WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

WEST VIRGINIA STATE MUSEUM
1900 Kanawha Blvd E #435,
Charleston, WV 25305
(304) 558-0220 | WVculture.org

Dear Art Teachers,

It gives me great pleasure to invite each of your students to participate in the 2027 Congressional Art Competition! We are excited to continue our tradition of honoring Youth Art Month at the West Virginia Capitol Complex in 2027.

Please encourage your students to participate in this wonderful presentation of West Virginia student talent. Each March, Youth Art Month is celebrated by displaying outstanding, original works of art from our young artists across the state. The winner from each congressional district will have their artwork displayed at the United States Capitol for one year in the Congressional Art Competition, as well as receive a $100 Blick Art Materials gift card. The first place winners will be framed by the Department of Tourism for display at the United States Capitol. Second place winners will also be awarded a $50 Blick Art Materials gift card.

The exhibit is scheduled to open February 26, 2027 at the West Virginia Capitol Complex. The workshop will begin at 9 AM and will be followed by an awards ceremony at 1 PM. Details regarding the workshop will be announced at a later date.

Enclosed you will find the necessary paperwork for your students to complete. Each student may submit up to two entries. For each entry, please submit two completed copies of the Student Information and Release Form. One copy MUST be attached to the back of the artwork submitted and should be completed in PRINT for clarity. Submissions can be mailed or hand delivered to the Culture Center between December 7, 2026 and January 29, 2027.

For those interested in hand delivering submissions, please call or email at least one week prior to set up a time for drop off. Teachers will be notified upon the conclusion of jurying which entries were accepted and will be exhibited. Upon the conclusion of the exhibit, artwork will be returned to students if it has not been selected to be displayed in the U.S. Capitol.

If mailing, please send to:
West Virginia Department of Tourism
The Culture Center and State Museum
ATTN: Exhibits Coordinator, Congressional Art
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305

Sincerely,



Kayla A. Kessinger
Cabinet Secretary

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2027 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

General Information

The rules and regulations included here apply to the 2027 Congressional Art Competition generally. Each Member of Congress may establish additional rules for his or her district competition. Please consult with your Member's office to verify whether any additional rules apply and how to enter.

The competition is open to high school students. Students should enter the competition in the district they reside, not where they attend school. Members may choose whether to include 7th and 8th grade students in the art competition if schools located in their districts house 7th through 12th grades on one campus. Teachers and/or students should verify their eligibility with the office of the Member of Congress. Artwork must be the creation a single student. Students may not collaborate on an entry.

Artwork must be two-dimensional. Each framed artwork can be **no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep**. If your artwork is selected as the winning piece, it must arrive in Washington, DC, framed. **Even when framed, it must still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions.** No framed piece should weigh more than 15 pounds.

Accepted mediums for the two-dimensional artwork are as follows:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (it is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed).
- Collages: must be two dimensional.
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints.
- Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer-generated art.
- Photographs.

Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting, drawing, etc.).

Artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel for the duration of the exhibition. Students should only submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

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Suitability Guidelines
Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission (the Commission). In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalist or gruesome nature are not allowed. Each Member of Congress will be required to submit a Letter of Support confirming that the Member has determined that the winning artwork adheres to the Commission's policy. However, if another Member of Congress requests review of any artwork for compliance with the Commission's policy, the final decision regarding the artwork's suitability for display will be made by the Commission. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in this highly traveled area leading to the Capitol.

Student Information and Release Form
Each entrant must submit a Student Information and Release Form. The Student Information and Release Form is available through the office of your Member of Congress.

The information requested on the first page of the form should be provided as thoroughly as possible. Students should include their mailing addresses if they differ from their home addresses. Students should also include contact information that will be valid for several years. (For instance, students, especially seniors, are encouraged to include a personal email address rather than a school email address that will expire at the end of their senior year.)

The form requires a description of the artwork, which should be detailed, clearly identifying the major elements of the work. For example, "self-portrait" or "a picture of two people" would be unacceptable, since many artworks would fit those descriptions. The following is an example of a useful description: "A painting of two people; the person on the left wears a green sweater and khaki pants; the person on the right wears a black shirt and a striped skirt. A dog sits at their feet."

The second page of the Student Information and Release Form contains a legal release and a certification that the artwork is original in design and execution. The student, an art teacher, and a parent or guardian must sign where appropriate. Entries without signed originality certifications and artwork releases may not be accepted.

A typed copy of the Student Information and Release Form, signed by the teacher, a parent or guardian, and the student, must be securely attached to the back of the artwork to certify the originality of the piece. Please retain a copy for your records.

