

2015 Congressional Art Competition

Congressman Michael C. Burgess, MD (TX-26)

Guidelines and Information

“An Artistic Discovery” is the annual Congressional High School Art Competition. Since the U.S. House of Representatives created the competition in 1982, hundreds of thousands of talented high school students have served as artistic ambassadors to their communities.

Eligibility

High school students (grades 9-12) residing in or attending public, private and home schools located in the 26th Congressional District are eligible to participate. *If you have questions regarding student eligibility, please contact Megan Everett in my Lake Dallas office at 940-497-5031 or megan.everett@mail.house.gov.*

Awards

The Greater Denton Arts Council co-sponsors this annual juried competition. Student artists will have their works judged by a professional art educator chosen by the GDAC. From Monday, March 30th through Friday, April 3rd, all qualified submissions will be posted in a virtual gallery on my website: <http://burgess.house.gov>.

- GRAND Prize
- First Place
- Texas Choice
- Best of School

The “**Best of School**” awards will be selected by the art juror from the posted artwork online and will be given to **one student artist from each school**; as a finalist, they will have their artwork further considered for the Grand Prize and First Place awards. In addition, The **Texas Choice Award** will be selected by friends, family and the public voting on the virtual exhibition of all artwork posted online on my website. The artwork earning the most votes will be named the “Texas Choice” winner. On Tuesday, April 7th, the “Texas Choice” and “Best of School” awards will be announced online and via email to art teachers.

The artwork selected by the art juror for the **GRAND Prize** will be displayed for an entire year in the U.S. Capitol. The exhibit hallway is traveled daily by members of Congress, their staffs and thousands of visitors who are able to view the artwork from Congressional districts throughout the country – each piece highlighted with the name of the work and student artist. The 26th District winner is awarded two airline tickets (winning student & 1 parent) to Washington, D.C. (good for June 2015 from Dallas Love Field Airport to Baltimore Washington International Airport) to see the unveiling of their artwork at the national reception and exhibition in June 2015 (Date TBD). (Note: Other travel expenses are the responsibility of the winner’s family.)

Their winning artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for the next year and a tour of the Capitol will be provided by Congressman Burgess' office.

The First Place winner will have the opportunity to have their work displayed publicly in my Lake Dallas district office for the upcoming year.

****Submitting Entries****

Entries will initially be submitted digitally by the art teacher(s) from schools wishing to participate. Each art teacher may submit up to 5 entries with no student allowed to submit more than one entry. All works must be submitted as a group through the art teacher. **Images must not exceed 250 pixels in height or width and must be in JPEG.**

Please **label your images** in the following manner:

StudentLastName_StudentFirstName_ArtworkTitle_HighSchool.jpg. Example:
Doe_John_StillLife_American High School.jpg

Art Teachers, to submit the digital images, send via email to megan.everett@mail.house.gov; **Monday, March 23rd at 5:00 PM is the deadline for submission of digital artwork.** Submissions **MUST BE** accompanied by a **School Entry Form** and **Student Information Release Form** for each student. Any artwork submitted that does not have the required documents will not be accepted for online judging and exhibition.

Only those works that are selected as "Best of School" by the judge and the "Texas Choice" artwork selected by popular vote online are required to be physically delivered for final judging and exhibition. They must be delivered to Cong. Burgess' Lake Dallas district office OR the Center for the Visual Arts in Denton on the dates specified in order to be considered for final judging. **Artwork DOES NOT HAVE to be FRAMED for the local contest.**

Media

ONLY two-dimensional media is accepted. Art work categories are as follows:

- Painting: oil, acrylic, watercolor, etc
- Drawing: pastel, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers
- Collage (must be two dimensional)
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed Media
- Computer Art
- Photography

Each piece must meet the following guidelines to be accepted and considered.

