



2027 School Art Program Rules and Regulations

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2027 School Art Program Updates & Reminders

- **All students and teachers should review the rules and guidelines carefully.**
- **Artwork that does not comply with these rules will be disqualified and/or ineligible to advance in the School Art Program.**
- The 2027 Rules & Regulations have been updated to incorporate all School Art Program Contests.
- This is the last year that Districts and Private Schools will be receiving blue, red, and white ribbons. Awards will still be given to all finalists and winners.
- 2027 District and Private School 2D quotas have been increased.
- All artwork, Artist's Statement of Intent, liability forms, and paperwork will be uploaded to the School Art Contest Portal. Judging will be done online and in person.
- Artwork may NOT be generated using any AI technology.
- All artwork is subject to visual verification through digital means. Students and teachers must be able to defend the artwork in question.
- Mats will not be provided to the schools. Artwork is not required to be matted or mounted. If paper artwork is submitted and wins an award, the School Art Committee will mount the artwork for the Hayloft Gallery.
- Assigned artwork ID numbers and stickers will no longer be provided. Blank stickers will be provided and must be filled in using the auto-generated Entry ID Numbers from the School Art Contest Portal.
- The Artist's Statement of Intent questions are fields to be completed by the STUDENTS in the School Art Contest Portal. See Appendix F.
- Reference source materials are required for all High School and Junior High 2D and 3D Contest entries. Reference sources do not need to be uploaded to the School Art Contest Portal as part of the submission. However, if the judges request to review any reference sources during the judging process, participants must be prepared to provide them at the time of judging.
- Photos taken at the Western Art Academy may only be used as secondary reference sources.
- The School Art Photo Bank is available through Zenfolio. Downloaded images may be used as secondary reference sources only. High School and Junior High students need to make the appropriate indication if a photo from the photo bank is used. The URL and password is available on the Contest Portal.
- The Special Needs Contest allows each District and Private School to bring up to 10 entries of any age group to be collectively judged in January. Up to 2 Best of Show and 2 Gold Medals will be awarded for each High School, Junior High, and Elementary levels. This will be the last year for a separate Special Needs Contest.
- BOTH pages of the Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form must be uploaded to the School Art Contest Portal. All initial and signature fields must be completed as outlined in the 2027 School Art Program Rules & Regulations. See Appendix A.
- The School Art Contest Portal now allows multiple users to contribute to the entry and submission process. Appointed school representatives and teachers can add an unlimited number of collaborators to each submission (including fellow teachers and STUDENTS).
- The Elementary class has been divided into two separate classes – Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary.
- The 2D classes have been updated to include a new Contemporary western class.
- The 3D classes have been updated to include sculpture and ceramics (no longer limited to functional ceramics).

- The Graphic Design Poster Contest has been updated to a Graphic Design Contest.
- **2027 School Art Program contact information has been updated and can be found in Appendix B.**
Any previous general School Art Program email addresses are no longer being monitored.

Section 1: Overview & Definitions

Any artwork or design that does not comply with these rules will be disqualified and/or ineligible to advance in any School Art Program Contest.

THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL ART PROGRAM

The mission of the School Art Committee is to coordinate and supervise the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ School Art Program. The program promotes an awareness of agriculture, Western Heritage and Show activities through artistic competitions for area students.

WESTERN ART

The subject matter for all artwork entered in any School Art Program Contest must be Western Art. Western Art is defined as art that depicts the heritage, lifestyle, and landscapes of the American West, both historical and present day. Western Art is defined by subject rather than style. It includes a wide range of artistic approaches and mediums.

GRADE LEVEL DEFINITIONS

- Lower Elementary: Pre-K – 3rd grade
- Upper Elementary: 4th & 5th grade
- Junior High: 6th – 8th grade
- High School: 9th – 12th grade

SCHOOL ART PROGRAM CONTESTS

- School Art Contests (District Shows)
 - Lower Elementary & Upper Elementary – Students may submit a 2D or 3D piece.
 - Junior High – Students may submit a 2D or 3D piece.
 - High School – Students may submit a 2D and/or a 3D piece.
 - 2D classes include Colored Drawing, Contemporary, Mixed Medium, Monochromatic, and Painting.
 - 3D classes include Ceramics and Clay Sculptures.
- Quick Draw Contest
 - Junior High – Students may submit a Still Life sketch.
 - High School – Students may submit a Full Figure sketch or a Portrait sketch.
- Graphic Design Contest for High School students
- Children’s Hospitals Art Contest

RIBBONS

The 2027 School Art Program year is the last year blue, red, and white ribbons will be distributed. Ribbons are distributed based on district/school total enrollment provided at the time of registration. See below chart for details.

2027 Ribbon Scale				
Enrollment	Total Ribbons	Blue	Red	White
> 100	25	5	8	12
100 – 249	50	10	15	25
250 – 499	75	15	23	37
500 – 999	100	20	30	50
1,000 – 2,499	150	30	45	75
2,500 – 3,499	200	40	60	100
3,500 – 4,999	250	50	75	125
5,000 – 7,499	350	70	105	175
7,500 – 9,999	400	80	120	200
10,000 – 14,999	450	90	135	225
15,000 – 19,999	500	100	150	250
20,000 – 29,999	550	110	165	275
30,000 – 39,999	600	120	180	300
40,000 – 59,999	650	130	195	325
60,000 – 74,999	700	140	210	350
75,000 +	750	150	225	375

Section 1.1: General Program Rules – All Contest Entries

All entries that do not comply with the following rules and artwork restrictions will be DISQUALIFIED and will not be judged.

ENTRIES

1. Students may receive instruction, mentoring, feedback, tutoring, and technical guidance from individuals outside their school. However, all creative work submitted to the School Art Program must be conceived, developed, and produced solely by the student. Outside individuals may not create, draft, design, edit, or otherwise contribute substantive content to the final piece. The submitted work must be the student's own original effort.
2. Artwork must be completed by the students prior to the contest submission due date.
3. The School Art Program contests are open to students enrolled in public or private schools registered with the program, students enrolled in non-participating public or private schools within 250 miles of Houston, and homeschooled students living within 250 miles of Houston.

ARTWORK RESTRICTIONS

1. Certain subjects are considered unacceptable for ALL School Art Program Contests and Scholarship Applications. Artwork depicting these subjects will be disqualified. The subjects include:
 - a. Any subject matter that, in the sole judgment of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, is highly controversial or may detract from the general character of the Show (e.g., items, symbols, or themes that may represent racism, prejudice, profanity, or are of a lewd nature).
 - b. Satanic art.
 - c. Violent art.
 - d. Nudes (adults and children) and inappropriate or suggestive clothing, or a lack thereof.
 - e. Illegal drug use or any associated paraphernalia.

2. Certain types, styles, and methods of artwork are not permitted in the School Art Program competition. Artwork of these types, styles, or methods will be disqualified. These include:
 - a. Jewelry (including necklaces, pendants, rings, and belt buckles);
 - b. Wood burning;
 - c. Artwork created on glass, mirror, plastic, metal, or any reflective material;
 - d. Artwork created using cloth, fabric, felt, etc.; and
 - e. Photographic or digital work may be used in the Graphic Design Contest only.
3. Traced images are prohibited.
4. Painting on any surface that contains a printed image or photograph is prohibited, regardless of whether it is your own or someone else's image/photograph.
5. **Artwork created using any form of AI technology is prohibited.**

DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

If a student's artwork or design is found to be in violation of the artwork restrictions detailed in these School Art Program Rules and Regulations either before, during or after judging, the artwork will be disqualified. The disqualified student will not be eligible for any award, scholarships or workshop, and the artwork will not be displayed in the Hayloft Gallery. It is the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo policy that any violation of the School Art Program Rules and Regulations may result in disqualification of a student, private school, or school district from further participation in the program. **Disqualification decisions made by representatives of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo are final.**

INELIGIBILITY

Artwork that is found to be in non-compliance with the artwork guidelines and not in violation of the artwork restrictions may receive a blue, red, or white ribbon as applicable. High school seniors whose artwork is determined to be ineligible are still eligible to apply for a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo general scholarship.

