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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GIRLS INC. ART CONTEST AWARDS & RECEPTION MARCH 15

Alameda, CA – Girls Incorporated of the Island City will honor 25 finalists chosen from all participants in an art contest celebrating 40 years of serving girls in Alameda. The “Strong, Smart, and Bold Girls Student Art Contest” was open to all Alameda students ages of 6 to 18. Artist finalists have illustrated what it means to be a strong, smart and bold girl or woman.

The art showcase and awards ceremony will be held at the Girls Inc. Meyers Center on March 15th from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. At that time cash and other prizes will be awarded to the 13 winners chosen from 25 finalists.

Judges for the contest included Debra Owen, Executive Director of the Frank Bette Art Center; Lisah Horner, Executive Director of the Alameda Art Center; Gail Graves, Girls Inc. Board of Directors member and elementary school teacher; Karen Lee, local artist; and Carey Fruzza, Art Programs Coordinator for the Education Department at the Oakland Museum of California.

The 13 winners will be featured on a Girls Inc. perpetual calendar that is to be sold locally and nationally in support of girls programs at the Meyers Center. The kickoff of the calendar sales will be at Girls Inc.’s Sixth Annual Celebration of Excellence Luncheon on May 14th at the Oakland Airport Hilton.

All 25 finalists’ art will be on display at the Girls Inc. Meyers Center beginning March 15th for 10 days and then move to the Alameda Art Center on Webster Street for exhibition during the month of April. The public is invited to attend the March 15th awards ceremony at Girls Incorporated of the Island City, 1724 Santa Clara Ave. Further information about the art reception on March 15th and the Celebration of Excellence Luncheon on May 14th may be obtained by calling 521-1743. RSVPs for the art reception are appreciated, but not required to attend.

Girls Incorporated of the Island City is an affiliate of the national organization Girls Inc. Since 1964, Girls Incorporated of the Island City has provided the only quality program in Alameda designed specifically for girls at our girls membership program at our Meyers Center, where girls are challenged to explore science, math and computers, examine how money is earned and invested, and to ask questions about and take leadership roles in the world.

We also offer childcare for both girls and boys at seven elementary schools around Alameda, including Bayfarm, Earhart, Edison, Franklin, Lum, Otis, and Paden. For more information about Girls Inc., call (510) 521-1743 or visit our website at www.girlsincislandcity.org.

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The mission of Girls Incorporated of the Island City is to inspire all girls to be **strong, smart and bold**^(SM) through innovative programs, activities and advocacy.