

A3 COMMUNITY

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ON THE TOWN

Boys & Girls Club showcases art

By Patt Diroll

For as long as I can remember, Pasadena has morphed into a vast social wasteland during the month of January. Local folks tend to retrench and hunker down after all of the Tournament of Roses excitement.

So, every year, I find myself foraging for column fodder until the arts and culture engines rev up again, around Groundhog Day.

This year, if something hadn't occurred on the social battlefield, I was seriously considering sharing my meatloaf recipe in this week's column. The problem is, I don't really have a meatloaf recipe — it's a pound of meat pulverized with whatever is wilting in my vegetable bin.

Then, voila! An invitation arrived from the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena for an opening reception at the Pasadena Museum of History, and with that, dear hearts, you have been saved from the infamous meatloaf recipe! (Maybe next year?)

What an interesting event it turned out to be! The club's annual ImageMakers Photography & Art Show on Jan. 10 showcased more than 200 photographs and art pieces created by club members. Included in the collection were the works of Densel Martin of Pasadena High School, who won first place in last year's Boys & Girls Clubs of America's ImageMakers National Photography Contest; Kafshi Bennett and Milan Walker of



COURTESY PHOTOS

Members of the Mackenzie-Scott Branch's Art and Photography programs gather with their educators, Jessica Lopez and Teana Jenkins.



The Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena's 2018 ImageMakers Reception & Art Show featured artwork and photography created by 30 members of the Boys & Girls Club.

Ella Gantt of Willard Elementary School, who won Pacific Region awards.

Thirty participants from the club's two Pasadena locations, the Mackenzie-Scott Branch on North Fair Oaks Avenue and the Slavik Branch on East Del Mar Boulevard, were on hand to take bows.

Who knows? A budding Richard Avedon or

among them? The youngsters have been participating in this program for several years, and it is especially significant because the exhibit presents tangible evidence of the 81-year-old club's mantra, "Building great futures."

In 1996, the Pasadena club received a \$1 million windfall from the Parsons Foundation for

inated all membership fees for teenagers. That policy has been maintained, and today, there are more than 800 teen members, and 100 are served every day. Last year, through a partnership with UCLA Uni-camp, the club also opened a low-cost summer camp in the San Bernardino Mountains.