



# Huntsville Museum of Art

December 1, 2025

**MEMORANDUM:**

TO: Principals and Art Teachers  
(Athens City, Limestone County, Decatur City and Scottsboro City  
Elementary Public Schools)

FROM: Laura E. Smith, Director of Education/Museum Academy

RE: **YAM 2026: Youth Art Month** exhibition  
**Guidelines Attached**

This year marks the **39<sup>th</sup>** annual **Youth Art Month (YAM)** exhibition of K-12 student artwork at the Huntsville Museum of Art. The **YAM** and **Congressional Art Competition (CAC)** winner and honorable mentions exhibitions will be on view **March 8-29, 2026**. The YAM and Congressional Art Competition opening will take place on **Sunday, March 8, 2026**.

This exhibition not only showcases the exuberance and vitality of children's art but also underscores the importance of art as an essential subject in students' curriculum. Great art teachers are dedicated to educating students about art history, art criticism, aesthetics, and studio production and ensuring that students are exposed to a variety of art techniques, artists, and materials. A qualified, certified art teacher is an essential component in providing that all students receive the best art education possible.

The National Art Education Association (NAEA), Alabama Art Education Association (AAEA), Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama Arts Alliance (AAA), and the Huntsville-Madison County Art Education Association (HMCAEA) all endorse **Youth Art Month** in recognition of quality ~~art~~ artwork inspired by certified art teachers in the classroom.

Attached you find the **YAM/CAC 2026 GUIDELINES**. PLEASE REVIEW THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU **DO NOT MISS ANY IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES!**

300 Church Street SW  
Huntsville, Alabama 35801  
256.535.6372  
hsvmuseum.org

**2026 SCHEDULE  
YOUTH ART MONTH (YAM)/  
CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION (CAC) EXHIBITIONS**

- Monday, February 9                    **8:30 am-5:00 pm: Location – Museum Academy Studio I**  
YAM Middle/High School student entries accepted; CAC High School student entries accepted  
(private, public city and designated counties)(Huntsville City/Madison City/Madison County (Public and Private Schools); Decatur City/Athens City/Limestone County/Scottsboro City (Public Schools).
- Tuesday, February 10                **10:00 am-12:00 p.m.: Location – Judy & Oscar Maxwell Hall Room**  
Jurying of CAC (District V Schools: Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Morgan (Hartselle) counties
- Wednesday, February 11            **8:30 am-5:00 pm: Location – Museum Academy Studio I**  
YAM Elementary student entries accepted (private, public city and designated counties)(Huntsville City/Madison City/Madison County (Public and Private Schools); Decatur City/Athens City/Limestone County/Scottsboro City (Public Schools).
- Friday, February 13                    Notification of CAC winner and honorable mentions to art teachers
- Tuesday, February 17 &  
Wednesday, February 18            **8:30 am- 5:00 pm: Location – Museum Academy Studio I**  
Pick-up for non-selected artwork:  
High School CAC student entries  
(private, city, and county schools)
- Sunday, March 8                        **Youth Art Month (YAM)/ Congressional Art Competition (CAC) Exhibitions’ Open**
- Sunday, March 29                        **Last Day of YAM 2026 and CAC 2026 Winner/Honorable Mentions**
- Wednesday, April 1 through  
Friday, April 3                        **8:30 am-5:00 pm: Academy Studio I**  
Artwork Pick-up: YAM

Thank you for making the *Youth Art Month (YAM)* K-12 exhibition  
a joyous celebration of student artwork!

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Huntsville Museum of Art  
YAM 2026 GUIDELINES  
FOR  
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
(DECATUR CITY, ATHENS CITY, LIMESTONE COUNTY, AND  
SCOTTSBORO CITY)

Each elementary art teacher may submit **1** work of art per school. All school entries should be kept together and presented in a portfolio or box. Remember that these are the final art works that will be hung in the exhibition. **Please attach inventory sheet to the outside of the portfolio or box.**

1. **Entries may be two-dimensional (Maximum 20"x 24") or three-dimensional to fit on a pedestal or to be hung on the wall.** Artwork does not need to be matted. Works submitted for YAM 2026 will be framed for the exhibit. The frames are the property of the Museum and are not for sale.
2. Work should be selected based on quality, creativity, and presentation. Entries not meeting these standards will not be accepted.
3. **No Xerox, ditto, copied, or traced works will be accepted for exhibition in YAM 2026.** *(Defined as a work of art that is copied from a published photograph, magazine, book illustration, web site, other artwork, or by another person.)*  
As the art teacher, I further give my permission for publication of my student's work for publicity and archival purposes only, both in print and on-line. The Huntsville Museum of Art is not responsible for loss, damage or breakage.
4. **No group works** will be accepted due to space limitations.
5. Artwork **will not contain organic materials** (i.e. food products).
6. **All entries must have a completed YAM entry form securely attached to the back of the artwork.** Please be sure the information is accurate and complete. Many students never receive notice that they are in the show because the entry form has incorrect information on it.

YAM selections for **ALL Elementary Schools (public, city, and county schools DOES NOT include Homeschool organizations)** will be accepted here at the Museum Academy Studio I located on the pondside at Big Spring Park on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026 from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.** Look for **directional signs**. **No entries will be accepted after these times.** (You may also submit your entries early by dropping them off at our Admissions Desk in the Museum Lobby.)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Laura E. Smith, Director of Education/Museum Academy at 256.535.6372/e-mail: [lsmith@hsvmuseum.org](mailto:lsmith@hsvmuseum.org).

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## YAM 2026 ENTRY FORM

**STUDENT'S NAME:**  
**SCHOOL:**  
**GRADE:**  
**ART TEACHER:**  
**TITLE (if applicable):**  
**MEDIUM:**

**Please attach inventory sheet to the outside of the portfolio or box.**



## YAM 2026 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Decatur City, Athens City, Limestone County, and Scottsboro City Public Schools  
**INVENTORY OF ARTWORK SUBMITTED**

Art Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title of Artwork/Medium \_\_\_\_\_



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