CONSENT

1. The student, teacher, and parent/guardians understand, that as a condition of participation in the School Art Program, they are granting Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo permission to display the student's artwork and/or design; to photograph, film, or otherwise record the student's artwork/design; and, to reproduce the student's artwork/design in whole, in part or composite.
2. **The student and parent/guardian waive and release any and all rights to inspect/approve the final product, and they release, discharge, and hold harmless Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo from any liability by virtue of the use of the student's artwork or images.**
3. **The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the School Art Committee are not responsible for loss, theft, or damage of artwork. Damaged artwork will not be repaired nor displayed in the Hayloft Gallery.**

Section 2: School Art Contest (2D & 3D District Shows)

Two-dimensional (2D) artwork and three-dimensional (3D) artwork for district judging will be selected and submitted into the School Art Contest Portal by the entrant (i.e. appointed school representative with contributions by the student's art teacher and the student). Artwork selected by the School Art Committee for further review will be brought to Reliant Center for judging by the appointed school representative.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTRIES

Public School districts may submit into the School Art Contest Portal up to their public school district quota. Public school district quotas are based on enrollment and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Public School District Quotas				
	Maximum Lower Elementary*	Maximum Upper Elementary*	Maximum Junior High*	Maximum 2D High School
Enrollment	Pre-K – 3 rd Grade	4 th & 5 th Grades	6 th – 8 th Grades	9 th – 12 th Grades
10,000 and up	15	10	20	35
3,000 – 9,999	15	10	20	30
0 – 2,999	15	10	20	25
*Junior High and Elementary students may submit a 2D or a 3D piece.				

PRIVATE SCHOOL ENTRIES

Private Schools may submit into the School Art Contest Portal:

1. Up to 5 Lower Elementary pieces (may be 2D or 3D);
2. Up to 5 Upper Elementary pieces (may be 2D or 3D);
3. Up to 10 Junior High pieces (may be 2D or 3D); and
4. Up to 15 High School 2D pieces.

SPECIAL NEEDS ENTRIES

Public school districts and private schools may bring up to 10 pieces of art across all school levels, separate from the above School Art Program quotas, created by students with a disability. The artwork may be a 2D or a 3D piece. The Special Needs category applies to students with disabilities that meet the criteria per the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* as stated... “students who are in need of special education and related services” to support their education.

ALL ENTRIES

After submission of artwork into the School Art Contest Portal, artwork may NOT be altered, modified, or otherwise changed by the teacher, school representative, student, or any other person. This includes, but is not limited to, altering artwork size or performing touch-up work on a piece of art. Any violation of this rule will result in ineligibility of the student’s artwork.

SCHOOL ART CONTEST ATTENDEES

1. The appointed school representative must be present at their district judging; however, they may not be in the immediate area while judging is in progress.
2. Students, parents, and outside spectators may NOT be present.

Section 2.1: School Art Contest Eligibility

HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

1. High School students may enter one piece of 2D art. High School students may also enter one piece of 3D art into the 3D Contest.
2. A student whose artwork was previously selected as **Grand Champion** may NOT submit 2D artwork in the same class. The student may submit artwork in a different 2D class.

3. The 2D classes are:
 - a. **Colored Drawing:** Colored pencil, pastels, crayon, conte, chalks.
 - b. **Contemporary:** Western artwork created using contemporary styles, concepts, or techniques that emphasize abstraction or non-traditional artistic expression. Includes all permissible mediums.
 - c. **Mixed Mediums:** The use of any mixture of two or more mediums, for example, watercolor with pencil or pen and ink with watercolor.
 - d. **Monochromatic:** The use of one hue with the addition of white to lighten and black to darken. Includes all permissible mediums.
 - e. **Painting:** Artwork created using mediums applied by brush or palette knife in two or more hues, such as oil, watercolor, ink washes, acrylics, tempera, designer colors, gouache, inks, and dyes. Monochromatic paintings will be in the monochromatic class.

CLASSIFICATION

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo reserves the right to re-class any piece of art determined to be categorized incorrectly. For example, an entry using one hue of paint can be moved from painting to monochromatic.

JUNIOR HIGH ELIGIBILITY

Junior High students may enter one piece of 2D art or one piece of 3D art.

ELEMENTARY ELIGIBILITY

Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary students may enter one piece of 2D art or one piece of 3D art.

Section 2.2: School Art Contest Guidelines

Artwork that is found to be in non-compliance with the guidelines outlined below is NOT eligible to advance to the next round of District judging.

1. The subject matter for all artwork must be Western Art as defined by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program.
2. All artwork must be 100% complete at time of submission into the School Art Contest Portal.
3. Due to blind judging, artwork may not have any identifying information located on any files uploaded into the School Art Contest Portal nor on the artwork including the front, back, bottom, and sides. Identifying information includes student names, signatures, school names, school districts, teacher names, etc.
4. All artwork must have a title. Identifying information may not be included in the title.
5. All artwork must be dry.
6. Colored Pencil, Pastel, Pencil and Charcoal works of art must have a coating of varnish or fixative applied prior to submission to the show. Artwork that smears will be ineligible.
7. All artwork must be the student's original composition and content and individual expression.
 - a. Published images may NOT be reproduced in whole or part. Published images include, but are not limited to, drawings, sketches, or photographs published electronically (eBooks, mobile apps, websites, etc.) or in print (magazines, books, brochures, etc.).
 - i. Releases to use published or copyrighted images will NOT be accepted.
 - b. Trademarked logos, slogans, and licensed characters are not permitted in part or in whole. This also applies to the title of the artwork.
 - c. Logos, slogans, or licensed characters that are strikingly similar to the originals are NOT permitted.

2D ARTWORK

All grade levels

1. The only permissible mediums and materials that may be used to create art include any type or brand of:
 - a. Pastels
 - b. Acrylic Paint
 - c. Ink
 - d. Chalk
 - e. Watercolor
 - f. Markers
 - g. Charcoal
 - h. Oil Paint
 - i. Pen
 - j. Airbrush
 - k. Pencil
 - l. Crayon
 - m. Dye
 - n. Conte
 - o. Scratchboard Etching
2. The only permissible surfaces that may be used to create art are listed below:
 - a. Stretched Canvas
 - b. Canvas Boards
 - c. Paper
 - d. Art Boards (commercially manufactured for artistic purposes)
 - e. Masonite Boards
 - f. Scratchboard
3. Unacceptable techniques include:
 - a. Second surface (any form of pasting or gluing)
 - b. Any work that is cut away (particularly the use of cardboard or wood)
 - c. Collage
4. **Minimum Dimension:** 11" x 14" horizontal or vertical including mat if used.
5. **Maximum Dimension:** 16" x 20" horizontal or vertical including mat if used.
6. On stretched canvas, the maximum stretcher bar depth is 1".
7. Artwork may not be framed.
8. Artwork does not have to be matted or mounted.
 - a. An entry may include a single mat if the student wishes to include one.
 - i. If matted, the mat must be affixed in a way that it can be removed without damaging the artwork.
 - ii. If matted, only use a single mat. Multiple matting is not allowed.
 - iii. If matted, the mat cannot cause the piece to exceed the 16" x 20" maximum size.
9. Wire and/or metal hanging mechanisms may not be attached to the back of the artwork.
10. Laminated artwork is not allowed.
11. Velcro dots on the back of artwork must be removed or securely and completely covered with tape.

3D ARTWORK

Junior High & Elementary Only

1. Junior High and Elementary students may enter one piece of 2D OR one piece of 3D art.
2. All artwork must be 100% complete at time of submission into the School Art Contest Portal.
3. Permissible mediums for Junior High and Elementary 3D artwork include:
 - a. Wire
 - b. Plaster
 - c. Papier-Mache
 - d. Petroleum Based Clay
 - e. Water Based Clay
 - f. Wood
 - g. Stone
 - h. Plasticine

4. All 3D artwork must be able to withstand repeated transporting and handling. Artwork must be sturdy, be able to stand alone, sitting solidly on its base or bottom, and must not have a tendency to tip over.
5. 3D artwork must stand on its own or have a base for support.
6. A base is required for all artwork made from unfired clay. Do not totally cover the base with unfired clay as this makes handling difficult.
7. If a base is used, the artwork must be securely fastened to the base through armature or other means.
8. If an armature support is required for the sculpture made from unfired clay, it should not be completely covered with clay and must be securely fastened to the base. The armature support is intended to be a temporary support until the artwork is cast; therefore, the artwork must be touching/integrated with the base.
9. **Maximum Dimensions:** May not exceed 16" in height, width, or depth including the base/easel.
10. **Maximum Weight:** May not exceed 15 pounds in total weight.
11. Fragile 3D artwork subject to damage, easily tipped over or otherwise determined to be susceptible to damage is not eligible for participation in the program. If damage occurs to any 3D artwork, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is not responsible for repairs. Damaged artwork will be ineligible.
12. If wire is used for detailing (i.e., twisted wire to form rope), it must be covered in clay.
13. 3D artwork cannot be cast.
14. No molds may be used (only hand tools may be used).
15. If air dried clay is used, it must be completely dry.
16. Bas-relief is acceptable, but the artwork must be presented so that all sides can be viewed (for example, on an easel or pedestal).
17. If required, all unfired clay sculptures must have a sound armature throughout the interior, securely attached to the base, creating stability.

