



2023 Congressional Art Competition

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

Guidelines & Information

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 in the 2023 contest.

Awards

Student artists will have their work judged by a professional art educator/jurist. From April 17 – 23, all qualified submissions will be posted in a virtual gallery on Congressman Burgess' website: <http://burgess.house.gov>.

The artwork earning the most votes will be named the “**Texas Choice**” winner and will also be a finalist. The “Texas Choice” award will be selected by friends, family, and the public voting on the virtual exhibition of all artworks posted online on the website.

In addition, **one “Best of School”** award will be selected by the art juror from the posted artworks online **from each school/group**. Note: Artwork submitted by home-schooled students and students entering independently will be judged in a group. The art juror has the option to select up to two other pieces from each school/group based upon artistic merit, to be named as “**Juror’s Choice**” awards. The artwork selected as “Best of School” or “Juror’s Choice” will be contest finalists, and these artwork(s) will be further considered for the Grand Prize and First Place awards.

NOTE: [Art teachers must provide each student entrant with a copy of these contest guidelines.](#)

By April 26th, the “Texas Choice”, “Best of School”, and “Juror’s Choice” finalists will be notified via email to art teachers. The finalists and their parents, as well as their art teachers and principals, will be invited to a reception with Congressman Burgess on Tuesday evening, May 2nd. The finalists' artworks will be displayed that evening during the reception. Congressman Burgess will present a “Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition” to each finalist and announce the GRAND Prize and First Place winners.

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 can 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 and one parent/guardian will be invited to see the unveiling of their artwork at the national reception and exhibition in Washington, D.C. in summer 2023 (Date TBD).

(Note: 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 Congressman Burgess’ 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.**

Art Teachers: Submit the digital images via email to TX26RSVP@mail.house.gov; **Monday, March 27th at 5:00 PM is the deadline for submission of digital artwork.** All digital entries should be submitted as a group by the art teacher. **Electronic images must not exceed 6 MB (megabytes) and must be in JPEG format.**

Please label your images in the following manner:

StudentLastName_StudentFirstName_ArtworkTitle_Medium_HighSchool.jpg.

Example: Doe_John_StillLife_Pencil_Americian High School.jpg

Submissions **MUST BE** accompanied by a **School Entry Form**. Each student must have a completed **Student Information Release Form**. **Any artwork submitted that does not have the required documents will not be accepted for online judging and virtual exhibition.**

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Student Information and Release Form

The **typed Student Information Release Form MUST be signed by the teacher, a parent/guardian, and the student.** The information requested on the first page of the form should be provided as thoroughly as possible. Students should also include contact information that will be valid for several years. The form requires a description of the artwork, which should be detailed, clearly identifying the major elements of the work. The second page of the 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 will not be accepted.**

Media

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

- Painting: oil, acrylic, watercolor, etc.
- Drawing: colored pencil, pencil, ink, markers, pastels, charcoal (It is recommended that pastels and charcoal drawings be fixed.)
- Collage (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
- Photography

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

- **Two dimensional only.**
- Each piece can be **no larger than 26" x 26" x 4"** (26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep), including the frame and must adhere to the size/weight guidelines. Note: **Artwork does NOT have to be framed for the local contest.** 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 (including the frame). (If framed, two sturdy eye hooks or the equivalent should be affixed at the top right and left sides of the back of the frame.)
- No obscene, violent or pornographic subjects.
- Artwork that does not meet these guidelines will be disqualified.

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 or image (other than the student's own) including a 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).

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For more information on copyright laws, we recommend you visit the Scholastic website:
<https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/copyright-plagiarism/>.

The winning artwork will hang in the Cannon HOB tunnel to the U.S. 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 only submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

Suitability

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 sensationalistic 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 travelled area leading to the Capitol.

Contest Calendar

- March 27: Deadline for submission of student's digital artwork by teachers.
- April 17: Online artwork voting opens. Public votes for their favorite artwork for "Texas Choice." Art Juror reviews online artwork and selects "Best of School" and "Juror's Choice" artworks as finalists.
- April 23: Online voting ends.
- By April 26: "Texas Choice", "Best of School", and "Juror's Choice" finalists announced and emailed to art teachers.
- **April 27, 28 or May 1** (Hours: 8AM-5PM): **Finalists' artwork must be delivered** by the student, the student's parent/guardian, or art teacher **to Congressman Burgess' Lake Dallas District Office**. Artwork must be accompanied by the original completed Student Release Form.

