

The contest will wrap up Saturday, June 6 during *Many Worlds One Night*, the kick-off evening of Minneapolis MOSAIC downtown Minneapolis. Mayor Rybak will present the winning teen

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photographer with a \$1,500 Best Buy scholarship along with prizes for 5 Finalists and 15 runner-ups.

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Teens and their families will join more than 15,000 festival-goers of all ages to enjoy the sights and smells of Midtown Global Market food vendors, art exhibits and activities including interactive games for youth ranging from toddler through high-school provided by the YMCA. This evening of FREE events takes place between 8th and 9th streets and Hennepin and First Avenues from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. MOSAIC events celebrating the city's diversity and artistic talents continue city-wide throughout the summer.

Don't Sleep On It is a collaboration with martists.org, a central gathering place on the Web for over 10,000 Minnesota based artists. Corporate partners include Best Buy and Wells Fargo.

The 2009 Minneapolis MOSAIC is co-chaired by Ana Luisa Fajer, Consul of Mexico and Dr. Josie Johnson, Community Leader. Both individuals are volunteering their time, along with an executive committee of nine who represent a wide range of artistic disciplines, businesses, communications, large and small cultural organizations and the tourism industry.

Corporate partners for 2009 Minneapolis MOSAIC include Best Buy, Xcel Energy, General Mills, Piper Jaffray, MexicoTourism Board, RBC Wealth Management, Carlson, Minneapolis Foundation, Cities 97, Comcast, Minnesota Lynx and the downtown Minneapolis YMCA.

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For more information regarding *Don't Sleep On It* and Teen Photo Contest visit <http://teens.walkerart.org>

or call 612-375-7683. For more information regarding Minneapolis MOSAIC visit www.minneapolismosaic.com

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