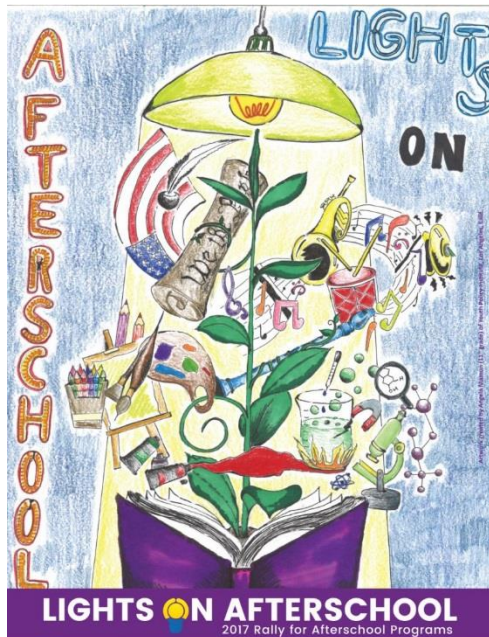


NEWS RELEASE  
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## Los Angeles Teen Wins National Art Contest

*Miramar High School's Angela Mamun Designed This Year's  
Lights On Afterschool Poster*



High school senior [Angela Mamun](#) found inspiration in many different aspects of her [Youth Policy Institute](#) (YPI) afterschool program, and the result was the winning design for this year's [Lights On Afterschool](#) poster contest. Mamun's artwork will be printed on 50,000 posters and seen by more than a million participants at some 8,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events across the country and at U.S. military bases worldwide on October 26th.

Organized by the [Afterschool Alliance](#), *Lights On Afterschool* is the only national rally for afterschool programs. Events this year will include open houses, showcases, student performances, science fairs, community service projects, and more at schools, YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, parks, museums, community centers, state capitols and other places.



Mamun credits the YPI afterschool program, especially its art club, with helping her learn in a different way than

how she learns during the traditional school day. YPI offers a student-led science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) club, an arts club and a club that focuses on volunteering and supporting local immigrant families. "I wouldn't have these kinds of opportunities or experiences at school. [YPI] is different from most other classes," Mamun said. "For example, the instructor recently taught us to do ink prints with a linoleum surface. We used chisels to carve out bits and parts to create designs, and we learned about negative space and positive space that way."

This year's *Lights On Afterschool* poster contest winner was decided through an online voting contest. Mamun's drawing received 466 Facebook likes and other reactions. For the first time, the contest carried a \$500 prize, which the Youth Policy Institute won. Miramar High School is part of the Camino Nuevo Charter Academy system in Los Angeles, Calif.

"As illustrated in Angela Mamun's fantastic drawing, *Lights On Afterschool* events showcase the diverse skills students gain and the talents they develop at their afterschool programs," said

Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “In addition to keeping young people safe, inspiring them to learn and giving working parents peace of mind, afterschool programs across the country provide homework help; access to mentors; healthy snacks and meals; opportunities to play sports and get fit; hands-on learning experiences in science, robotics and computing; art, dance and music; job and college readiness; and much more.”

The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide – but the unmet demand is great. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, two more are waiting to get in. Unmet demand is especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. One in five students in the United States is unsupervised after the school day ends.

Each year *Lights On Afterschool* events underscore the need to invest in afterschool programs. Afterschool programs are supported by governments, parents, philanthropies, businesses and other public and private funding streams. Investments are frequently under threat; this year, the President’s budget proposed an elimination of federal funding for afterschool and summer learning programs. While the Senate and House of Representatives have rejected the call to eliminate afterschool funding, there is still a threat of cuts that could affect 100,000 students. Congress is likely to complete the Fiscal Year 2018 budget later this year.

A large and growing body of evidence demonstrates improvements in attendance, behavior, academic achievement and more among children who participate in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement – an important building block for student success.

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*The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*