



3rd Annual Youth Bias Task Force Student Art Competition



Activism Through Art

Vision Statement

The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights (DCR) announces its third annual Youth Bias Task Force Student Art Competition, entitled “**Activism Through Art**”. Historically, social movements have inspired art, exposed inequity, and rallied others to advocate for change. DCR **encourages** young people throughout New Jersey to create and submit artwork and videos to raise awareness of advocate for solutions to social issues they are passionate about.

Terms and Conditions

Eligible Entrants

- Open to New Jersey residents age 25 and under
- One submission per student or student group per category.

Timeline

- Submissions are due by December 31, 2023.
- Competition Exhibit Reveal and Awards Ceremony: April 2024

Competition Framework

An individual (or group) statement (not to exceed 250 words) must accompany all artwork design and video submissions. The statement should explain how their submission advocates for social justice. All submissions must be original works.

Themes

1. Advocate/ promote racial justice, LGBTQIA+ rights, disability rights, gender equity, immigrant rights, or religious equality
2. Standing up to hate or prejudice
3. Mobilizing civil rights activism

Categories

Artwork design. Participants may submit an original artwork. Artwork can be a drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, graphic design, or piece of digital design.

- Entries should be submitted in a high-resolution JPEG, PNG, or PDF format.
- If a sculpture or 3D art work is entered you must submit a video of the design.
- One piece of artwork will be selected in each of four age groups: Elementary (Grades pre-k through 5); Middle (Grades 6-8); High School (Grades 9-12); and Young Adults (18-25 years old not currently enrolled in high school).

30-90 Second Video. Participants may submit an original video between 30 to 90 seconds in length that follows the stand up to hate theme.

- Entries should be submitted in a high-resolution MP4 format that can be shared via Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Videos can feature any content that is on theme, including, but not limited to, **narrative, poetry, spoken word, song, dance, or acting.**
- Individual or group submissions will be accepted.
- Any accompanying music or beat must be original.
- One video will be selected in each of four age groups: Elementary (Grades pre-k through 5); Middle (Grades 6-8); High School (Grades 9-12); and Young Adults (18-25 years old not currently enrolled in high school).

Evaluation

- Submissions will be judged by a committee of seven judges, comprised of employees of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, the New Jersey Department of Education, and community members (“Selection Committee”).
- No submissions will be reviewed or selected by any member of the Selection Committee until the submission window has closed.
- Entries will be judged on creativity, production/graphic quality and ability to inspire young people across the state to stand up to hate in their communities.
- All selection decisions by the Selection Committee are final.
- Late submissions will not be accepted.

Prizes

Winners will receive certificates and awards from the Office of the Attorney General, Division on Civil Rights. All submissions may be featured as part of a multimedia campaign by the Division on Civil Rights as determined by the Division in its discretion. No monetary prize will be issued.

Winners will also:

1. Have the opportunity to participate in Competition Exhibit Reveal(s) and Awards Ceremony (in virtual format, if necessary)
2. Have the opportunity to become a DCR Youth Ambassador for the year following their selection and work with DCR in a peer mentoring capacity for other students.

Benefits of Participation

Prior submissions have been displayed at art galleries and museums across the state. DCR, in its discretion, may feature the submissions as part of a multimedia DCR campaign.

Participant Eligibility Requirements

- One submission per student or student group.
- Participants must follow applicable laws and school rules while creating entries.
- Participants under the age of 18 may receive assistance from teachers, administrators, and/or parents/guardians, but the extent of assistance must be disclosed on the Submission Form. School equipment may be used with permission from appropriate school personnel. Public library or other equipment made available to the public may be used with permission of the entity.
- Should a group work together on a project, each group member will receive a certificate and have the opportunity to be designated a DCR Youth Ambassador.
- Participants also may include the following information on their submission form, but are not required to do so:
 1. Any dates between April 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024, during which they would be unavailable to participate in an awards ceremony and/or roundtable discussion; and
 2. Any teacher, administrator, other member of school faculty, parent, guardian, or community member who they would like to nominate to receive recognition for their assistance or support of the participant’s project in the event the project is selected.
- In the video, participants should not wear clothing or accessories, or use or display items or products, with school names or with logos of any kind.
- Use of copyrighted material (images) or trademarks (company names, logos, brands, etc.) is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.
- Content must comply with all local and national laws of the United States. Content must not: a) promote illegal behavior b) support racial, religious, sexual or other invidious prejudice c) advocate sexual or violent exploitation d) violate rights established by law or agreements; e) invade the privacy of any person f) be otherwise inappropriate as determined by DCR in its sole and conclusive determination.
- Those who do not follow the above rules may be disqualified.

Consent Form/Statement of Release

- All participants must submit a fully executed Consent Form/Statement of Release, signed by them and, if they are under 18, by their parent or legal guardian, providing the New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety the permissions, releases, and licenses outlined in the accompanying “Permission and Consent to Photograph and/or Use Image, Release of Claims, & License to Use Intellectual Property” (the “Permission, Release, & License”).
- All participants must complete a fully executed Submission Form, including a certification that:
 1. The participant is not related to any person employed by the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, Garden State Equality, YWCA Northern New Jersey, Department of Labor & Work Force Development’s Strategic Planning & Outreach Unit, Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office – Outreach Unit, and Montclair Art Museum.
 2. All materials constituting their submission, including all artwork, videos, and any embedded music, beat, narrative, poetry, spoken word, song, dance, or acting, are their original work and that no other person or entity has any rights to those materials.

Submission Methods

- Online at <https://www.nj.gov/oag/dcr/ybtf-student-competition/index.html> between September 30 and December 23, 2023.
- If you are unable to submit online, please email us at communityrelations@njcivilrights.gov and inform us you will be mailing in your submission on a thumb drive to:

New Jersey Division on Civil Rights
31 Clinton Street, 3rd Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102
Attn: Youth Ambassador Program Coordinator

The thumb drive must include the following information:

1. Project in JPEG, PNG, MP4 or PDF format only.
2. Signed Release Form in PDF format
3. Word Document containing:
 - a. Statement
 - b. Name, Age, Phone Number, Email Address
 - c. School, Town, County
 - d. If under age 18, **must provide** Parent/Legal Guardian’s Name, Phone Number and Email Address

Should you have any questions, please email us at communityrelations@njcivilrights.gov.