

2009 Congressional Art Competition

Each spring, the Congressional Art Competition is sponsored by Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. This prestigious, nationwide competition is an opportunity to recognize, explore and encourage our nation's young artists. The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982, and since then, over 650,000 high school students have participated.

California's 6th Congressional District encompasses Marin County and most of Sonoma County, and every year the competition alternates between the two.

This year all **Marin County** high school students are invited to submit entries that are original in concept, design and execution. The culminating event will be held at the Bank of Marin in Corte Madera on **Friday, May 8th, at 5:30 p.m.**

The winning artwork will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. Marin County's "Grand Prize" winner will receive three round-trip tickets to Washington, D.C. to attend the ribbon-cutting event on June 24, 2009. Other prizes will also be awarded to finalists.

Dates to Remember

April 20

Art submission deadline

April 24 to May 22

Art showcase dates

May 8

Culminating event at 5:30 p.m. at Bank of Marin in Corte Madera

June 24

Ribbon Cutting event in Washington, D.C. for ONE district winner

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does my artwork submission have to adhere to certain guidelines? If so, what are they?

Yes. In order to allow artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, all submitted artwork must adhere to the following guidelines:

General Guidelines

- All artwork must be framed according to the appropriate framing guidelines, listed below.
- Artwork must conform to the restrictions:
 - Artwork must be two-dimensional
 - Each piece can be **no larger** than 30"x30"x4" (30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep) including the frame. Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 lbs.
 - Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo (not the 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.
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the **entire year** of the exhibition and **cannot** be returned to students earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.
- Artwork categories are as follows:
 - 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
- A **TYPED** copy of the Student Release form, signed by both the teacher and the student, must be attached to the artwork to certify the originality of the piece.
- Any entry that does not comply with the competition guidelines will **NOT** be accepted.

Q: How to I submit my artwork?

Your art teachers have received the information you'll need to submit your artwork. Ask them for the Student Information and Release Form. This form should be completed, signed and submitted with your artwork.

The submission deadline is Monday, April 20 by 3:00 p.m.

You or your teacher can drop-off your artwork in Congresswoman Woolsey's San Rafael office at 1050 Northgate Dr. Ste. 354 in San Rafael, CA 94903. If you or your teacher cannot deliver your artwork, please contact Alexandra Walter at (707) 542-7182 or via email at Alexandra.walter@mail.house.gov.

Q: How long will my artwork be on display?

Your artwork will be on display at the Bank of Marin in Corte Madera for one month, from April 24 to May 22.

Q: Does my artwork have to be framed?

Framing guidelines only apply to the ONE winning artist/artwork that will be sent to Washington, D.C. Each district winner is responsible for framing his or her own entry.

Artwork for the 6th Congressional District Art Competition at the Bank of Marin in Corte Madera does NOT need to be framed.

Framing Guidelines

- Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal
- Frames are recommended. No "snap on" frames with glass are to be used.
- All artwork must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape prior to shipping.
- All works, **including frame**, should be **no larger** than 30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4inches deep, and 15lbs in weight. *This includes the outside dimensions of the frame.* Framed work larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- Use sturdy picture hangers on the back of the frame. Two sturdy eye hooks should be attached at the right and the left sides of the back of the work for hanging in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Do not put wire between the hooks for hanging, these will be added when the artwork is hung in the Capitol.

- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the backside which side is “up” with arrows.
- A **typed** copy of the Student Information & Release Form **must be** securely attached to the back of the artwork.

Q: Who will be judging the artwork?

A panel of local, established artists from Marin County will judge the artwork prior to the event.

Q: Can my parents and teachers attend the reception?

Yes. Parents, teachers and other family are invited to attend the May 8th culminating event. This is a great opportunity for you to showcase and share your talents. Take advantage of it!

Contact Information

Do you still have questions? If you are an interested student or an art instructor who would like more information, please contact **Alexandra Walter** at (707) 542-7182 or via email at alexandra.walter@mail.house.gov.

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Student Information & Release Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. THIS INFORMATION IS USED FOR CERTIFICATES AND AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS.
INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MEMBER/DISTRICT INFORMATION	
MEMBER OF CONGRESS NAME:	STATE:

STUDENT INFORMATION		
NAME:	GRADE:	
STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
STUDENT EMAIL:		
T-SHIRT SIZE:		
PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME(S):		
PARENT PHONE:	PARENT WORK PHONE:	

SCHOOL		
SCHOOL NAME:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
ART TEACHER NAME:		

ART COMPETITION ENTRY
TITLE OF ENTRY:
MEDIUM:
DESCRIPTION:
FRAMED DIMENSIONS: Height: _____ inches Width: _____ inches Depth: _____ inches See official guidelines for framed size and artwork weight restrictions.

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Student Information & Release Form

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)	
STUDENT NAME:	STATE:
TITLE OF ENTRY:	

ORIGINALITY CERTIFICATION	
I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the art entry described above is an original work or authorship by the undersigned student and that it is not copied from, nor does it include, any other person's copyrighted work.	
<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> STUDENT SIGNATURE	<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> ART TEACHER SIGNATURE

ARTWORK RELEASE	
<p>We, the undersigned, represent that the art entry described above is an original work of authorship personally created by the undersigned student to which the student is entitled copyright protection. In consideration for the acceptance of the art entry by the Member of Congress designated above in <i>An Artistic Discovery</i> (the Congressional Art Competition sponsored by the U.S. House of Representatives) and intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned grant the Member and the House the right to publicly display the art entry, if it is selected for display, in accordance with the rules of the Art Competition, for a period of two years from the latest date on this form. The undersigned acknowledge that the final decision regarding the suitability of an art entry to be displayed in the Capitol will be made by a House panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. The undersigned also grant the Member, the House, their employees and agents, and the United States the right to reproduce the art entry for any non-commercial purpose. The undersigned further grant the Member, the House, their employees and agents, and the United States from any and all liability for damage, loss, or misappropriation of the art entry during and subsequent to the Art Competition. The undersigned further agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Member, the House, their employees and agents, and the United States against any and all claims of any nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, claims of copyright infringement, by any party whatsoever, arising out of or in any way related to the submission of the art entry in the Art Competition.</p>	
<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> STUDENT SIGNATURE	<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (IF UNDER 18)