- Two dimensional only.
- Each piece can be **no larger** than **28" x 28" x 4"** (28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep), including the frame and must adhere to the size/weight guidelines. If your artwork is selected as the Grand Prize or First Place winner, it will be required to be framed. Framing will be the responsibility of the sponsoring school.
- **No more than 15 pounds** in weight.
- No obscene, violent or pornographic subjects.

Each entry must be original in concept, design and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that 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).

The winning art work will hang in the Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned to the students earlier. Grand Prize and First Place winners' artwork will be retained for one year. 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.

Contest Calendar

- **Monday, March 23: Deadline for submission of digital artwork.**
- **Monday, March 30:** Online artwork voting opens. Art Juror reviews online artwork and selects "Best of School's artworks (1/school) as finalists. These award winners advance to the finals.
- **Friday, April 3:** Online voting ends.
- **Tuesday, April 6:** "Texas Choice" online award and "Best of School" awards announced. Notification of "Best of School" and "Texas Choice" winners emailed to art teachers; these artworks are finalists and must be delivered by art teachers for final judging and exhibition at the Center for the Visual Arts in Denton.
- **Monday, April 13 & Tuesday, April 14:** All **finalists' artworks** must be **delivered** by art teachers (8:30 AM-5 PM) to Cong. Burgess' Lake Dallas District Office OR the Center for the Visual Arts in Denton.

Congressman Burgess' District Office

Lake Dallas Office
2000 S. Stemmons Frwy., Suite 200
Lake Dallas, TX 75065
Phone: 940-497-5031

Greater Denton Arts Council

Center for the Visual Arts
(corner of Bell & Hickory)
400 East Hickory
Denton, TX 76201
Phone: 940/382-2787

- The original completed Student Information & Release Form must be attached to the back of the artwork. In addition, entries must be clearly marked on the back of the

artwork with the name of the artist, home address, phone and email, title of the piece, name of high school, and name of art teacher and their work phone and email.

- Artwork does NOT have to be framed for the local contest. (Note: The Grand Prize and First Place winners' school will each be responsible for framing artwork by May 15th prior to shipment for display in the Washington, D.C. or district offices of Congressman Burgess.
- Wednesday, April 15: Artwork received in Cong. Burgess' Lake Dallas District Office delivered to Center for the Visual Arts in Denton.
- April 15: Finalists' artwork judged by Art Juror.
- Monday, April 20: Reception reminder emailed to student finalists, Art Teachers and School Administrators.
- **Monday, April 27, 5:30-7:00 PM: "An Artistic Discovery" Reception**
Center for the Visual Arts, 400 East Hickory, Denton, TX 76201
Exhibition and recognition of all finalists and presentation of awards to winners. All artwork must be picked up at the conclusion of the reception.
- Friday, May 15: The Grand Prize and First Place winner's schools will each be responsible for framing artwork according to the stated competition guidelines. These artworks must be delivered to Congressman Burgess' Lake Dallas district office no later than this date. Congressman Burgess' staff will package and arrange shipment of Grand Prize winner's artwork to Washington, D.C. First Place winner's artwork will be accepted for display in the Lake Dallas district office of Congressman Burgess.
- Late May/Early June: Grand Prize winner will be contacted with detailed information regarding arrangements to attend the national reception and exhibition.
- Mid-June (Date TBD): National opening of "An Artistic Discovery" exhibition in Washington, DC.

Exhibition

Students who are competition finalists, their parents, teachers and school administrators will be invited to attend a **reception on Monday, April 27th, at 5:30 p.m.** to view the "Best of Schools" and "Texas Choice" artwork on display at the **Center for the Visual Arts in Denton**. Also that evening, finalists will be recognized by Congressman Burgess and receive a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition. Grand Prize and First Place winners will be announced as well.

For more information regarding the 2015 Congressional Art Competition, please see the following link: http://www.house.gov/content/educate/art_competition/.

If you have questions, please contact: Megan Everett, Outreach Coordinator, in Congressman Burgess' Lake Dallas office by phone: 940-497-5031 or email: megan.everett@mail.house.gov.