

UB Students Win 10K for Innovative NFTs

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Five University of The Bahamas (UB) students made history by breaking new ground in the world of digital art, creating innovative non-fungible token (NFT) projects.

Their work was celebrated with \$10,000 prizes for each winning entry, reflecting the fusion of blockchain technology and artistic expression, which many see as the future of digital art.

The students Madison Cartwright, Nelson Gray, Alyssa Pinder, Alesha Pinder, and Jean W. Joseph were recognized for their accomplishments during a ceremony on Monday, October 7th, at UB's Harry C. Moore



Winners pose with competition organizers and university administrators outside the Harry C. Moore Library.

Library and Information Centre.

The awards were presented by Cordell Broadus, creator of the Champ Medici Arts Fund (CMAF), in partnership with the Tezos Foundation.

The competition challenged students to create artistic works authenticated through blockchain, providing them with practical experience in digital innovation.

Broadus emphasized the importance of early involvement in emerging technologies.

"It's not good to be late to the party, especially when it comes to technology. You guys are extremely creative, and we believe that by exposing you to this now, you can gain skills that will help you earn a real financial living later down the line," he said.

The winning projects ranged from digital illustrations to musical compositions, all minted on the Tezos blockchain, adding a layer of authenticity and permanence to the students' creations.

Dr. Maria Oriakhi, UB Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, expressed her



Jean Joseph talks about his creative process. (Also pictured: Tezos CEO Cordell Broadus, Broadus Foundation Advisor Shiv Jain.)

pride in the students' achievements, stating, "Their winning projects represent the next wave of digital art rooted in blockchain technology, a testament to both their talent and their forward-thinking approach to art and entrepreneurship."

The competition was the culmination of a commitment Broadus made to UB's students over a year ago, when he pledged to support local talent.

This pledge materialized in the form of a \$100,000 donation, which established the Champ Medici Arts Fund Scholarship Award.

The scholarship supported the university's Visual Arts & Design and Performing Arts departments, enabling the purchase of essential equipment and laying the foundation for the NFT competition.

Broadus also expressed his desire to expand his support of UB students.

"I would like to bring more technologies to this campus and continue developing what we started this year, to help you

develop your careers," he said. Acting UB President Janyne Hodder and Dean of Liberal and Fine Arts Dr. Douglas Barkey praised Broadus and the Tezos Foundation for their support.

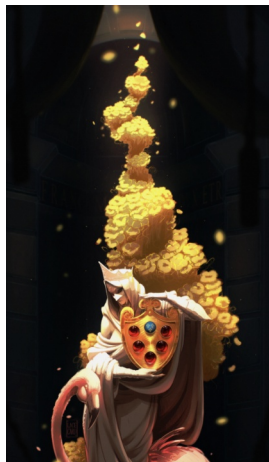
"We are grateful for the vision of those at Champ Medici Arts Fund and the Tezos Foundation for recognizing the potential of our talented students," said President Hodder.

The students participated in blockchain and NFTs workshops hosted by the Tezos Foundation, before producing their work over the summer and fall semesters. Their submissions were judged on innovation, creativity, craftsmanship, and impact by a panel of experts.

"I'm very, very happy," said Alyssa Pinder. "I'm so thankful for the opportunity to

showcase our skills on a broader scale." Nelson Gray shared similar sentiments, noting that art has been a lifelong passion for him, and he's grateful for the chance to expand his craft.

As UB continues to embrace emerging technologies, this initiative highlights the university's dedication to equipping its students for success in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.



Alyssa Pinder's - "The Marble Knight"



Alyssa Pinder (centre) poses with her winning art piece, "The Marble Knight", flanked by artist Malachi Wright (left) and Tezos CEO Cordell Broadus (right).