



**"An Artistic Discovery"**  
**2012 Congressional Art Competition Guidelines**  
**U.S. Representative John Boehner**

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**General Guidelines**

- "An Artistic Discovery," the 2012 Congressional Art Competition, is only open to high school students (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades).
- Entries will be accepted through Congressman Boehner's office for residents of Ohio's 8<sup>th</sup> District. Students not residing in the 8<sup>th</sup> District will be referred to their respective United States Representative. You can look up your congressional district on the U.S. House of Representatives website, [www.House.gov](http://www.House.gov), using your ZIP code +4.
- Students may submit up to three pieces of artwork. All artwork will be judged (only one award per student).
- Each entry must be an original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Note: Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo (other than student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted. Must also be the original artwork, not a scanned copy.
- There will be two groups judged: 1 – Photography, and 2 – Other Permissible Media. Each group will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Honorable Mention(s) awards. The grand prize winner will be chosen between the two first place winners. Permissible media include:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers
  - Collage: must be two dimensional
  - Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, etc.
  - Computer generated art
  - Photography
- **Size guidelines for artwork submitted for "An Artistic Discovery":**
  - Piece must be two-dimensional
  - Each piece can be **no larger** than 28" (high) x 28" (wide) x 4" (deep). \*\* The winning piece will be framed and must comply with dimensions, including frame. Please keep these dimensions in mind when designing your piece.
  - Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 lbs.
  - Artwork that is too heavy to be displayed via Velcro tabs should include a wire or appropriate hanger/hook for hanging.
- **Framing guidelines for "An Artistic Discovery":**
  - Artwork submitted for this display must be ready for hanging at the art center (framed, matted, or framed and matted).
  - Lightweight pieces that may be hung using Velcro or push/"T" pins must be matted.
  - Heavier pieces must have hooks, wire, or an appropriately sturdy hanger installed.
  - Framed artwork must also include a wire for hanging. The **winning** artwork will be appropriately framed prior to being sent to the Capitol.

- You should consider providing a piece of Plexiglas or other clear (non-glass) covering to protect your artwork. Pieces utilizing delicate mediums (i.e., Pastels) should be appropriately fixed to avoid damage.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate with arrows on the back side which direction is up. Use the provided labels to identify artwork.
- **Suitability Guidelines for “An Artistic Discovery”:**
  - Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, **exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic, gruesome, or violent nature are not allowed.**
  - It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portions not in consonance with the Commission’s policy will be omitted from the exhibit.
  - The final decision regarding suitability for exhibition in the Capitol is left to a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in the Capitol.
- A copy of the Student Release Form, signed by the teacher, student, and parent/guardian, must be submitted with each artwork to certify the originality of the piece. (This form may be copied, or additional forms may be requested from the West Chester District Office). Also, please complete and attach the provided label form to each piece of art, oriented as the piece should be displayed.
- Artwork must be submitted to Congressman Boehner’s Troy or West Chester District Offices during in-take appointments (see enclosed information). Final deadline is 5:00 pm, Thursday, April 12th.
- All suitable entries will be displayed at the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center in Troy, Ohio, April 16 – 30<sup>th</sup>.
- A reception will be held on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center, for all participants and interested parties (6:30 – 8:00 pm). The winning entries will be announced at this event at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.
- The **grand prize winning** artwork will hang in the Capitol for **the entire year** of the exhibition and cannot be returned to the student earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.
- The **Grand Prize Artist** will also receive two free round-trip airfares to attend the national winners’ reception in Washington, D.C. and be eligible for a \$3000 scholarship to an art and design college.
- The **first prize winning** artwork will hang in the Office of the Speaker of the House for **the entire year** of the exhibition and cannot be returned to the student earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.
- Unless other arrangements have been made, artwork should be picked up in Rep. Boehner’s Troy or West Chester District Office by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Note:** Art In-Take Information, Guidelines, Art Label Forms, Important Dates, Student Release Forms, and other information regarding the 2012 Congressional Art Competition may be obtained at: [www.JohnBoehner.House.gov](http://www.JohnBoehner.House.gov).