



## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts Hosts Washington County Public Schools Art Exhibition Award Winners and the Jean Cushwa Art Scholarship Winner**

**Hagerstown, MD** – The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts hosted the Washington County Public School Art Exhibition Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 in the Kaylor Atrium. 29 Award winners were presented with a certificate from the museum and Washington County Public Schools as well as a special citation from the Office of Chris Van Hollen, United States Senator. First prize winners and winners of the Director's Awards also received gift certificates to Howard's Art Supplies & Frames. (A list of winners is attached in the email.) The art exhibition is sponsored by *Volvo Group Trucks, The Hershey Family Foundation, Washington County Arts Council, Antietam Cable, and the Rotary Club of Long Meadows.*

The Jean Cushwa Art Scholarship Winner for 2017 was also announced and presented to Skyla Heise. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts established the Jean Cushwa Art Scholarship to assist High School seniors who intend to major in Visual Art/Studio Art, Art History, Art Education, Architecture and/or Design. This year's recipient is Skyla Heise, daughter of John and Rebecca Heise, of Hagerstown, MD. Skyla will graduate from a homeschool program this year and is currently enrolled in classes at Hagerstown Community College and Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. She will pursue a degree in graphic design and arts at Hagerstown Community College.

The \$1,000 scholarship, was awarded to Heise on Wednesday, May 17 in the Kaylor Atrium at the Museum. The announcement was part of the Washington County Public Schools' Art Awards Ceremony. Skyla was a classroom assistant for the museum's Saturday Morning Youth Program for 6 years and she enjoys working with children. Her



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passion for photography has garnered numerous awards including selection in the 2013 Cumberland Valley Photographic Salon and the 2017 Cumberland Valley Artists and Photographic Exhibition and Grand Champion ribbons at the Maryland State Fair and Washington County Fairs. Skyla is the 2016 Miss Washington County Farm Bureau and is Vice President of Service for the Maryland 4-H State Council.

Regina (Jean) Cushwa was born in Philadelphia on June 2, 1922. She graduated from West Catholic Girls School in Philadelphia and attended Philadelphia School of Design (now Moore College of Art and Design) before marrying David K. Cushwa III in 1946 and moving to Williamsport, MD., where she lived for the rest of her life. Jean was very involved in her community and was a board member of Girls Inc., Washington County Museum of Fine Arts and The Historical Society of Washington County. Over the years, she was a member of the Women's Club, various gardening clubs of Hagerstown and she was very proud to have been one of the first volunteers for Hospice when the organization was first being put together in Washington County. In her later years, she mentored children at the local Williamsport schools.

Admission to the Museum is Free and Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Established in 1931 and dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting works of art for the people of Washington County and citizens from the four-state region, the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Admission to the Museum is free and its collection includes over 6,500 works of art. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts has an enduring commitment to arts education and to the support of regional artists. The Museum actively collects works of art in the fields of American Art, world cultures, and art of the region. The museum regularly offers studio art courses, art historical lectures, concerts, and exhibitions from its permanent collection and traveling shows. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts is funded through support from museum membership and annual fund donations by the public, grants from the business and corporate communities, and support from Washington County, the City of Hagerstown, private foundations, and the Maryland State Arts Council.