



# Estuary Artworks

## Project Status

**Project Year:** 2014-Present

**Status:** Ongoing

**Category:** Outreach

**Location:** Parishes within BTES

**Project Partners:** The Purple Penguin Art Company, Audubon Nature Institute, Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, and various local business partners

## Background and Problem Addressed:

Because no other place on Earth is disappearing as quickly as the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary system, it is important to document the estuary as it is today.

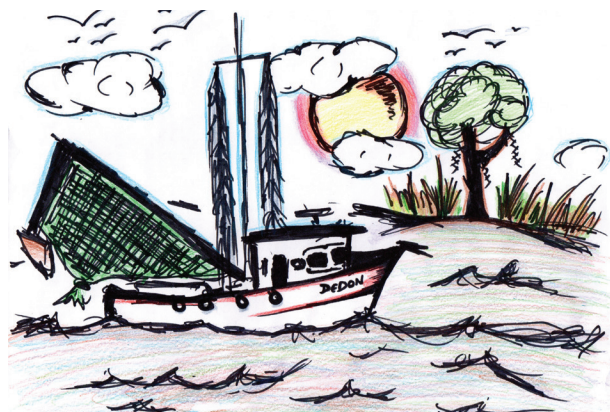
The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) wants the youth of the area to value these unique wetlands. Using original art created by local K-12 students, BTNEP captures the beauty of forests, swamps, marshes, islands, bayous, local wildlife, and culture in an annual calendar for residents. Created with attention to details, this educational tool provides an important venue for students and the public to value the aesthetics of the estuary.



*Artwork by  
Nikita A.  
12th grade*



*Artwork by  
Dawn S.  
8th grade*



*Artwork by Nicholas D., 12th grade*





## Project Description:

In 2014, BTNEP set a goal to reach students located in the 16 parishes within the BTES. The Estuary Artworks event and contest was designed to do this, while working in conjunction with National Estuaries Day that is held at the end of every September. For the next three years, an afternoon event was held at The Purple Penguin Art Company located in Thibodaux, LA, that allowed students to come in and draw their favorite estuary scene. The artwork was then divided into the following categories: Kindergarten-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th. Artwork was judged and four winners were chosen in each category. Those winners received prizes and their artwork was displayed at the Bayou Country Children's Museum for the month of October.

In 2016, BTNEP expanded the contest by allowing those students who could not attend the day event, to submit their work via mail or delivered to the BTNEP office. The contest was also given a theme, *Our Estuary...My Future: Protecting the Colors of the Estuary*. A 2017 calendar featuring the four first place winners plus an additional nine pieces were selected to be featured as a calendar month and cover. Four drawings were awarded an honorable mention and were featured on the back cover of the calendar. By allowing outside submittals, BTNEP was able to reach more students. In 2016, the number of submittals increased from 40 to 125. One thousand calendars were printed and distributed to the public and schools.



In 2017, BTNEP discontinued the day event, but continued with the art contest. Estuary Artworks Art Contest was again opened to all students in the BTES. A 2018 calendar was produced and will be distributed throughout the estuary. Over 400 pieces of art from 31 different schools were submitted.

Information regarding Estuary Artworks was given to the public via press releases sent to newspapers throughout the BTES, letters sent to principals, posts made on Facebook and Twitter, and emails sent out to past participants. Students and teachers who were interested received packets with rules and regulations, the history of BTNEP, information about estuaries, and an entry form.

The goal is to continue this outreach event with the hopes of young artists returning to the contest and to continue to reach out to new students, their families, and teachers.



*Artwork by Elizabeth H., 6th grade*

## CCMP Action Items Addressed:

Community Engagement (Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement #1)

Public Information (Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement #4)