Section 2.3: School Art Contest Entries

1. School Art Contest submissions will be uploaded to the School Art Contest Portal. Public school districts and private schools will only be allowed to upload their maximum quota of entries.
2. School Art Contest submissions will be preliminarily judged online by School Art Judges. Final award selections will be made in person at Reliant Center.
3. Artwork not submitted online by the School Art Contest deadline will not be accepted nor judged.

SCHOOL ART CONTEST PORTAL INFORMATION

1. Information needed for entries includes:
 - a. Student contact information;
 - b. Teacher contact information;
 - c. School information;
 - d. Artwork title;
 - e. Artwork size (measured with the mat, if used);
 - f. Artwork class for High School students;
 - g. Completed and signed Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form;
 - i. **High School Students:** The student and the student's legal guardian (if the student is under 18 years old) must sign the form.
 - ii. **Junior High & Elementary Students:** The student's legal guardian must sign the form. The student's signature is not required.

- h. Image(s) of the completed artwork; and
- i. Photograph Submission Requirements: Each photograph must be a jpeg file with a file size no smaller than 1 MB and no larger than 4 MB. Files smaller than 1 MB or larger than 4MB will be automatically prevented from uploading.
- i. Artist's Statement of Intent for High School & Junior High students ONLY.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

High School & Junior High Only

1. High School and Junior High students are required to type into the Contest Portal their Artist's Statement of Intent outlining their inspiration and reference source material information.
 - a. Students will be asked to describe their artistic intent and creative process. Student's artistic statements may be used publicly as described in the Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form.
 - i. **Primary Reference Source Materials** can be photographs or a still life used to help capture the primary focus or main idea of the artwork.
 1. If artwork is a copy of a photograph (primary reference source), the photograph(s) must be taken by the student, a family member, or by a teacher. Other photographs may be used as secondary reference sources as long as the image does not constitute the main subject of the artwork.
 2. Original ideas from the student's imagination should be supported by several developmental sketches that show the progression of ideas.
 - ii. **Secondary Reference Source Materials** can be any photos, websites, or books that support and enhance the primary focus or main idea of the artwork (any objects, animals, scenery, backgrounds, etc.).
 1. Any secondary reference source(s) from published images (electronic or print) should only be used as a point of reference and/or inspiration and should not be copied exactly.
 2. The School Art Photo Bank is available for use as a secondary reference source only.
 3. Visual references obtained from students who participated in the Western Art Academy may only be used as a secondary reference source.
 - b. For artwork in the **Mixed Medium** class, it is required to designate which mediums were used.
2. Students and teachers must be able to defend the artwork including producing reference source materials if requested.
3. All artwork will be scanned for violations of copyright infringements, trademarks, logos, and the use of AI to create any or all of the artwork.
4. Reminder: Use of copyrighted material without proper credit, permission, or licensing can violate the law, even if it's unintentional or for non-commercial use. This applies to both physical and digital content, including images found online. Any and all images that are not originating from the student and the conditions listed above are ineligible.

Section 2.4: Preparing Artwork for Judging (See diagram in Appendix D)

Judging of all artwork will be blind. Each entry will be given a unique Entry ID Number upon entry into the School Art Contest Portal.

For Public School & Private School entries requested to be brought to Reliant Center for further review:

1. Complete the Artwork ID Card. Affix the Artwork ID Card to the bottom right-hand corner of the artwork with the blue painters tape provided.
 - a. Print the Entry ID Number received upon entry into the School Art Contest Portal on the WHITE stickers provided and place one on the FRONT of the Artwork ID Card.
2. Print the Entry ID Number received upon entry into the School Art Contest Portal on the WHITE stickers provided and place on the BACK of the artwork.

For Special Needs entries requested to be brought to Reliant Center for further review:

1. Complete the Artwork ID Card. Affix the Artwork ID Card to the bottom right-hand corner of the artwork with the blue painters tape provided.
 - a. Print the Entry ID Number received upon entry into the School Art Contest Portal on the ORANGE stickers provided and place one on the FRONT of the Artwork ID Card.
2. Print the Entry ID Number received upon entry into the School Art Contest Portal on the ORANGE stickers provided and place on the BACK of the artwork.
3. Drop off advancing Special Needs entries in the ORANGE bag provided.

Section 2.5: School Art Contest – Judging Criteria

The following criteria will be considered when artwork is judged. Originality, creativity, and composition will be heavily weighted along with the student's ability to apply technical skill and artistic excellence.

1. **Originality:** Is the concept or idea original? Is it the student's own work and/or does the work show interesting composition with multiple sources?
2. **Marketability:** Does the piece of art appeal to a wide-ranging audience? Is it a piece of art that someone will want to hang for their enjoyment? Does the piece of art tell a story?
3. **Creativity:** Does the piece of art show the student's imagination? Is the subject matter unique? Is the interpretation innovative?
4. **Skill:** Skill is assessed based on the age of the artist.
5. **Excellence in Drawing:** What extent of accuracy has the student achieved? How difficult is the chosen medium? What is the student's technical proficiency?

Section 2.6: School Art Contest – Awards

Please note awards are not guaranteed. Awards will be given if deemed worthy by the Judges.

1. Public School District High School Level 2D Awards:
 - a. Up to one Best of Show award
 - b. Up to two Gold Medal awards
 - c. Additional pieces of artwork may be awarded Special Merit at the sole discretion of the School Art Committee.
 - d. Finalist ribbons will be given to artwork submitted into the School Art Contest Portal for preliminary judging.
2. Public School District Junior High Level Awards:
 - a. Up to one Best of Show award.
 - b. Up to one Gold Medal award
 - c. Additional pieces of artwork may be awarded Special Merit at the sole discretion of the School Art Committee.

- d. Finalist ribbons will be given to artwork submitted into the School Art Contest Portal for preliminary judging.
- 3. Public School District Upper Elementary Level Awards:
 - a. Up to one Best of Show award.
 - b. Up to one Gold Medal award.
 - c. Additional pieces of artwork may be awarded Special Merit at the sole discretion of the School Art Committee.
 - d. Finalist ribbons will be given to artwork submitted into the School Art Contest Portal for preliminary judging.
- 4. Public School District Lower Elementary Level Awards:
 - a. Up to one Best of Show award.
 - b. Up to one Gold Medal award.
 - c. Additional pieces of artwork may be awarded Special Merit at the sole discretion of the School Art Committee.
 - d. Finalist ribbons will be given to artwork submitted into the School Art Contest Portal for preliminary judging.
- 5. Private School Show Awards:
 - a. Up to 4 Best of Show awards at each of the High School, Junior High, Upper Elementary, and Lower Elementary school levels.
 - b. Up to 4 Gold Medals awards at each of the High School, Junior High, Upper Elementary, and Lower Elementary school levels.
 - c. Additional pieces of artwork may be awarded Special Merit at the sole discretion of the School Art Committee.
 - d. Finalist ribbons will be given to artwork submitted into the School Art Contest Portal for preliminary judging.
- 6. Special Needs Show Awards:
 - a. Up to 2 Best of Show awards at each High School, Junior High, Upper Elementary, and Lower Elementary school levels.
 - b. Up to 2 Gold Medal awards at each High School, Junior High, Upper Elementary, and Lower Elementary school levels.
 - c. Finalist ribbons will be given to artwork submitted into the School Art Contest Portal for preliminary judging.
- 7. Scholarship Opportunities:
 - a. Kindergarten through 8th grade Best of Show, Gold Medal, or Special Merit winners have the opportunity to apply for the Glassell Junior School of Art (Glassell Jr.), a program of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.
 - b. 8th and 9th grade Best of Show, Gold Medal, or Special Merit winners have the opportunity to apply for the Glassell Advanced Portfolio Preparation (Glassell APP), a program of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.
 - c. High School Best of Show, Gold Medal, or Special Merit, winners have the opportunity to apply for the Western Art Academy (WAA).
 - d. All 12th grade students who participate in the School Art Program are able to apply for a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo general scholarship.
 - e. More information on scholarship opportunities may be found on the School Art Program website and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo website.
- 8. All Best of Show, Gold Medal, and Special Merit award winning artwork will remain with the School Art Committee and will be displayed in the Hayloft Gallery during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Section 3: High School 3D Contest

The 3D Contest is for High School students only. The 3D Contest pieces will be selected and submitted into the School Art Contest Portal by the entrant (i.e. appointed school representative with contributions by the student's art teacher and the student). Artwork selected by the School Art Committee for further review will be brought to Reliant Center for the 3D Contest judging by the appointed school representative or student.

