



Calling all Minnesota high school artists! Each spring, the Congressional Institute hosts a [nationwide visual art competition](#) to showcase the remarkable talent of high school artists across the country. Since 1982, the competition has served as a celebration of artistic expression and national unity, with one winning entry from each Congressional District displayed in a gallery in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

### Eligibility

- Artists must be living or attending high school (grades 9-12) in Minnesota's Third Congressional District
- Artists must complete all [required paperwork and release forms](#)
- Artwork must adhere to [official rules](#), including accepted medium and size limitations
- Artwork and paperwork must be submitted on time

### Submissions and Timeline

For the safety of our community during the ongoing pandemic, the 2021 Congressional Art Competition will be hosted online in Minnesota's Third District. Students should submit their artwork in a digital format while still complying with the [Art Competition Rules](#) and Suitability Guidelines from the Congressional Institute.

- April 17: Completed [release forms](#) and high resolution photos of artwork is due via email to [grant.anderla@mail.house.gov](mailto:grant.anderla@mail.house.gov)
- April 26: Online gallery opens
- April 26 – May 7: People's choice voting
- Week of May 10: Winners announced
  - Winning artwork will be collected physically and framed for display

### Winners

A panel of distinguished judges will score artwork on creativity and technical skill. Members of the public will be invited to vote online for the People's Choice Award. Additional prizes may be announced.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Displayed in the Minnesota Office of Rep. Dean Phillips for one year
- People's Choice: Displayed in the Washington DC Office of Rep. Dean Phillips for one year

## **Congressional Art Competition Rules**

[Click here to download complete Congressional Art Competition Rules from the Congressional Institute.](#)

Entries 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 anyone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted.

Size:

- Artwork must be two-dimensional
- Framed artwork can be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep. 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:

- 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

Winning artwork for display must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing). Artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol for the duration of the exhibition. Students should only submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

### **Student Information and Release Form**

[Each entrant must submit a Student Information and Release Form.](#) Please provide all requested information as thoroughly as possible. Students should include their mailing address, if different from home address.

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. Use as many details as possible, for example: "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 the form. 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.

### **Suitability Guidelines**

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. 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. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, the Commission seeks to avoid displaying artwork that is potentially inappropriate for this highly travelled area leading to the Capitol.