



Art Contest - Guidelines

Grades 2 – 5: Elementary Art Contest

-What are the Judges looking for?

- Colorful artwork
- Artwork that fills the page and does not have a lot of empty white space.
- No logos or words

-What does “I Am Texas” mean?

For elementary students our judges are looking for the student’s creativity. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What does it look like out your bedroom window?
- A place in Texas that you visited recently.
- What is something that you love about Texas? (Could be food, music, animals, being outdoors, playing with friends, or Texas symbols)
- A moment in Texas history or something inspired by Texas history

Grades 6-8: Middle School Contest

-What are the judges looking for?

- Middle schoolers, we are holding you to a higher standard than the elementary school students! Plan on sketching out your artwork with pencil before adding color.
- Please create detailed artwork that clearly shows what you are trying to communicate.
- Good craftsmanship. This means that your artwork should not look messy. Please erase stray pencil marks and use multiple layers of paint, marker, or whatever medium you choose to create saturated colors.
- It might help to have a reference photo when drawing to get an idea of how something is shaped and shaded. For example, before drawing a blue bonnet, look online to find a picture of a blue bonnet and look carefully at its different parts and colors. This will help you create a better drawing and may even give you new ideas about your artwork’s composition and colors.
- Be creative! If you are choosing a common subject, make it stand out with interesting composition, colors, and patterns.

-Where do I begin?

- Theme ideas: Texas landscapes, your city, Texas symbols, food that you love in Texas, animals and pets, Texas map, agriculture, ranching, and relating to Texas history or a historical artifact.

Grades 9-12: Highschool Art Contest

-What are the judges looking for?

- For the high school art awards, we accept digital and non-digital art. They are judged in the same category and eligible for the same awards. For this contest “digital art” refers to original artwork created using a computer or tablet with art making software such as illustrator, procreate, or a similar program.
- We do not accept photography, photo editing or photo manipulation. We do not accept digital collage or digitally altered images.
- If you use a reference photo and draw it in exacting detail, the photo needs to be one that either the artist took, or a photo taken by someone who the artist knows and who gave them permission to use it.
- While this contest accepts drawings that are based on photographs, we strongly encourage original ideas and creative composition.
- We are especially excited about receiving artwork that offers a fresh take on the “I Am Texas” theme.

Need some help brainstorming? Here are a few jumping off points:

- Bryan Museum collection items – search our catalog by key word at <https://thebryanmuseum.pastperfectonline.com/Search>
- Hidden or forgotten Texas
- Personal places, experiences or memories about Texas
- Your favorite Texas plants and animals
- We love farm animals and bluebonnets, but think about what other native plants and animals are important to our local ecosystems here in Texas.
- Landscapes or cityscapes