PUBLIC SCHOOL 3D ENTRIES

Public School districts may submit into the School Art Contest Portal up to their public school district 3D quota. Public school district quotas are based on enrollment and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Enrollment	Maximum 3D High School 9th – 12th Grades
10,000 and up	25
3,000 – 9,999	20
0 – 2,999	15

PRIVATE SCHOOL 3D ENTRIES

Private Schools may submit up to 10 High School 3D pieces into the School Art Contest Portal.

3D CONTEST ATTENDEES

1. An appointed school representative must be present at the 3D Contest.
2. Students may attend with their school representatives.
3. Students may set up their artwork for the 3D Contest; however, students and school representatives may not be in the immediate area while judging is in progress.
4. Parents and outside spectators may NOT be present in the judging area.

3D ENTRIES

1. All 3D artwork must be 100% complete at time of submission into the School Art Contest Portal, including being fired.

Section 3.1: 3D Contest Eligibility

1. High School students may enter one piece of 3D art. High School students may also enter one piece of 2D art into their school's District Contest.
2. The 3D classes are:
 - a. **Ceramics:** Created by hand using air-dried or fired clay.
 - b. **Sculpture:** Realistic forms created by hand only using clay (petroleum based or water-based clays).

Section 3.2: 3D Contest Guidelines

Artwork that is found to be in non-compliance with the guidelines outlined below is not eligible to advance to the next round of judging.

1. The subject matter for all artwork must be Western Art as defined by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program.

2. Due to blind judging, artwork may not have any identifying information located on any files uploaded into the School Art Contest Portal nor on the artwork including the front, back, bottom, and sides. Identifying information includes student names, signatures, school names, school districts, teacher names, etc.
3. All artwork must have a title. Identifying information may not be included in the title.
4. All artwork must be the student's original composition and content and individual expression.
 - a. Published images may NOT be reproduced in whole or part. Published images include, but are not limited to, drawings, sketches, or photographs published electronically (eBooks, mobile apps, websites, etc.) or in print (magazines, books, brochures, etc.).
 - i. Releases to use published or copyrighted images will NOT be accepted.
 - b. Trademarked logos, slogans, and licensed characters are not permitted in part or in whole. This also applies to the title of the artwork.
 - c. Logos, slogans, or licensed characters that are strikingly similar to the originals are NOT permitted.
5. Permissible mediums include:
 - a. Petroleum Based Clay
 - b. Water Based Clay
 - c. Plasticine
6. All artwork must be able to withstand repeated transporting and handling.
7. All artwork must stand on its own or have a base for support.
 - a. A base is required for all artwork made from unfired clay. Do not totally cover the base with unfired clay as this makes handling difficult.
 - b. If a base is used, the artwork must be securely fastened to the base through armature or other means.
 - c. If an armature support is required for the sculpture made from unfired clay, it should not be completely covered with clay and must be securely fastened to the base. The armature support is intended to be a temporary support until the artwork is cast; therefore, the artwork must be touching/integrated with the base.
 - d. Artwork must be sturdy, be able to stand alone, sitting solidly on its base or bottom, and must not have a tendency to tip over.
8. **Maximum Dimensions:** May not exceed 16" in height, width or depth including the base/easel.
9. **Maximum Weight:** May not exceed 15 pounds in total weight.
10. Fragile 3D artwork subject to damage, easily tipped over or otherwise determined to be susceptible to damage is not eligible for participation in the program. If damage occurs to any 3D artwork, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is not responsible for repairs. Damaged artwork will be ineligible.
11. If wire is used for detailing (i.e., twisted wire to form rope), it must be covered in clay.
12. 3D artwork cannot be cast.
13. No molds may be used (only hand tools may be used).
14. If air dry clay is used, it must be completely dry prior to the 3D judging event.
15. Bas-relief is acceptable, but the artwork must be presented so that all sides can be viewed (for example, on an easel or pedestal).
16. If required, all unfired clay sculptures must have a sound armature throughout the interior, securely attached to the base, creating stability.
17. All 3D artwork will be scanned for violations of copyright infringements, trademarks, logos, and the use of AI to create any or all of the artwork.
18. Reminder: Use of copyrighted material without proper credit, permission, or licensing can violate the law, even if it's unintentional or for non-commercial use. This applies to both physical and digital content, including images found online. Any and all images that do not originate from the student and the conditions listed above are ineligible.

Section 3.3: 3D Contest Entries

1. 3D Contest submissions will be uploaded to the **School Art Contest Portal**. Public school districts and private schools will only be allowed to upload their maximum quota of entries.
2. 3D Contest submissions will be preliminarily judged online by School Art Judges. Final award selections will be made in person at Reliant Center.
3. Artwork not submitted online by the 3D Contest deadline will not be accepted nor judged.

SCHOOL ART CONTEST PORTAL INFORMATION

1. Information needed for entries includes:
 - a. Student contact information;
 - b. Teacher contact information;
 - c. School information;
 - d. Artwork title;
 - e. Artwork size (measured with the base);
 - f. Completed and signed Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form;
 - i. **High School Students:** The student and the student's legal guardian (if the student is under 18 years old) must sign the form.
 - g. Images of the 3D piece; and
 - i. A minimum of 3 photographs must be uploaded into the School Art Contest Portal (up to 5 photographs).
 1. A photograph of the front and back of the sculpture is required.
 2. The remaining one to three photographs may be a three-quarter view, right side view, left side view, or top view.
 - ii. Photograph Submission Requirements: Each photograph must be a jpeg file with a file size no smaller than 1 MB and no larger than 4 MB. Files smaller than 1 MB or larger than 4MB will be automatically prevented from uploading.
 - h. Artist's Statement of Intent.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

1. 3D students are required to type into the Contest Portal their Artist's Statement of Intent outlining their inspiration and reference source material information.
 - a. Students will be asked to describe their artistic intent and creative process. Student's artistic statements may be used publicly as described in the Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form.
 - i. **Primary Reference Source Materials** can be photographs or a still life used to help capture the primary focus or main idea of the artwork.
 1. If artwork is a copy of a photograph (primary reference source), the photograph(s) must be taken by the student, a family member, or by a teacher. Other photographs may be used as secondary reference sources as long as the image does not constitute the main subject of the artwork.
 2. Original ideas from the student's imagination should be supported by several developmental sketches that show the progression of ideas.
 - ii. **Secondary Reference Source Materials** can be any photos, websites, or books that support and enhance the primary focus or main idea of the artwork (any objects, animals, scenery, backgrounds, etc.).

1. Any secondary reference source(s) from published images (electronic or print) should only be used as a point of reference and/or inspiration and should not be copied exactly.
2. The School Art Photo Bank is available for use as a secondary reference source only.
3. Visual references obtained from students who participated in the Western Art Academy may only be used as a secondary reference source.
2. Students and teachers must be able to defend the artwork including producing reference source materials if requested.
3. All artwork will be scanned for violations of copyright infringements, trademarks, logos, and the use of AI to create any or all of the artwork.
4. Reminder: Use of copyrighted material without proper credit, permission, or licensing can violate the law, even if it's unintentional or for non-commercial use. This applies to both physical and digital content, including images found online. Any and all images that do not originate from the student and the conditions listed above are ineligible.

Section 3.4: Preparing Artwork for the 3D Contest

Judging of all artwork will be blind. Each entry will be given a unique Entry ID Number upon entry into the School Art Contest Portal.

For entries requested to be brought to Reliant Center for further review:

1. Complete the Artwork ID Card. Affix the Artwork ID Card to the bottom right-hand corner of the base with the blue painters tape provided.
 - a. Print the Entry ID Number received upon entry into the School Art Contest Portal on the BLUE stickers provided and place one on the FRONT of the Artwork ID Card.
2. Print the Entry ID Number received upon entry into the School Art Contest Portal on the BLUE stickers provided and place on the bottom of the base of the artwork.
3. Print the Entry ID Number received upon entry into the School Art Contest Portal on the stickers provided and place on the box used to transport and store the 3D artwork, along with a printed photograph of the piece.
4. Students may set up their artwork for the 3D Contest.
5. All 3D artwork will be measured and weighed once onsite at Reliant Center.
6. Artwork must meet all required 3D artwork guidelines to be judged at Final Judging.
7. Award winning artwork will remain with the School Art Committee.
8. Non-winning 3D pieces will be packed up for the school representatives/students to take with them at the conclusion of the 3D Contest.

Section 3.5: 3D Contest – Judging Criteria

The following criteria will be considered when artwork is judged. Originality, creativity, and composition will be heavily weighted along with the student's ability to apply technical skill and artistic excellence.

1. **Originality:** Is the concept or idea original? Is it the student's own work and/or does the work show interesting composition with multiple sources?
2. **Marketability:** Does the piece of art appeal to a wide-ranging audience? Is it a piece of art that someone will want to display for their enjoyment? Does the piece of art have a "wow factor"?
3. **Creativity:** Does the piece of art show the student's imagination? Is the subject matter unique? Is the interpretation innovative?
4. **Skill:** Skill is assessed based on the age of the artist.

