

South Texas Institute for the Arts

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MUSEUM, FLINT HILLS RESOURCES PARTNER TO PROMOTE ART EDUCATION, ACHIEVEMENT

(CORPUS CHRISTI) -- The South Texas Institute for the Arts and Flint Hills Resources have created a partnership for 2003 designed to promote community participation in the arts while supporting arts education and student achievement.

Flint Hills Resources will serve as corporate sponsor for STIA, helping to underwrite the acquisition and promotion of a wide array of exhibits and programs throughout the year. In addition, STIA and Flint Hills will once again sponsor the Visionarios Youth Art Contest, a juried art competition open to students in grades one through 12. The competition encourages students to participate in art and gives them the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts.

"We are delighted to welcome Flint Hills Resources as our corporate sponsor for 2003," said Dr. William G. Otton, director of the South Texas Institute for the Arts. "We have had an excellent ongoing relationship with Flint Hills and look forward to working together in order to increase access to the arts in our community."

STIA's theme for 2003 is *Visions of Our World*. "This theme reflects the vital role art plays in helping us learn about ourselves and our world so we can make it a better place," said Rich Tuttle, director of regional public affairs for Flint Hills Resources. "As a major employer with deep roots in the Coastal Bend, we see this as part of our commitment to our employees, our customers and our community."

The partnership also focuses on the role art education plays in improving student achievement. Research shows that students who study the arts perform better in the classroom and on standardized tests and are less likely to drop out of school. Arts education has also been proven to help students develop the self-discipline, cooperation, and self-motivation necessary for high achievement in school and throughout life.

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The Visionarios Youth Art Contest is a juried competition open to all students in grades one through 12. Entries will be accepted at the Art Museum of South Texas March 24 through 28. All entries will be exhibited at the Art Museum of South Texas or the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, and winners will receive cash awards and be honored at a reception. In addition, teachers of winning students will receive \$50. Complete information about the competition is available online at www.stia.org.

"We hope Visionarios will encourage young people to envision a bright future for themselves, to set goals and to work toward those goals," said Tuttle. "After all, today's students will be tomorrow's employees, professionals, and leaders. We are counting on them to create a bright future for all of us."

Flint Hills Resources, LP, based in Wichita, Kan., is a leading producer of fuels and other petrochemical products. The company operates refineries in Corpus Christi, Texas and Pine Bend, Minn., which process about 600,000 barrels of crude oil daily. More information is available at www.fhr.com.

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