Framing Guidelines (Overall Winner)
Framing regulations apply only to the winning artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC. Each Member of Congress may include additional entry rules for his or her own District; please consult your Member's office to see whether a frame is required for the district competition. Even if your

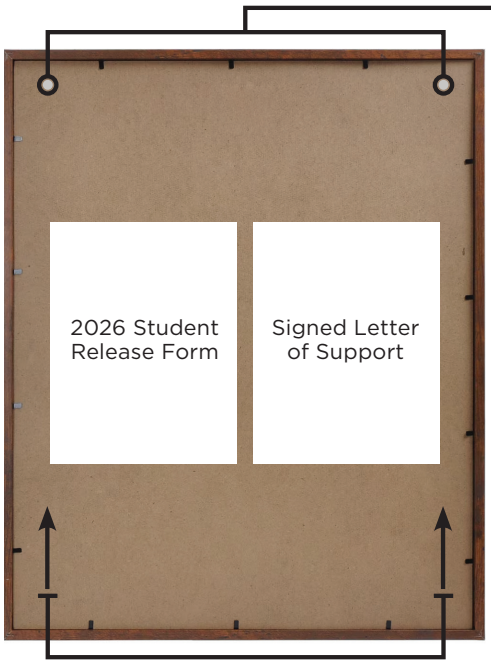
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Member of Congress does not require a frame to enter the artwork in the district competition, if your artwork is selected for display in the Congressional Art Competition exhibit, it must be delivered to Washington, DC, in a frame. When framed, the artwork can be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, including the frame.

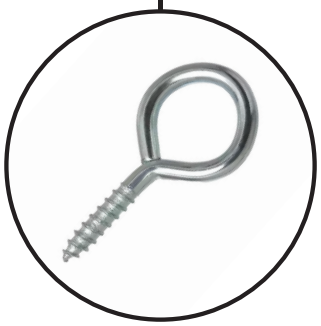
All winning artwork must be enhanced and protected by a sturdy frame. Frames must be made of wood or metal. No plastic "snap on" or metal frames that can easily come apart are to be used. All artwork, except paintings in oil or acrylic on canvas, must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, the person who packs the artwork should make special packing and shipping arrangements to ensure the artwork is not damaged if the glass breaks.

Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully selected.

The artwork will be hung from vertical wires. Two sturdy screw-in eye hooks (see picture below) must be attached at the top left and right sides of the back of the frame for hanging to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Wire between the hooks will need to be removed before it is sent to Washington, DC.



Please indicate which side is up by marking arrows pointing towards the top on the back.



Eye hooks screwed in to top left and right sides of the back of the frame



Do not attach labels, ribbons, etc., to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglass.

All works, including frame, should be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, to the outside of the frame, and 15 pounds in weight. Ensure that the framer is informed of the size and weight limit and double check the size before sending the entry to Washington, DC. Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed works larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.

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2027 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

STUDENT INFORMATION AND RELEASE FORM

Student Information

Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Mailing Address (If Different): _____

Student Email Address: _____ **Student Phone Number:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent Email Address: _____ **Parent Phone Number:** _____

School Information

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Mailing Address (If Different): _____

Student Email Address: _____ **Art Teacher Name:** _____

Art Teacher Email Address: _____ **Art Teacher Phone Number:** _____

Artwork Competition Entry

Title Of Entry: _____

Medium: _____

Description:

Please include a detailed description of the artwork, clearly identifying the major elements of the piece.

For Office Use Only:

Framed Dimensions: Height: _____ inches, Width: _____inches, Depth: _____ inches

See official guidelines for framed size and artwork weight restrictions.

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Student Name: _____ **State & District:** _____

Title of Entry: _____

Originality Certification

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the art entry described above is an original work of authorship by the undersigned student and that it is not copied from, nor does it include, any other person's copyrighted work. I further certify that the art entry was not created using any generative artificial intelligence (AI).

Student Signature: _____ **Art Teacher Signature:** _____

Artwork Release

We, the undersigned, represent that the art entry described above is an original work of authorship personally created by the undersigned student to which the student is entitled copyright protection. In consideration for the acceptance of the art entry by the Member of Congress designated above in An Artistic Discovery (the Congressional Art Competition sponsored by the U.S. House of Representatives) and intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned grant the Member and the House the right to reproduce, distribute and publicly display the art entry, if it is selected for display, in accordance with the rules of the Art Competition. The undersigned grant the Member, the House, their employees and agents, the United States, and the Congressional Institute, Inc., and its employees, the right to reproduce, distribute and publicly display the art entry for any non-commercial purpose. This release allows the undersigned and their families, as well as the office of a Member of Congress, to purchase additional copies of the Exhibition Catalog or similar product, without it being a non-commercial purpose. The undersigned further release the Member, the House, their employees and agents, the United States, and the Congressional Institute, Inc., and its employees, from any and all liability for damage, loss, or misappropriation of the art entry during and subsequent to the Art Competition. The undersigned further agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Member, the House, their employees and agents, the United States, and the Congressional Institute, Inc., and its employees, against any and all claims of any nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, claims of copyright infringement, by any party whatsoever, arising out of or in any way related to the submission of the art entry in the Art Competition.

Student Signature: _____ **Parent/Guardian Signature:** _____