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**Words Alive Hosts Art and Literacy Event Showcasing Student Films**

**San Diego, Calif. (May 9, 2017)** — Words Alive, a leading literacy organization, provides integrative literary programming within 16 classrooms in Momentum Learning (formerly Juvenile Court & Community Schools), which includes a book club, writing program and annual arts project. Through this comprehensive programming, students develop an enduring commitment to reading, become life-long learners, and become advocates for themselves and their futures.

Each year through the Teen Services art program, our students have an opportunity to look at literacy through a different lens and find meaningful relationships to books and the world. As part of the arts program, students have an opportunity to make intrinsic connections to written text through the art they create.

This year, students will design their own stop animation film through a partnership with the Chuck Jones Center for Creativity. With this project, we focused on the theme "presence," and students read and discussed several prolific texts, including *Between the World and Me* (Ta-Nehisi Coates), *The Crossover* (Kwame Alexander) and *Letters to a Young Artist* (Anna Deavere-Smith) with groups of trained volunteers in the classroom.

Students wrote a letter about themselves to a person or place of their choice. The letter served as a basis for the subsequent art project: the animated films. As a culmination of text, book discussion, writing and art, students will have an opportunity to showcase their animated films at an event, open to the public, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 6 at the Chuck Jones Gallery (232 Fifth Ave, San Diego, CA 92101). The anthology of written letters will also be for sale at the event for a suggested donation of \$10. An online gallery of the student work will be available on the Words Alive website to follow: [www.wordsalive.org](http://www.wordsalive.org).

**About Words Alive**

Founded in 1999, Words Alive is a nonprofit organization that helps underserved, low-income, at-risk children, teens and families discover how books and reading can add meaning to their lives. Words Alive engages its program participants in developing a connection to reading with innovative programs and initiatives with the goal of creating lifelong readers and learners. For more information about Words Alive, its programs, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship opportunities, visit [www.wordsalive.org](http://www.wordsalive.org).

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