



Huntsville Museum of Art

December 1, 2025

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Art Teachers
(Huntsville City, Madison City, Madison County, Athens City, Limestone County,
Decatur City and Scottsboro City District V and Home Schools)

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

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

This year marks the **39th** 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 a 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.

All Homeschool organizations K-12 artwork will undergo a jury process to determine selection for exhibition.

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 student 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 Elementary/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 Homeschool (K-12) and 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
HOMESCHOOLS & DISTRICT V
ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS
HUNTSVILLE CITY, MADISON CITY, MADISON COUNTY,
DECATUR CITY, ATHENS CITY, LIMESTONE COUNTY, AND
SCOTTSBORO CITY

Each art teacher may submit **1** work for the **jurving process** for the homeschools and District V. All school entries should be kept together and presented in a portfolio or box. **Please attach entry form to the back of the artwork.**

1. **Entries may be two-dimensional (Maximum 20”x 24”)** or three-dimensional to fit on a pedestal.
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, we 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.
5. Artwork **will not contain organic materials** (i.e. food products).

Works will be accepted here at the Museum Academy Studio I located on the pondside at Big Spring Park on **Monday, February 9, 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.

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Huntsville, Alabama 35801
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**YAM 2026 Elementary, Middle and High School (K-12th) Homeschool Entry Form
and/or Congressional Art Competition (CAC)(9th-12th) Entry Form**

District 5

***Jackson, *Lauderdale, *Lawrence, *Limestone, *Madison, *Morgan** (Hartselle) counties
(***bold/underline** counties in the Alabama Congressional District 5)

Please PRINT or TYPE. COMPLETE ALL LINES.

Circle the following:

YAM (Grades K-12)

CAC (Grades 9-12)

Homeschool

District V for CAC/Homeschool

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____ **Age:** _____

Student Address/City/Zip Code: _____

_____ **Home Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

School Name: _____

School Address/City/Zip Code: _____

School Phone: _____ **School Fax:** _____ **Art Teacher Email:** _____

Art Teacher (Full Name): _____ **Principal (Full Name):** _____

School System Superintendent (Full Name): _____

School System Address/City/Zip Code: _____

Title of Artwork: _____

Medium: _____ **Process:** _____

Please mark one category:

_____ Paintings _____ Drawings _____ Computer Generated Art
_____ Mixed Media _____ Collage _____ Photography _____ Prints

MUST BE signed and dated below.

AUTHENTICITY VERIFICATION & DISCLAIMER

I hereby certify that this is my original work, and that it is not copied from a published photograph, magazine, or book illustration, or other artwork. I understand that the District Coordinator (Huntsville Museum of Art) and Alabama's 5th Congressional District Office are not responsible for loss, damage, or breakage.

Student's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Teacher Approval: _____ **Date:** _____

Please keep a copy for your records