PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Members of the San Leandro library's Youth Advisory Commission acted as judges during the preliminary auditions this week for the San Leandro's Got Talent show that will take place next month.

By Amy Sylvestri

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From singing to standup comedy – the city's teens are set to put their talents on display next month at a special show.

The auditions were this week and the finalists will move on to the main show on Feb. 8 at the Main Library.

"We decided this would be a great way to show what talents the young people of San Leandro have to share," said Henry Wijaya, a member of the Youth Advisory Commission.

San Leandro's Got Talent is being put on by the library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and Youth Advisory Commission (YAC), made up of high school-aged kids.

Wijaya said that they decided to organize the show after seeing other YACs from around the Bay Area having a lot of fun with shows.

Wijaya and around a dozen of his fellow YAC and TAG members acted as judges during the preliminary auditions. He said they are looking for about 20 acts to move on to the public show.

The San Leandro's Got Talent winner will get $100 and will be chosen based on a combination of audience vote and scores from four local celebrity judges – Natali Del Conte Morris, a contributor to CNBC who grew up in San Leandro; Mighty Joe Kim, a rapper who went to school in San Leandro; local author C.J. Omololu; and City Councilwoman Diana Souza.

At the auditions on Monday and Tuesday night, nervous teens paced outside the Main Library's lecture hall, waiting their turn to face the judges.

Joshua Homan did a comedy routine, riffing on spending time in rural Lake County – an area that he says is so backward that they put their Dairy Queen right next door to their Foster's Freeze – and joking about the way he seems to always get stuck in the worst line every time he visits Walmart.

The judges are looking for a variety of acts, Wijaya said, and the performers gave them plenty to chose from, including a saxophone performance and a spirited dance set to a Christina Aguilera song.

San Leandro's Got Talent will be held at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue, on Friday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for youth 17 and under.