Congressman Burgess' District Office
2000 Stemmons Frwy., Suite 200
Lake Dallas, TX 75065

Note: Please contact Robin Vaughan in Congressman Burgess' office to discuss alternative delivery options. Phone: 940-497-5031 *OR* Email:
robin.vaughan@mail.house.gov

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- **May 2: Congressional Art Competition Finalists Reception, 6:00-7:30 PM, at the Lewisville Grand Theater.**

Lewisville Grand Theater

100 N. Charles Street
Lewisville, TX 75057

- **May 19:** Grand Prize and First Place winners FRAMED artwork delivered to Congressman Burgess' Lake Dallas office. (Framing regulations apply only to the winning artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC or displayed in the Lake Dallas District Office.)

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.

- **June:** Grand Prize winner will be contacted with detailed information regarding arrangements to attend the national reception and exhibition.
- **Summer** (Date TBD): Opening of the national Congressional Art Competition exhibition in Washington, DC.

Framing Guidelines for Grand Prize and First Place Winners ONLY

Framing regulations apply only to the winning artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC or displayed in the Lake Dallas District Office.

The Grand Prize and First Place winners' 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 5:00 PM on May 19th.**

Congressman Burgess' staff will be responsible for packing and shipping the Grand Prize winner's artwork to Washington, D.C. Also, the First Place winner's artwork will be accepted for display in the Lake Dallas district office of Congressman Burgess.

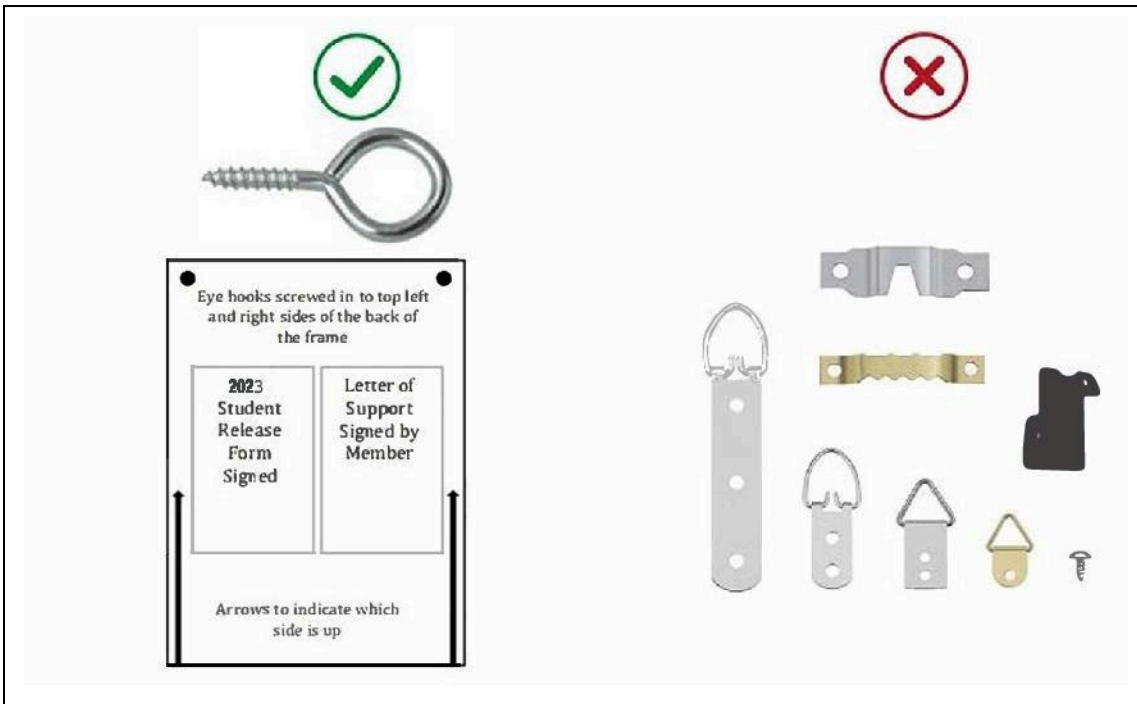
If artwork is selected for display in the national Congressional Art Competition exhibition, it must be delivered in a frame that can be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep and no more than 15 pounds in weight (including the frame).

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.

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

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The artwork will be hung from vertical wires. Two sturdy eye hooks (see sample following) must be attached at the top right and left sides of the back of the frame for hanging in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Do not attach wire between the hooks; it is not needed.



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

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

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