



Huntsville Museum of Art

December 1, 2025

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Principals and Art Teachers
(Athens City, Limestone County, Decatur City and Scottsboro City
Middle and High Public 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 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 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 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!

300 Church Street SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
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Huntsville Museum of Art Visual Art Exhibitions YAM/CAC 2026 Guidelines

December 1, 2025

Contents:

- YAM/CAC 2026 Schedule
- YAM/CAC 2026 Guidelines
- YAM/CAC 2026 Entry Form



Exhibition Dates:

YAM/CAC 2026
March 8-29, 2026

To: Middle and High School Art Teachers Decatur City, Athens City, Limestone County, and Scottsboro City Public Schools

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

Attached you will find both the YAM and CAC guidelines. Each middle (**Grades 6-9**) art teacher can submit **1** work of art for YAM. High school (**Grades 9-12**) art teacher is allowed to submit up to **5 pieces of artwork** for CAC jurying, **one** of which will become your YAM entry from 5th **Congressional Art Competition (CAC) (Grades 9-12)** (5th Congressional District). Note: Only two-dimensional artwork can be in Congressional Art Competition exhibition. For YAM, 2-D and 3-D artwork is permitted.

High School: Affix a completed entry form to each piece of artwork submitted. **In the upper right-hand corner of the entry form**, we are asking you to rank your five pieces (**1-5**) with number **1** being the best. All five pieces will then be judged for CAC. At the completion of the judging, the highest number remaining will be your YAM entry.

Disclaimer/Liability: As the art teacher, I hereby certify that this is the student's original work, and that it is not copied from another artist, internet image, magazine or book illustration, or other artwork that was not originally his/hers. 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.

Remember, when you rank the pieces, you are ranking them for YAM. If entering a piece for CAC that is quite large and exceeds YAM guidelines, you would want to rank that piece with a low number such as 5.

Complete the YAM/CAC 2026 ENTRY FORM and place the **RANKING** in the upper right-hand corner. (Without the ranking, we will not know which work of art to pull for the YAM entry!)* ** **Questions?** YAM/CAC? Please call me at 256.535.6372 or e-mail: lsmith@hsvmuseum.org.

YAM/CAC Entry Deadline: Monday, February 9, 2026

(You may also submit your entries early by dropping them off at our Admissions Desk in the Museum Lobby.)

YAM/VAA artwork with attached entry forms must be mailed or hand-delivered to:

Huntsville Museum of Art	Museum Academy Studio I
Attn: Laura E. Smith	Hours: 8:30 am–5:00 pm
300 Church Street South	Monday-Friday
Huntsville, AL 35801	



Huntsville Museum of Art

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION 2026 GUIDELINES

1. Work will be selected based on quality, creativity, and presentation. Entries not meeting these standards will not be accepted. **Authenticity Verification & Disclaimer:** I (defined as student and art teacher) hereby certify that this is my original work, and that it is not copied from another artist, internet image, magazine or book illustration or other artwork that was not originally mine. 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.

Artwork does **NOT** need to be matted. The Huntsville Museum of Art will mat the work of the Congressional Art Competition honorable mentions artwork. The winner artwork will be matted and framed.

2. **No Xerox-copied or traced works will be accepted.**
3. **District V high school student entries that are located within 5th Congressional District counties: (Madison, Morgan (Hartselle), Limestone, Colbert, Lauderdale, Lawrence, and Jackson) will be judged in the Congressional Art Competition. The winning entry will be sent to Washington, D.C. to be displayed for one year. The CAC artwork must be two-dimensional, maximum size of 26" x 26" and 4" deep including the outside of the frame. (Artwork does not need to be framed to be considered for the exhibition. The Museum will have the 1st place winner artwork framed for the exhibition. Artwork categories are as follows: painting, drawing, collage, prints, mixed media, computer generated art, and photography.**

Please refer to the **YAM/CAC 2026 Schedule** provided to ensure that you meet deadlines and artwork pick-up times and dates. Questions? Call Laura E. Smith, District V Coordinator, at the Huntsville Museum of Art at 256.535.6372 or email: lsmith@hsvmuseum.org.



Huntsville Museum of Art
YAM 2026 Guidelines
FOR
PUBLIC MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS
(DECATUR CITY, ATHENS CITY, LIMESTONE COUNTY, AND SCOTTSBORO CITY)

Remember that this year each art teacher will be selecting the artwork that will be hung in the **YAM 2026** exhibition. **There will be no further selection process.** Middle school art teachers will select **1 work** of art from their school. **Each** high school art teacher will select **1 work** of art from their classes they teach at their school. (For example, if a high school has 4 art teachers, each art teacher may select and submit 1 work of art.) See **YAM/VAA guidelines for procedure in completing entry form. Please attach inventory sheet to the outside of the portfolio or box. AUTHENTICITY VERIFICATION & DISCLAIMER MUST BE COMPLETED on the entry form for each piece of artwork being submitted for consideration. (Middle and High School entries only.)**

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.
4. Artwork **will not contain organic materials** (i.e. food products).
5. **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 Middle and High Schools (public, city, county, and private 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 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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2026 Student Entry Form

Must be completed by 6th – 12th grade visual arts students

DO NOT Print out document and complete by hand. Must be typed.

Only one entry per student

JUDGING CATEGORIES						
District (check one) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> 1 2 3 4a 4b 5 District 5 </div>					Classification (check one)	
Grade (check one) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> 6 7 8 </div>					Mixed Media Collage Drawing Painting Sculpture Photography/New Media Printmaking	
Grade: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> 9 10 11 12 </div>						
Grade: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> 6 7 8 </div>						
ART WORK						
Entry Title:						
Media or medium:				Description or Artist Statement: (please attach if more space is needed.)		
APPLICANT INFORMATION						
Student Name:						Age:
Street Address:				Phone(H):		
City:				Zip Code:		
Email:				Phone(M):		
School Name:				School Phone:		
Street Address:						
City:				Zip Code:		
School System:						
Art Instructor:				Email:		
CERTIFICATION (Original signatures required; print completed forms, sign and submit)						
I hereby certify that the art work I am entering is my original work and is not copied or adapted from any other source. I give the Huntsville Museum of Art permission to publish my work for publicity and archival purposes, in print or on-line. I will be credited for my work in any publications.						
Student Signature:					Date:	
I hereby certify that I have monitored student process of this work and verify that the work was created by the student and not adapted or copied from any other source.						
Teacher Signature:					Date:	

Please affix entry form to Artwork. Circle arrow to indicate top of work.