5. **Excellence in 3D:** What extent of accuracy has the student achieved? What is the student's technical proficiency?

Section 3.6: 3D Contest – Awards

Please note awards are not guaranteed. Awards will be given if deemed worthy by the Judges.

1. Up to twenty Best of Show awards.
2. Up to twenty-five Gold Medal awards.
3. From the Best of Show and Gold Medal award winners, 3D Class Champion, 3D Reserve Class Champion, and 3D Premiums will be awarded.
4. Scholarship Opportunities:
 - a. High School Best of Show, Gold Medal, or Special Merit winners have the opportunity to apply for the Western Art Academy (WAA).
 - b. All 12th grade students who participate in the School Art Program are able to apply for a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo general scholarship.
 - c. More information on scholarship opportunities may be found on the School Art Program website and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo website.
5. Award winning artwork will remain with the School Art Committee and be displayed in the Hayloft Gallery during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Section 4: School Art Auction

1. All School Art Contest (2D District and 3D Contest) winning artwork is eligible for auction.
2. If a student's artwork is selected for auction, the student is eligible for a cash premium. To receive payment, the student must complete a W-9 form and provide the **STUDENT'S** Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). S numbers are not accepted.
3. An original W-9 completed with the **STUDENT'S** information must be received in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo offices by **April 1, 2027**, in order for the student to receive payment. If the student does not complete the W-9 and provides a valid SSN or ITIN, the student will not receive payment, but their artwork will still be auctioned.
 - a. **Students under the age of 18:** The form must be completed with the student's number and signed by the student's legal guardian.
4. Artwork selected for auction becomes the property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. All other artwork will be returned to the artist (see Appendix C for important instructions on the return of artwork).
5. Prints, giclees, or copies of winning artwork entered in the School Art Program cannot be made or marketed by the student or the school district. However, students or school districts may feature the artwork in their portfolio or on their website but may not sell prints or digital images of the artwork.
6. The 3D Contest winners in 5th – 14th place will be paid premiums equivalent to the premiums paid to 2D auction Lots 39 and up but will not be auctioned. These pieces are called 3D Premium Winners.
7. The 3D artwork selected for auction and 3D Premium Winner artwork become the property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. All other 3D artwork judged will be returned to the student (see Appendix C for important instructions on the return of artwork).

Section 5: Quick Draw Contest

The Quick Draw Contest will be at Reliant Center on **Saturday, October 17, 2026**. Selected Quick Draw Contest contestants are given an 11" x 14" piece of paper to sketch their masterpiece in 50 minutes. Winners will be announced and recognition awards presented immediately following the judging.

Section 5.1: Quick Draw Contest Eligibility

1. Any High School or Junior High student enrolled in a public independent school district or private school that is registered as a participant in the current Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program may apply. The student does not need to be enrolled in an art class.
2. An original W-9 form completed with the **STUDENT'S** information must be received by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on the day of the Quick Draw Contest.
 - a. If the student does not have a completed W-9 on the day of the Quick Draw Contest and does not provide a valid Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN), the student will NOT be able to participate in the contest and will NOT receive payment. S numbers are not accepted.
 - i. **Students under the age of 18:** The form must be completed with the student's number and signed by the student's legal guardian.
3. The Quick Draw Classes are:
 - a. **High School:**
 - i. **Full Figure:** Head to toe with all clothing and extremities defined.
 - ii. **Portrait:** Full head, not to extend beyond the subject's chest, with all facial features defined.
 - b. **Junior High:**
 - i. **Still Life:** Includes more than three objects.

Section 5.2: Quick Draw Contest Submissions Guidelines

1. Due to blind judging, artwork may not have any identifying information located on any files uploaded into the School Art Contest Portal nor on the artwork including the front, back, bottom, and sides. Identifying information includes student names, signatures, school names, school districts, teacher names, etc.
2. Quick Draw Contest entries must include a photograph of a black and white sketch on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of white paper.
 - a. Submitted drawings must be a "quick sketch" with a recommended time limit of 50 minutes, similar to competition.
 - b. High School students may submit one full figure or portrait live drawing.
 - i. A live drawing can either be a drawing encompassing the entire body figure or a portrait of the head and face of a live model.
 - ii. A live drawing is not done from a photographic reference of any make or media.
 - c. Junior High students may submit one still life drawing.
 - i. A still life set up is the physical arrangement of non-living objects such as boots, hats, or other items placed together as a model for drawing.
3. Published images may NOT be reproduced in whole or part. Published images include, but are not limited to, drawings, sketches, or photographs published electronically (eBooks, mobile apps, web sites, etc.) or in print (magazines, books, brochures, etc.).
 - a. Releases to use published or copyrighted images will NOT be accepted.

4. Trademarked logos, slogans, and licensed characters are not permitted in part or in whole.
5. Logos, slogans, or licensed characters that are strikingly similar to the originals are NOT permitted.

Section 5.3: Quick Draw Contest Entries

1. Quick Draw Contest applications will be uploaded to the School Art Contest Portal.
2. Artwork not submitted online by the Quick Draw Contest deadline will not be accepted nor judged.

SCHOOL ART CONTEST PORTAL INFORMATION

1. Information needed for entries includes:
 - a. Student contact information;
 - b. Teacher contact information;
 - c. School information;
 - d. Completed and signed Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form; and
 - i. BOTH pages of the Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form must be completed in its entirety and uploaded together as a single file.
 1. Page 1: Initials from both the student and the parent/legal guardian are required.
 2. Page 2: The student's printed name is required.
 - ii. Signature Requirements:
 1. High School Students: The student must sign the form.
 2. Students under the age of 18: The student's parent/legal guardian must also sign.
 3. Elementary and Junior High Students: Only the parent/legal guardian's signature is required. The student's signature is not required.
 4. The printed name of the parent/guardian, their relationship to the student, and the date are required.
 - iii. Uploaded forms must be clear and legible. Documents with unreadable text, missing pages, poor image quality, blurred sections, or missing or cut-off information will result in the submission being marked ineligible.
 - e. One photograph of the black and white sketch on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of white paper.
 - i. Only one entry per student may be submitted with the application.
 1. High School students are not permitted to enter in both Full Figure and Portrait. If a student has completed two sketches, only submit one.
 - ii. Photograph Submission Requirements: Each photograph must be a jpeg file with a file size no smaller than 1 MB and no larger than 4 MB. Files smaller than 1 MB or larger than 4MB will be automatically prevented from uploading.

Section 5.4: Quick Draw Contest Information

1. The contest will be held at Reliant Center on **Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 2:00 pm.**
2. Participant check-in begins at **1:00 pm** and ends at **1:45 pm**. Alternates will be seated promptly at 1:45 pm.
 - a. Late participants will NOT be seated after alternates have been seated.
3. High School contestants may participate in only one class. Class preferences must be marked on the application or the application will not be considered. The High School student's 1st class preference is not guaranteed and will be assigned at check-in.
4. Quick Draw submissions will be preliminarily judged online by School Art Judges.

5. Notification of selection for the contest will be communicated to selected finalists and alternates by email.
6. The selected finalists and alternates will also be posted on the School Art Program website.
7. Each High School Class will have 33 Finalists, resulting in a total of 66 High School Finalists.
8. The Junior High Still Life Class will have 26 Finalists.
9. Students may bring their own drawing pencils (3B, black Prisma, or charcoal) or use the 3B or black Prisma pencils furnished at the contest.
10. School Art Committee judges will set up the Still Life and arrange the Portrait and Full Figure models.
11. Students will have 50 minutes (with a 10 minute break in the middle) to complete their Quick Draw entry.
12. School Art Committee judges will judge the Quick Draw Contest.
13. Only one entry per student will be judged.
14. The judge's decisions are final.

Section 5.5: Quick Draw Contest – Awards

Please note awards are not guaranteed. Awards will be given if deemed worthy by the Judges.

1. Winners will be announced and recognition awards presented immediately following the judging.
2. An Overall High School Champion will be awarded from all submissions in both classes.
3. A Class Champion and a Reserve Class Champion will also be selected from each High School class.
4. A Junior High Still Life Champion and Reserve Champion will be awarded.
5. Cash prizes will be mailed by the end of November 2026.
6. The contest winners will be posted on the School Art Program website after the contest.
7. All winning artwork will become the property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and be displayed in the Hayloft Gallery during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
8. Scholarship Opportunities:
 - a. Junior High seated contestants have the opportunity to apply for the Glassell Junior School of Art (Glassell Jr.), a program of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.
 - b. All 8th and 9th grade seated contestants have the opportunity to apply for the Glassell Advanced Portfolio Preparation (Glassell APP), a program of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston..
 - c. High School seated contestants have the opportunity to apply for the Western Art Academy (WAA).
 - d. All 12th grade students who participate in the School Art Program are able to apply for a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo general scholarship.

