

CONGRESSMAN ROD BLUM

First District of Iowa



2016 Congressional Art Competition

IMPORTANT DATES AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in the 2016 Congressional Art Competition. The arts are a central element of culture, personal development and community vitality. I invite you to enter your art for a chance to win the display of your piece at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. or in one of my offices.

--Rod Blum, Member of Congress

Competition Rules:

This competition is open to high school students **only**. Each student may enter one piece of artwork. Artwork must be two-dimensional. Each piece can be **no larger** than **28" x 28" x 4"**, including the frame. Artwork cannot weigh more than **15 lbs**. Accepted mediums are as follows: Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.

- Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers
- Collage: must be two dimensional; prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed media: use of more than two medias 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. Only one entry is allowed to be submitted per person. Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing). Winning artwork will hang in the U.S. 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 not contain any content that may be inappropriately perceived by the general public; this includes nudity, sexual content, grotesque violence or gore. Evaluation of the piece's appropriateness for public display is at the complete discretion on Congressman Blum's office. Any piece that is deemed to violate these parameters of appropriateness will be immediately disqualified.

The back of each piece must be clearly labeled with a name, address and phone number. Draw arrows indicating which is the piece's upside.

Questions:

Any questions may be directed to Jack Mescher at jack.mescher@mail.house.gov or by calling 563-557-7789.

To Participate:

1. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/BlumArt2016> and register online with Mr. Blum's office. (*This form works best with Google Chrome*)
 - o All students must identify an art teacher/faculty advisor in order to participate.
 - o The signup form must be completed by **April 11, 2015**.
2. Complete and submit the "2016 Congressional Art Competition Student Information and Release," available at <https://blum.house.gov>
 - o This form must be physically submitted and signed with the actual piece of art to one of Mr. Blum's district offices by **April 20, 2016**.
3. The actual pieces of Art must be submitted to one of the district offices by **April 20, 2016**.
 - o Pieces may either be mailed directly to the office or dropped off in person. If dropped off in person, it is **STRONGLY** recommended that an appointment is made to ensure that a member of the staff will be at the office to meet you.
 - o Office locations are:

Dubuque Office: 1050 Main St. Dubuque, IA 52001 Ph: (563)-557-7780	Cedar Falls Office: 515 Main St. Cedar Falls, IA 50613 Ph: (319)-266-6925	Cedar Rapids Office: 310 3 rd St. SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52401 Ph: (319)-364-2288
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Public Gallery Display & Competition Reception:

Qualifying pieces will be exhibited at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls from **April 26th to May 7th 2016**. A reception with Congressman Blum and competition judges, announcing the 1st place winner and honorable mentions, will take place on **Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 6:00PM**. All participants are invited to attend with their teachers, families and friends.

Judging and Placing:

Each piece will be judged in accord with an established criteria by art professors at the University of Northern Iowa. Winning pieces will be framed at no cost by a competition sponsor.

- **First Place:** The winning piece will be shipped out for display at the U.S. Capitol for a period of one year. Winner will receive complimentary round trip airfare to attend a winners reception in Washington D.C. at a date TBD in June.
- **Second Place:** This piece will be displayed in Congressman Blum's Washington office for a period of one year.
- **Honorable Mentions:** Three honorable mentions will be identified. These pieces will be displayed in Congressman Blum's three district offices.

Questions:

Any questions may be directed to Jack Mescher at jack.mescher@mail.house.gov or by calling 563-557-7789.



2016 Art Submission Checklist

When preparing for the Congressional Art Competition, please complete the following checklist. This will ensure that the Congressional Art Competition staff will accept the artwork. Please consult the official rules and regulations for more information.

This checklist is based on the rules and regulations that apply nationwide. Each Member of Congress may institute other requirements in addition to these.

Requirements for All Students, Parents/Guardians, and Teachers:

- The artwork is no larger than 28" x 28" x 4" when framed. (Note: Each Member of Congress may specify whether or not all entries should be framed. Prior to sending the winning artwork to Washington, DC, it must be framed.)
- The artwork meets suitability and originality guidelines.
- The "Student Information and Release Form" is attached to the back of the artwork.
 - The release form has signatures from the student, parent/guardian (if necessary), and an art teacher.

Requirements for the Winning Student and Parents/Guardians:

- Frame the winning artwork.
 - Remove all labels, ribbons, etc., before framing.
 - The artwork is no larger than 28" x 28" x 4" and does not weigh more than 15 pounds, including the frame.*
 - Attach two sturdy eye hooks or the equivalent at the top right and left sides of the back of the frame.
 - Draw arrows on the back of the artwork to indicate which direction is "up".

Requirements for Congressional Offices:

- If there are questions about the winning artwork's suitability or originality, consult with the Curator of the Architect of the Capitol. For a consultation, please call 202-228-2700.
- Submit the winner's name, contact information, and artwork information to the Congressional Institute no later than May 4, 2016.
- Package the artwork and ship it to Washington, DC, so that it arrives no later than May 24, 2016.
 - If the art is covered by glass, pack the art in such a way that the pane will not break. (Consult a shipping expert for assistance.)
 - Mail the artwork to the home of a DC staffer, **not** directly to the Congressional office.
- Confirm the second page of the Student Information and Release Form that is attached to the back of the artwork bears the Member's signature.

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Student Information & Release Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. THIS INFORMATION IS USED FOR CERTIFICATES AND AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS.
INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MEMBER/DISTRICT INFORMATION	
MEMBER OF CONGRESS NAME:	STATE & DISTRICT:

STUDENT INFORMATION		
NAME: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	GRADE:	
STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT):		
STUDENT EMAIL:	STUDENT PHONE (CELL):	
PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME(S):		
PARENT PHONE (HOME):	PARENT PHONE (WORK or CELL):	
PARENT EMAIL:	STUDENT T-SHIRT SIZE:	

SCHOOL		
SCHOOL NAME:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
ART TEACHER NAME:		
ART TEACHER PHONE:	ART TEACHER EMAIL:	

ART 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 Information & Release Form

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)	
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.	
<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> STUDENT SIGNATURE	<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> ART TEACHER SIGNATURE

ARTWORK RELEASE	
<p>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 <i>An Artistic Discovery</i> (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 publicly display the art entry, if it is selected for display, in accordance with the rules of the Art Competition, for a period of two years from the latest date on this form. The undersigned acknowledge that the final decision regarding the suitability of an art entry to be displayed in the Capitol will be made by a House panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. The undersigned also grant the Member, the House, their employees and agents, the United States, and the Congressional Institute, Inc., and its employees, the right to reproduce the art entry for any 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.</p>	
<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> STUDENT SIGNATURE	<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (IF UNDER 18)

MEMBER APPROVAL (FOR OVERALL WINNER ONLY)	
I have viewed the above-signed student's artwork and approve of its content. I understand that by signing this form I am supporting this artwork and am responsible for its content.	
<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> MEMBER SIGNATURE	<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> PRINT DISTRICT OFFICE CONTACT NAME <hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> PRINT DC OFFICE CONTACT NAME