Gateway student semi-finalist at Arisia Conference

Huntington – “I did not expect it to be that big. It was huge!” said Gateway freshman Sofia De La Cruz Rivera after attending the Arisia 2018 conference on January 14.

Billed as “New England’s Largest, Most Diverse Sci-Fi & Fantasy Convention”, the conference celebrated the genre in all forms of media, including writing, artwork and even costuming. Arisia is a non-profit educational organization that is committed to creating a space for science fiction and fantasy fans of all ages, ethnicities, genders, abilities and orientations.”

De La Cruz Rivera was a guest of the conference, one of only twenty semi-finalists from throughout New England (selected from a huge pool of candidates) who submitted artwork for the youth art contest. Her work was on redemption, and reflects cartoon art of tribal birds who are aliens. In her work, a bird is telling the story of how a peer saved the birds from their own problems.

“Mrs. (Avery) Wing had let me know about the contest a few months ago,” noted Sofia. While she was not named the finalist in the contest, she was pleased to see lots of people attending and checking out the artwork.

“I definitely want to do a career in art; probably character design in gaming or cartooning,” she said.

In the meantime, she is back to the drawing board (as they say) and preparing a work to enter in another month in the “Doodle for Google” contest.

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Photos: Cartoon artist and state semi-finalist Sofia De La Cruz Rivera; right – her art submission that gave her a semi-finalist award at Arisia 2018.