

Chabot College

For Immediate Release

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Six Chabot College students were selected as finalists for an annual billboard design competition

(Hayward, CA) - Six Chabot College students were selected as finalists for an annual billboard design competition. Two of those finalists were announced as winners and will see their designs on display on billboards throughout the East Bay.

Chabot College students Gwen Thompson and Gracie Ramirez were selected as winners of the non-profit design agency Bridgegood's Inspire Oakland Billboard Design Competition along with four other students from other colleges. Chabot College also had four other students who were named in the top 22 finalists out of more than 500 entries. The four Chabot finalists are Jessica Romick, Elisa Feng, Simran Singh and Gail Martinez.

Thompson, Ramirez and the other winners will see their designs displayed on billboards and bus benches across Oakland, receive a certificate of achievement and a cash reward. Participants were challenged to create an original design that reflects the inspiring stories of Oakland. Bridgegood's competition is currently in its twelfth year and aims to give Bay Area emerging artists real-world experience to help jump-start their professional careers.

Thompson said it was an honor for her to participate in the competition and to represent Chabot College and the instructors and staff who have helped her along the way.

"For me, this win highlights the hard work I've been able to do during the pandemic as things slowed down, which allowed me the space to focus solely on my graphic design coursework," Thompson said. "Chabot College has an amazing group of instructors who push us as artists to dig deeper, which enables us to take our work to the next level. I'm forever grateful to Chabot's Graphic Design program for challenging my creativity in a way that has allowed me to make work I am super proud of."

Ramirez agreed, and added that the college has supported her and made it possible for her to grow in her creativity.

"Winning the Bridgegood competition award is one of my biggest accomplishments in life," she said. "Chabot has been a vital place for me to continue dreaming and working to achieve my goals."

Tim Jonas, Digital Media Arts instructor at Chabot College, said the college is invested in these emerging fields and finding ways to help students succeed within them.

"I think our program is special, because it not only provides students with the technical and theoretical skills, but an opportunity to really apply those skills and express ideas through hands-on, creative projects," he said. "Classes like Chabot Design Studio help provide 'real world' problem-solving experiences for students. We offer certificates and associate programs in graphic design and film, and an animation certificate, too."

Designs were judged by a panel of creative professionals from around the Bay Area, including designers with Salesforce, Twitter, Etsy, and Facebook, among others.

Jonas said all of the Digital Media Arts students at Chabot "really showed dedication and heart and I'm really proud of them."

"It doesn't matter where you come from or your background," he said. "We all have a voice and can express it and connect with one another through digital arts and design."

For more information about Digital Media Arts programs at Chabot, please visit chabotcollege.edu/academics/arts-media-communications/digital-media/index.php.

For more information about the Bridgegood Inspire Oakland Design Competition, visit bridgegood.com/inspire.