



**TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE**  
**GEORGE P. BUSH, COMMISSIONER**

1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • FAX: 512-475-1415

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Artwork wins Round Rock Elementary 6th grader a Caribbean cruise**

Debbie Bong earns top honor in 2017 Adopt-A-Beach Children's Art Contest

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 01, 2017**

**Contact: Brittany Eck**  
**(512) 463-5708**  
**[brittany.eck@glo.texas.gov](mailto:brittany.eck@glo.texas.gov)**

AUSTIN — AUSTIN - Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush is proud to announce the winners of the 2017 Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest. The grand prize winner, selected from the 40 overall winners, was Debbie Bong, a 6th grader from Ridgeview Middle School in Round Rock. Debbie's teacher, Kara Russell, will also receive a prize package as well. Download hi-res images of all the winning artwork at <http://bit.ly/2owGvme>.

"Thousands of children across the state participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest," Bush said. "This contest is a great way for young Texans to show their artistic skill and vision while learning about the natural beauty of our precious coast. Each year selecting the winners is a tough process because of the volume of creative submissions, but Debbie's artwork stood out for its unique expression of playfulness on the Texas coast."

Debbie's artwork, along with 39 runners-up, will appear on the cover of the 2018 Adopt-A-Beach calendar, which will be distributed statewide. The artwork of all winners will be on public display in the South-Central Gallery of the Texas Capitol May 23rd - 31<sup>st</sup> for all visitors to view and appreciate. The exhibit will be sponsored by Texas State Representative Eddie Lucio, III (District 38, Brownsville).

Debbie's winning artwork earned her two-round-trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines to any United destination in the 48 contiguous United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean, one seven-night Caribbean cruise from Royal Caribbean International departing out of Galveston, Miami, Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale, Port Canaveral or Puerto Rico, and a class party at Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels. Debbie's teacher, Kara Russell, will receive two round-trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines, and one seven-night Caribbean cruise courtesy of Royal Caribbean International.

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush selected Debbie's masterpiece from more than 3,200 entries submitted statewide. The annual competition encourages schoolchildren to learn more about the Texas coast and express what they've learned

through their art. Open to grades K-6 across Texas, the contest motivates thousands of young artists each year.

All 40 winners will receive a ticket to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, a ticket to the Houston Zoo, two all-day passes to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels, prizes and a certificate of recognition from the Texas General Land Office and a calendar displaying the winning artwork.

#### 2017 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest Winners

Winner Name	School Name	City
K, 1st and 2nd Grades		
Meghana Akarapu	Falak Art Studio	Coppell
Daisy Chen	Williams Elementary	Katy
Eileen Chi	Pattison Elementary	Katy
Evan Feng	Hanjie Arts Center	Katy
Addison Hunt	Our Lady of Victory	Victoria
Sophia Lai	Dallas Arts Studio	Dallas
Kaiden Mui	Seashore Learning Center	Corpus Christi
Ella Shannon	Our Lady of Victory	Victoria
Jacob Spangenberg	Hallettsville Elementary	Hallettsville
Keida Willis	Childress Elementary	Childress
3rd - 4th Grades		
Gabriella Bustamante	Driscoll ISD	Driscoll
Ailsa Cheng	Roosevelt Alexander Elementary	Katy
Mabel Dowell	Dallas Arts Studio	Dallas
Jayden Galvan	Driscoll ISD	Driscoll
Abbigayle Garcia	Pineywoods Community Academy	Lufkin
Vera Hsiang	Windsor Park Elementary	Corpus Christi
Kamryn Milam	Carver Center	Midland
Jose Rosas	Episcopal Day School	Brownsville
Joi Speck	Fulton 4-5 Learning Center	Fulton
Eric Zhang	Roosevelt Alexander Elementary	Katy
5th Grade		
Laura "Corinne" Buchanan	Morgan Mill ISD	Morgan Mill
Taylor Checker	Sandra Mossman Elementary	League City
Jaeleah Galvan	Driscoll ISD	Driscoll
Kwincie Godfrey	Sul Ross Elementary	Bryan
Mia Mabray	Our Lady of Victory	Victoria
Meredith Ostos	Morningside Elementary	New Braunfels
Adam Roth	White Rock Montessori	Dallas
Kaylen Smith	Our Lady of Victory	Victoria
Tyanne Ugorji	Ferris Intermediate	Ferris
Meaghan Williams	Dawson Elementary	Corpus Christi
6th Grade		
Sarina Alvarado	Kelton ISD	Wheeler
Debbie Bong*	Ridgeview Middle School	Round Rock
Jessica Chai	Beckendorff Junior High	Katy
Brooke Criner	Grace Academy	Dallas
Houston Jordan	Fasken Elementary	Midland
Abigail Kim	Dallas Arts Studio	Dallas
Cara McMillan	River Valley Intermediate	McGregor

Caden Nelson  
Karsten Walker  
Victoria Zhang

Kelton ISD  
Murals & More  
Tays Junior High

Wheeler  
Lumberton  
Katy

\*Grand prize winner

To learn more about the Adopt-A-Beach program, visit [TexasAdoptABeach.org](https://TexasAdoptABeach.org) or contact the GLO at 1-877-TX COAST. Like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TexasAdoptABeach](https://Facebook.com/TexasAdoptABeach) and follow us on Twitter at @TXadoptabeach.

###