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Supporting arts, students with annual scholarships

Smithtown residents Olivia and Harlan Fischer presented their annual Arts Scholarships to two deserving Smithtown High School graduates at recent award night. The Smithtown couple has shown their support for the arts among high school students with their scholarships for the past 21 years.

This year's winners, who each received \$2,000 scholarships at the annual senior awards ceremony Thursday evening May 31, were Ilysa T. Sirota, Smithtown High School East, and Blake A. Carey, Smithtown High School West. Ilysa hopes to pursue a career in graphic design which will be her college major, while Blake intends to major in jazz studies at NYU. The scholarships are presented to seniors concentrating on a career in design, fine arts or performing arts.

The Fischers have lived in Smithtown since 1973 and certainly aren't strangers to the arts or community service. Mrs. Fischer has served on the architectural review board in the Village of Head of the Harbor. Mr. Fischer was president of the board of directors of the Smithtown Township Arts Council from 1992 to 1997 and the 1997-1998 president of the Smithtown

Rotary Club. He has served as Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium through 2000. Also, in the year 2000, Mr. Fischer was named Man of the Year in Business in Smithtown by the Times Beacon Record newspapers.

In 2006, the Little Shelter Animal Rescue and Adoption Center presented Mr. Fischer with its "Guardian Angel" award. He served as the president of the Metropolitan Contemporary Glass Group from 2001 through 2009. Mr. and Mrs. Fischer are members of the Director's Advisory Circle at the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook and are sponsors of a monthly concert series at The Jazz Loft in Stony Brook. They also sponsor the Music Masters Program at East End Arts.

Mr. Fischer is the immediate past president of the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass where he served from 2011 through 2016. Harlan is now President of the board of The Art League of Long Island. He also serves as chairman of the planning board in the Village of Head of the Harbor. Mr. Fischer is the president of Branch Financial Services, Inc. in Smithtown.



Harlan Fischer (left) with Smithtown High School West student Blake Carey, one of two recipients of this year's arts scholarship.