

A B O U T

# EVA BALODIMAS FRIEDLANDER

18  
UNDER  
EIGHTEEN

Presented by:



Eva Balodimas Friedlander is a 14-year-old student who uses art and creativity to promote conversations across cultures and communities. Eva founded One Bead at a Time, a jewelry making initiative for immigrant and refugee teens to help them practice English, build skills and confidence and create a sense of community and belonging.

Eva started jewelry making during the COVID-19 pandemic and was inspired by the way it brought her and her friends together despite the isolation. She realized this medium of art could bring people of different cultures, languages and experiences together on a broader scale and has been teaching workshops for the last two years. Eva's jewelry making initiative is now a monthly program at the Carnegie Library at Beechview, an area of Pittsburgh where many Hispanic, Latin American and African refugees reside.

Eva also promotes dialogue through her school newspaper column "Community Conversations," where she invites community leaders to talk about their work in community and civic matters. She hopes this column will bridge a gap across communities through storytelling.

In addition to her work in the Pittsburgh area, Eva is on the staff of the international podcast "This Teenage Life," where teenagers express their identities, tastes and interests through conversations and storytelling. Eva was recently featured in an edition of Teen Vogue for her work on the podcast.

