



PRESS RELEASE: HIGH-SPEED PAINTING COMPETITION PREVAILED OVER TORRENTIAL RAINFALL

Despite the torrential downpour Policy Forum Guyana's (PFG) *High-Speed Painting Competition* was successfully carried out on Saturday, December 3rd at St. Stanislaus auditorium. Having taken the prior precaution of shifting the venue from the fence outside of Parliament to St. Stanislaus College auditorium the competition saw seventeen teams compete in four age-categories. Teams were mainly school-based, but also included teams from children's homes and groups of friends.

The competition's theme aimed to illustrate the goals Guyana needs in order to achieve climate-compatible Guyanese lifestyles. Suggested goals included:

1. A Guyana that seeks inclusion rather than winners & losers;
2. A mentally and physically healthier Guyana;
3. A Resource Responsible Guyana;
4. A Guyana that protects its rivers and forests.
5. A resilient Guyana; 6. A Guyana of Cohesive Communities;
6. A Guyana that listens to its young people;
7. A Guyana that recognizes the rights of future generations;
8. A Guyana that recycles, repairs and reuses; and
9. A Guyana that treats everyone humanely.

The competition constituted the first fun step by Guyanese youth, motivated by climate justice convictions. Similar events are planned for other Regions, with Anna Regina and Linden first in line. By progressively focusing on and interpreting the above goals, the process will culminate *in a Future Generations Manifesto*, a youth-driven vision of the future. The process of developing the *Manifesto* will facilitate the younger generation to more effectively influence decisions that affect them. The second and later phases of the project will see the younger generation seeking support for the *Manifesto* from the business, professional, trade unions sectors and ultimately political endorsement.

Winners selected by a panel of three judges were as follows:

10-12 Age Group

- 1st Place Smith's Memorial Primary
- 2nd Place Goed Fortuin Primary
- 3rd Place Save the Forest (Strathspey Primary)

13-15 Age Group

- 1st Place Green Gladiators (Marian Academy)
- 2nd Place CAN Colours (Marian Academy)
- 3rd Place Westminster Secondary



16-18 Age Group

- 1st Place Richard Ishmael Secondary
- 2nd Place North Georgetown Sec.
- 3rd Place Aesthetic Force (Cumming's Lodge Secondary School)

19-25 Age Group

- 1st Place Brushstroke
- 2nd Place Dear Tigers

Winners of each category included electronic tablets for winners, along with \$10,000 and \$8,000 gift certificates and copies of illustrated books on Guyana. Policy Forum Guyana is particularly indebted to Bounty Supermarket for its generous donation of gift certificates worth in total of \$120,000. Additional sponsors were A&R Jiwanram Printery, WWF-Guianas, Guyana Human Rights Association, Gift Centre, Austin's Bookstore and Conservation International.

Policy Forum Guyana (PFG)

DECEMBER 5TH, 2022

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