

## 2012 Congressional Art Competition Congressional Art Competition Guidelines

### General Guidelines – Applies to all entries

The competition is open to high school students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 only attending a school in the 16th Congressional District. Home school students residing in our district are also eligible. If you have questions whether a student is eligible, please call or email our office.

In order to allow artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are enforced:

- Artwork must be two-dimensional.
- Each piece can be **no larger** than 28"x28"x4" (28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep), including the frame. Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 lbs.
- Acceptable media for artwork are as follows:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)
  - Collage
  - Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
  - Computer-Generated art
  - Photography
- Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry which has been copied from an existing photo (other than the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person 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 or drawing).

Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the **entire year** of the exhibition and **cannot** be returned to the students earlier. Students should, therefore, submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portion not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit. The panel will make the final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the Congressional Art Competition exhibition in the Capitol.

Official resources are to be used only to the extent authorized by the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

**Framing Guidelines – Only the winning piece must be framed. Framing arrangements can be made after a winning piece is selected. The winner will have approximately 7 – 10 days to complete framing after a winning piece is selected. Hardship cases will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.**

- Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended. No "snap on" frames with glass are to be used.
- All artwork except works in oil or acrylic on canvas must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape.
- All works, **including frame**, should be **no larger** than 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, and 15 lbs in weight. This includes the outside dimensions of the frame. Please double check size before submitting.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- Use sturdy picture hangers on the back of the frame. Two sturdy hooks should be attached at the top right and left sides of the back of the work for hanging in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. For metal frames, solid hangers should be used. Do not put wire between the hooks for hanging; this will be added later.
- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the backside which side is "up" with arrows.

Contact for the 16<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Art Competition

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