Section 6: Graphic Design Contest

The Graphic Design Contest is for High School students only. Students will create the official annual promotional brand graphic for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program.

Section 6.1: Graphic Design Contest Eligibility

1. Any High School student enrolled in a public independent school district or private school that is registered as a participant in the current Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program may apply. The student does not need to be enrolled in an art class.
2. Only ONE entry per student is allowed.
3. Applicants must have a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). S numbers are not accepted.

Section 6.2: Graphic Design Contest Guidelines

Designs that are found to be in non-compliance with the guidelines outlined below are NOT eligible to advance to the next round of judging.

1. Each year, the School Art Program will establish an annual design theme. The annual theme will guide the overall concept while allowing students creative freedom in their interpretation.
2. The subject matter for all designs must incorporate elements of Western Art as defined by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program.
3. Due to blind judging, designs may not have any identifying information located on any files uploaded into the School Art Contest Portal or anywhere on the design. Identifying information includes student names, signatures, school names, school districts, teacher names, etc.
4. Each design must include:
 - a. The Howdy H logo;
 - b. Original artwork;
 - c. Professional composition; and
 - d. Vector artwork only (resolution independent and fully scalable without loss of quality).
 - e. The official Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo logos and PMS colors can be found under the Graphic Design Contest section on the School Art Program website.
5. All designs must include visual references to at least two or more of the School Art Program Contests:
 - a. 2-D Art
 - Colored Drawing
 - Contemporary
 - Mixed Medium
 - Monochromatic
 - Painting
 - b. 3-D Art
 - Ceramics
 - Sculpture
 - c. Quick Draw
 - d. Graphic Design

6. Students are encouraged to interpret the School Art Program Contests (listed above) creatively through symbols, tools, textures, artistic elements, or other visual concepts rather than depicting every medium literally.
7. All designs must be the student's original composition and content and individual expression.
 - a. A template may NOT be used. No template provided by a teacher or another student may be used in the Graphic Design Contest.
 - b. Published images may NOT be reproduced in whole or part. Published images include, but are not limited to, drawings, sketches, or photographs published electronically (eBooks, mobile apps, web sites, etc.) or in print (magazines, books, brochures, etc.).
 - i. Releases to use published or copyrighted images will NOT be accepted.
 - c. Except for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo "Howdy" logo, trademarked logos, slogans, and licensed characters are not permitted in part or in whole.
 - d. Logos, slogans, or licensed characters that are strikingly similar to the originals are NOT permitted.
 - e. Stock illustrations are not allowed.
8. AI applications such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Co-Pilot, Galaxy AI, Midjourney, Playground AI, Adobe Firefly, Stable Diffusion, etc., may NOT be integrated into your design. Any AI detection will automatically disqualify your entry.
9. **Dimensions:** 10" x 10" square
 - a. The design should remain visually effective when reproduced at both small and large sizes. (For example, if used as a small letterhead, all elements must be legible/visible.)
10. Designs must be submitted electronically.
 - a. Students must submit one of the following file formats:
 - i. Adobe Illustrator (.ai); or
 - ii. Vector PDF (.pdf).
 - b. Submitted files must remain editable vector artwork.
 - c. CMYK color mode.
 - d. No bleed required.
11. **Fonts:** All fonts MUST be converted to outlines before submission. No live fonts may remain in the final artwork.
12. The winning graphic should be designed to function successfully across many different applications, including:
 - a. Social media and website graphics;
 - b. Promotional materials and digital advertising;
 - c. Event signage;
 - d. Educational publications; and
 - e. Presentations.
13. Designs and Howdy H logo usage must adhere to Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo branding guidelines. Designs that fail to meet branding guidelines will be DISQUALIFIED.

Section 6.3: Graphic Design Contest Entries

1. Graphic Design submissions will be uploaded to the School Art Contest Portal.
2. Graphic Design submissions will be preliminarily judged online by the School Art Committee Graphic Design Team.
3. Artwork not submitted online by the Graphic Design Contest deadline will not be accepted nor judged.

SCHOOL ART CONTEST PORTAL INFORMATION

1. Information needed for entries includes:
 - a. Student contact information;
 - b. Teacher contact information;
 - c. School information;
 - d. Completed and signed Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form; and
 - i. **High School Students:** The student and the student's legal guardian (if the student is under 18 years old) must sign the form.
 - e. Design file (.ai or .pdf).

Section 6.4: Graphic Design Contest – Judging Criteria

The following criteria will be considered when designs are judged:

1. **Originality & Creativity:** Is the design concept or idea original? Is it the student's own work? Does it appeal to a wide-ranging audience?
2. **Interpretation of Annual Theme:** Is the interpretation innovative and show the student's imagination?
3. **Representation of School Art Program:** Does the design creatively represent the diversity of the School Art Program Contests and compliment the School Art Committee logo?
4. **Design Principles:** Does the design communicate its message clearly and effectively? Is it memorable? Does the color palette support the message, mood, and brand? Are the font choices appropriate for the audience and purpose?
5. **Technical Execution:** How well does the design adhere to provided specifications, including vector quality and production readiness?

Designs will be reviewed by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Marketing Department to ensure branding guidelines have been met. Designs that fail to meet branding guidelines will be disqualified.

Section 6.5: Graphic Design Contest – Awards

Please note awards are not guaranteed. Awards will be given if deemed worthy by the Judges.

1. The School Art Committee Graphic Design Team will select up to 10 Finalists.
2. Winners will be notified via email.
3. Cash awards will be distributed as follows:
 - a. 1st Place – \$1,000.00
 - b. 2nd Place – \$750.00
 - c. 3rd Place – \$500.00
 - d. 4th Place – \$250.00
 - e. 5th – 10th Place – \$100.00 each
4. The 1st Place graphic will become the official promotional artwork for that year's Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program.
5. An original W-9 completed with the STUDENT'S information must be received in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo offices by June 15, 2027, in order for the student to receive payment. If the student does not complete the W-9 and provides a valid SSN or ITIN, the student will not receive payment, but their artwork will still be auctioned.
 - a. **Students under the age of 18:** The form must be completed with the student's number and signed by the student's legal guardian.

Section 7: Children's Hospital Art Contest

The Children's Hospital Art Contest is in partnership with Houston area children's hospitals. Patients and their siblings create artwork that is judged by School Art Committee judges. Each artist receives a ribbon and the top two pieces of artwork in each age group are awarded a Best of Show or Gold Medal. The winning artwork is displayed in the Hayloft Gallery during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

APPENDICIES

Appendix A: Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form

The Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form may be found on the School Art Program Website.

 RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT	 ORIGINALITY CERTIFICATION
In consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, for being allowed entry into and participation in any and all activities, including the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program (the "Activities") associated with Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Inc., Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Educational Fund and Corral Club, LLC, (collectively, "HLSR"), and to the fullest extent permitted by law, the student and parent/guardian signing below (hereinafter, the "undersigned"), individually and on behalf of his/her family, heirs, administrators, executors and assigns, hereby enter into this RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") as of the date set forth below. 1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS: The undersigned recognizes and understands that there are risks associated with his/her participation in the Activities, including, but not limited to, bodily injury or death to persons and their, damage or destruction to property. 2. RELEASE FROM LIABILITY: The undersigned hereby RELEASE, ACQUIT AND FOREVER DISCHARGE HLSR, its subsidiaries and affiliates and its and their present and former directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, and representatives and the respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns (collectively, the "HLSR Parties") from any and all claims, causes of action, suits and/or demands for personal injury, death and/or property damage, accrued or to accrue in the future, known or unknown, (collectively, "Claims") relating to or arising out of any negligent acts in connection with his/her entry into and participation in the Activities, including but not limited to the NEGLIGENCE OF THE HLSR PARTIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH NEGLIGENCE WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS. (Without limiting the foregoing, the undersigned agrees that the HLSR Parties shall not be liable to his/her, his/her family, heirs, administrators, executors or assigns for Claims arising from or related to the undersigned's participation in the Activities.) 3. AGREEMENT TO WAIVE INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS: THE UNDERSIGNED AGREES TO WAIVE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE HLSR PARTIES from any and all claims, causes of action, suits and/or demands for personal injury, death or property damage, accrued or to accrue in the future, known or unknown, (collectively, "Claims"), including but not limited to Claims resulting from THE HLSR PARTIES' OWN NEGLIGENCE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH NEGLIGENCE WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS. provided, however, that the duty of the undersigned to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the HLSR Parties shall extend only to Claims arising directly or indirectly from the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activities. As used herein, "INDEMNIFY" means to agree to assume the HLSR Parties' liability as to any and all claims, causes of action, suits, demands, settlements and/or expenses (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees) made by, through, or under the undersigned against the HLSR Parties related to the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activities. 4. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERVIEW RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT: The undersigned GRANT PERMISSION to be PHOTOGRAPHED, VIDEOED, RECORDED and/or INTERVIEWED in connection with the Activities. The undersigned understands that any such photographs, videos, recordings and/or interviews may be used by the HLSR Parties for television, film, video, visual, graphic, printed and/or social media. The undersigned agrees to RELEASE and INDEMNIFY the HLSR Parties with respect to any Claims related to the usage of such photographs, videos, recordings and/or interviews by the HLSR Parties and/or any media. 5. CONSENT TO RELEASE OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS: The undersigned understands and acknowledges that entry in the School Art Program is limited through the participant's school record, which may be subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1222g or any ("FERPA"). The undersigned hereby WAIVES the privacy rights guaranteed by that statute for the limited purposes outlined in this Agreement and CONSENTS to the participant's school of record releasing records related to the participant that are necessary to complete the participant's entry into the School Art Program, including, but not limited to the student's name, address, email address, telephone number, age, grade level, parent name, parent telephone number, parent email address, compensation of enrollment, teacher name, and artwork to be entered into the School Art Program contest. As further inducement to HLSR to permit the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activities, the undersigned represent that they thoroughly and completely understand that this is a complete and final release and indemnity agreement, that they are freely and voluntarily entering into this Agreement, and that no representations, promises, or statements made by any HLSR Party, or any agent, attorney, or other representative of any HLSR Party has influenced the undersigned in causing them to sign this Agreement. The undersigned understand that this Agreement shall be binding on their heirs, executors, successors and assigns, that this Agreement will be governed by the laws of Texas, and that jurisdiction and venue for any dispute regarding this Agreement shall lie in Harris County, Texas. If any part of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it does not affect the validity of the remainder of the Agreement. The undersigned agrees to the terms and conditions above, and acknowledge receipt of this Agreement. GRANT OF RIGHTS TO SCHOOL ART In consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, for being allowed entry into and participation in activities (the "Activities"), including the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo ("HLSR") School Art Program, the undersigned hereby enter into the GRANT OF RIGHTS TO SCHOOL ART (the "Grant"). 1. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERVIEW RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT: The undersigned grant HLSR permission to display the School Art and grant HLSR permission to photograph, film, or otherwise record the School Art in connection with the HLSR. The undersigned waives and releases any and all rights the student and/or parent/guardian may have in the School Art and any privacy and/or intellectual property or other interest in the School Art, and transfer all rights in the School Art to HLSR. The undersigned releases, discharge, and hold harmless HLSR from any liability by virtue of the use of the School Art or images. The undersigned further grant permission to be PHOTOGRAPHED, VIDEOED, RECORDED and/or INTERVIEWED in connection with the Activities. The undersigned understands that such photographs, videos, recordings and/or interviews may be used by the HLSR Parties and/or any media for television, film, video, visual, graphic, printed and/or social media. The undersigned agrees to RELEASE and INDEMNIFY the HLSR Parties for any Claims related to photographic, video, recordings and/or interviews by the HLSR Parties and/or any media. 2. DISTRIBUTION RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT: The undersigned understands that the School Art may be included in whole or in part or complete, distorted in character or form, included in conjunction with the student's name or a fictitious name or reproduction thereof, included in color or otherwise. The undersigned agrees to waive any right to inspect and/or approve the finished product that may be used or the use to which it may be applied. The undersigned grant permission for those uses without the receipt of any financial consideration or compensation with regards to the reproduction of the School Art. The undersigned releases, discharge and agrees to hold harmless HLSR from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, optical illusion, or use in complete form, whether in part or otherwise, that might occur or be produced in the making of web pictures, or in any processing tending towards the completion of the finished product. The undersigned further waives all claims and rights, monetary or otherwise, that might arise because of any additional or further use of the above described material at this or any other future time. The undersigned acknowledge that HLSR shall retain sole right for designating the use of the School Art. 3. OWNERSHIP RELEASE: If the School Art is eligible for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Auction (the "Auction"), then, in exchange for participating in the Auction, the undersigned grant HLSR complete and exclusive ownership of the School Art and all intellectual property interests associated therewith, including but not limited to all rights to copyright, publish, and/or use photographic prints, pictures, motion pictures, and/or video reproduction in the School Art and all rights to use the School Art for art, advertising, editorial, educational trade, and/or any other lawful purposes. 4. ARTIST SIGNATURE: The undersigned understand that if the student's School Art is selected as the Grand or Reserve Grand Champion, the student is required to personally sign limited edition prints of their artwork in a quantity sufficient to meet HLSR's promotional obligations and program needs. Initials – Exhibitor: _____ Initials – Parent/Guardian: _____ (Continued on Next Page) FORM 2026 – School Art Program Release	We, the undersigned student and parent/guardian certify that we have read, understand, abided and will continue to abide by all rules and regulations of Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Inc. and the 2026-2027 School Art Program. We further certify that the artwork is the student's original creation and is not a reproduction, in whole or in part, of another piece of art. We further certify that the artwork is the student's original artwork and was created solely and exclusively under the supervision of a teacher from an approved school district or private school enrolled in the 2026-2027 School Art Program. We further certify that the artwork was never supervised or critiqued outside the school district or private school by any person, teacher or instructor. We understand that the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to the artwork, and that damaged artwork will not be repaired. We understand that all artwork will be judged for auction, and if selected for auction, the artwork becomes the property of Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Inc. We certify that we understand and agree to the terms of auction put forth in the Rules. HLSR reserves the right to disqualify any artwork found in violation of the Rules pertaining to originality and the exhibitor will forfeit all auction sale and/or premium money if the artwork is disqualified. An exhibitor whose artwork is disqualified may forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit artwork in the future at the Show. The undersigned represent that they thoroughly understand that this is a complete and final release and indemnity agreement, that they are voluntarily entering into this Agreement, and that no representations, promises or statements made by any HLSR Party, or any agent, attorney or other representative of any HLSR Party has influenced the undersigned in causing them to sign this agreement. Printed Name of Participant: _____ Signature (If 18 OR OLDER): _____ Date: _____ FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF MINORS I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for the above named Participant(s), consent and agree to all of the terms outlined above and understand the consequences of stated rule violations as to originality of artwork. I release and agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the HLSR Parties from any and all Claims (as defined above) relating to or arising out of the Activities, or any negligent acts in connection with Participant(s)' entry into or participation in the Activities, including but not limited to the NEGLIGENCE OF THE HLSR PARTIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ANY SUCH ACT OR OMISSION WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS, to the fullest extent permitted by law. NO MINORS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES WITHOUT SIGNATURE OF A PARENT/GUARDIAN. Signature: _____ Date: _____ Printed Name: _____ Relationship to Participant: _____ FORM 2026 – School Art Program Release

The Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form must be completed in its entirety.

- Page 1: Initials from both the student and the parent/legal guardian are required.
- Page 2: The student's printed name is required.
 - Signature Requirements:**
 - High School Students: The student must sign the form.
 - Students under the age of 18: The student's parent/legal guardian must also sign.
 - Elementary & Junior High Students: Only the parent/legal guardian's signature is required. The student's signature is not required.
- The printed name of the parent/guardian, their relationship to the student, and the date are required.

Appendix B: School Art Program Contact Information

School Art Program Website:

<https://www.rodeohouston.com/exhibitors-contestants/school-art-contest/>

Questions regarding the School Art Contest and School Art Program Registration:

Please contact your Contest Coordinator, the Vice Chairman of Contest, or email School Art at schoolart@hlsr.com.

Question regarding the School Art Contest Portal:

Please contact the Contest Portal Team at SchoolArt.AwardForce@gmail.com.

Appendix C: Return of Artwork

The return of artwork is the responsibility of the school district or private school. The School Art Committee will not deliver artwork to the school district or private school. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will not mail artwork.

1. Artwork displayed in the Hayloft Gallery will be available for pick-up after the final day of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and must be picked up by a school district representative or other designated person on one of the assigned pick-up days listed below:

Thursday, April 1, 2027 9 am – 6 pm

Saturday, April 3, 2027 9 am – 2 pm

2. If you are unable to pick up artwork on one of these assigned days, you must contact your Contest Coordinator or the Vice Chairman of Contest to arrange an alternate pick-up time. All artwork must be picked up each year before May 31. Artwork not picked up each year by this date may not be available for pick-up until next year's Open House.

