



“Lights, Camera, Save! Contest” Winners Announced as Ridgewood Savings Bank Celebrates Young Filmmakers' Financial Literacy Efforts

Ridgewood, NY, January 30, 2025 – Ridgewood Savings Bank, a participant in the American Bankers Association's (ABA) "Lights, Camera, Save!" contest, is proud to announce the winners of its local competition. This innovative program gives teens the chance to create videos that showcase their financial smarts and digital skills while promoting financial literacy among high school students through the art of filmmaking. With creativity and ingenuity, the talented young filmmakers produced self-made, 30-second videos to demonstrate their understanding of financial concepts and the importance of saving for their future. The winning students were awarded prizes by Ridgewood Savings Bank.



Three of the four prize winners came from the High School of Art and Design in New York City. Taking the first-place spot is Alex Gamez. Alex’s insightful film captivated the judges and earned him a MacBook Air. The second-place winner, Thai Merritt, won AirPods Max, and rounding out the winners was fourth-place winner, Juliana Giraldo, who received a \$200 Amazon gift card. In addition to producing three prize winners, the High School of Art and Design received a \$1,500 grant to support educational initiatives for producing the first-place winner and the most submissions for the contest. The winning moment was captured in a photo featuring High School of Art and Design Principal Maxmillian Re-Sugiura, Lou Ann Mannino, First Vice President & Director of Branch Operations, first-place winner Alex Gamez, second-place winner Thai Merritt, fourth-place winner Juliana Giraldo, Hanon Harchol, Film/Video Teacher, and Sebrina Tulloch, AVP & Manager of the Whitestone branch.



Securing third place is Diego Garcia from Baldwin High School in Baldwin, New York. Diego's creative vision earned him an Apple Watch. A snapshot of the celebration features Lyndel Senior, AVP & Manager of the Baldwin branch, Dr. Gabriella Franza, Assistant Director of Instructional Programs at Baldwin High School, third-place winner Diego Garcia, and Sebrina Tulloch, AVP & Manager of the Whitestone branch.

"We're so proud of everyone who took part in the Lights, Camera, Save! Contest!" said Leonard Stekol, Chairman, President, and CEO of Ridgewood Savings Bank. "It was truly amazing to see the creativity used to promote the importance of financial literacy. A well-deserved congratulations to our winners, and a sincere thank you to all the students, teachers, and schools who participated in this wonderful event. Together, we're proudly helping the next generation make smart financial choices and build a brighter future!"

Ridgewood Savings Bank remains committed to supporting initiatives that foster financial education and empowerment within our communities. For more information on financial educational initiatives, please email our [Financial Education Team](#).

About Ridgewood Savings Bank

Founded in 1921, Ridgewood Savings Bank continues to serve the community as a strong and stable mutual savings bank with \$7 billion in assets and 36 branches located throughout the New York metropolitan area. It has been ranked as a "Best Regional Bank" by Newsweek (2025) and Bankrate (2024), 'Best Bank' by Money (2023, 2024), and received an 'Honorable Mention' designation by the American Banking Association Foundation Community Commitment Awards in recognition of our work protecting older Americans (2023). Since inception, Ridgewood Savings Bank has remained true to its community bank roots and mission to provide its customers the best possible service and banking experience. As it continues to refine and enhance its services and delivery channels, Ridgewood Savings Bank will continuously strive to be the bank that offers "Time-Honored Values with Modern Solutions."

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