Appendix D: 2D Artwork Example

Artwork should be prepared for judging as follows:

FRONT OF ARTWORK: (applicable for horizontal or vertical orientation)

The diagram illustrates the layout for the front of the artwork. It consists of a large rectangular area for the artwork itself, and a smaller rectangular area at the bottom right for the Artwork ID Card. The ID card area contains fields for the title, age, and grade, and a box for the entry ID number.

Front of Artwork

Title: _____
Age: _____ Grade: _____

Affix Entry ID
Number Label Here

Minimum artwork size is
11" x 14" (including mat if used).

Maximum artwork size is
16" x 20" (including mat if used).

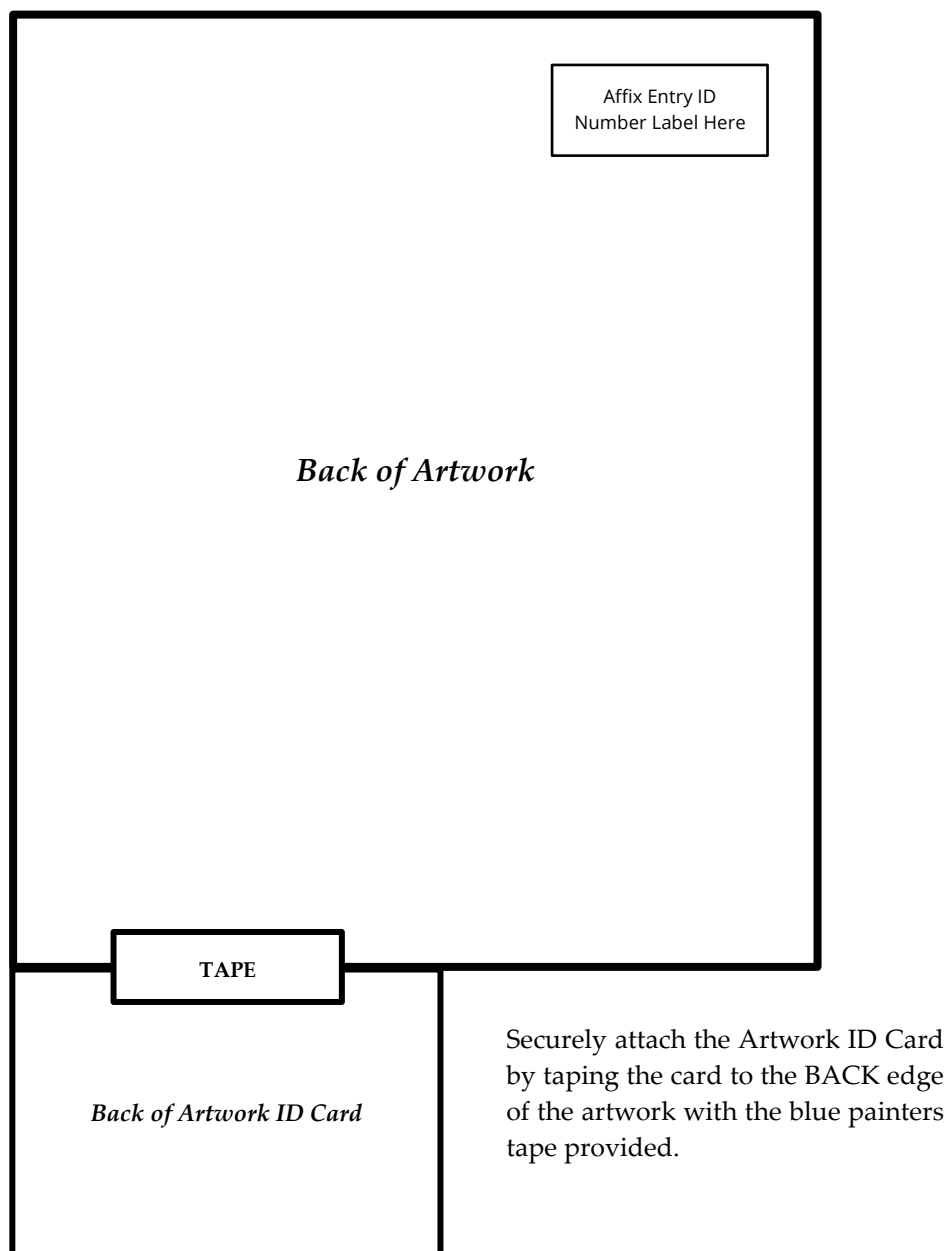
If artwork is matted, mat must be attached in a way that it can be removed without damaging the artwork.

Securely attach the Artwork ID Card by taping the card to the BACK edge of the artwork with the blue painters tape provided.

Appendix D: 2D Artwork Example

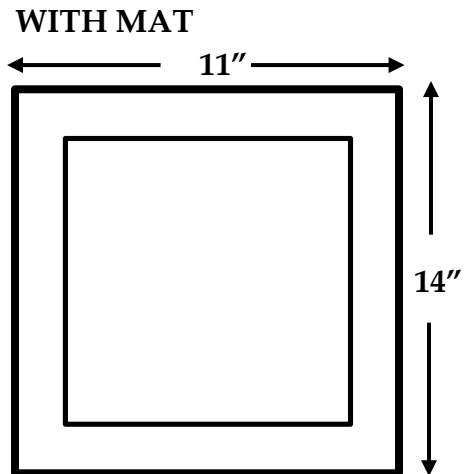
BACK OF ARTWORK:

(applicable for horizontal or vertical orientation):

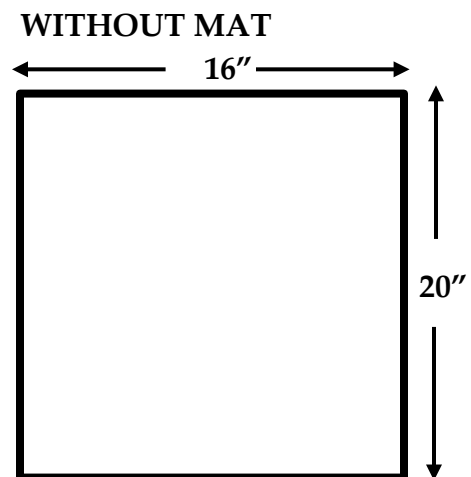
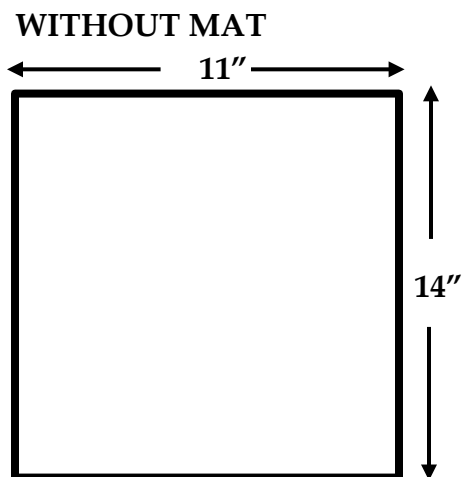
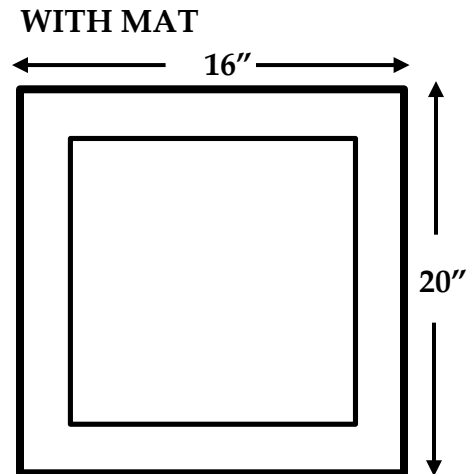


Appendix E: 2D Artwork Size & Matting Requirements

MINIMUM SIZE REQUIREMENTS



MAXIMUM SIZE REQUIREMENTS



Appendix F: Artist's Statement of Intent Information

Artistic Intent

(50 to 200 words)

- What emotion or mood would you like the viewer to experience?
- What story do you want to tell through your art?
- What gave you the idea (your inspiration)?
- What does your art mean to you?
- What were you trying to show or express?

Creative Process

(50 to 200 words)

- Instead of copying a photo, what did you change or add to make the artwork your own?
- Think about colors, background, characters, materials (such as paint, pencils, pastels) or anything you used your imagination for!

Primary Reference Source

- My Photo
- Teacher's Photo
- Family Member's Photo
- Imagination/Sketch

Secondary Reference Source

(You are REQUIRED to provide further information regarding each of the following Secondary Sources)

- Website
- Book
- Magazine
- My Photo
- School Art Photobank
- WAA
- N/A

Student's Signature