

Young Artists Showcase 2025:

Arts builds Civic Engagement: Involved in Arts, Involved in Life!

The Santa Clara County Office of Education announces the 2025 Young Artist Showcase. This showcase is open to public school students, grades Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, in Santa Clara County. Adjudicators will determine the student artwork to be accepted into the permanent exhibit of student artwork located within the SCCOE campuses and showcased at the *virtual* Young Artist Showcase Celebration on May 23, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. All artwork will be submitted digitally.

Theme - Arts Builds Civic Engagement: Involved in Arts, Involved in Life!

This year's artwork theme is inspired by research highlighted by the National Endowment of the Arts in 2004: Arts as Civic Engagement: Involved in Arts, involved in Life (National Endowment for the Arts, 2004). In 2017, the Irvine Foundation funded a study that had similar findings (Rabkin, 2017). There is a consistent correlation between arts participation and civic engagement, and experiences during adolescence are particularly impactful (Rabkin, 2017, p. 5). The arts build connections between people, evoking trust, and are crucial in rebuilding social capital - shared values and resources used towards achieving a common goal or set of goals. Students can speak to their experiences of arts participation and how they have engaged as volunteers in their communities around environmental, socio-economic, and political issues. Because the nature of the arts is a collaborative and expressive one, youth will be able to create expressive pieces about the ways they engage with their respective communities.

Eligibility

Digital files of the artwork will be accepted in four (4) categories:

- Visual Arts 2D: Present paintings, drawings, prints, works on paper, canvas, wood, cardboard, mixed media, and film/analog photography. Anything on a flat surface.
- Visual Arts 3D: Present sculpture, installation, glass, metal, ceramics, mixed media with materials coming off the paper, etc. Anything three-dimensional.
- Media Arts 4D: Produce new media (podcasts, videos, cartoons, infographics), digital photography, illustration, graphic design, and photo-shopped images. Anything created on a computer, digital camera, or screen.
- Music, Dance, and Theatre Arts: Perform, capture, and submit via YouTube or Vimeo. A submission may be no more than two minutes.

**Note: Artwork and performances can be done alone, with a partner, or with a group of classmates- please include all artists' names.*

Students

- Pre-Kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers are encouraged to submit student artwork for selection into SCCOE's permanent collection.
- All Santa Clara County public/charter schools, public preschool programs, and after-school public programs are eligible to participate.

Submission Requirements

- Preschool to 12th-grade artwork will be submitted to SCCOE via an online submission form. Submissions are limited to one artwork per student or group of students if it is a shared project.
- Submissions will be made through the Young Artist Showcase Submission Form on www.sccoe.org/arts/yas.
- We will accept electronic submissions beginning November 1, 2024, on a rolling basis until April 1, 2025.
- Artwork will be exhibited online on the Young Artist Showcase page of the Artspiration SCCOE website in May.
- An artist's statement shall be included with each submission. Students are urged to complete the "[YAS Student Worksheet](#)" to prepare for the artist statement questions in the submission form. **Entries will be disqualified unless the artist's statement is included with the artwork submission.**

Suggestions on how to photograph and format your artwork to meet submission requirements:

How to Photograph Your Artwork for online submission: [How to Photograph your Artwork for Online Submissions](#)

Requirements:

All images should:

- Be in jpeg or tiff format, sized between 1000 and 2000 pixels
- Have a resolution of 300 dpi. Files should not exceed 3 MB in size.
- Use this naming convention: FirstName.LastName.GrX_YAS2024

Guidelines for photographing and resizing your artwork

- Free software like www.resize-photos.com or
- iPhoto instructions <https://www.wikihow.com/Shrink-a-Picture>
- Create a neutral background for your artwork with a sheet or blank surface. Do not have other objects in the frame with your work.
- For 3D work, think about what direction you want your sculpture to face. You can have 2 photographs on the same file to showcase another view of your work. Please combine the images into one file using a photo editing program. You may email additional photos if needed.
- Proper lighting will help to **highlight** the beauty of your piece – use caution with flash or bright sunlight streaming onto the work.
- Focus carefully on your piece to send the best representation of the work.
- Please do not use Instagram or other filters to edit your work – the resulting color image may not represent the actual piece.
- For 4D work, if your file is too large, you may share a link to a Google File or YouTube. Insert this information in the “comments” of the submission form.

Suggestions on how to record your performance to meet submission requirements:

Recording Your Performance: A How-To Guide: [Recording For Performance | How-To Guide](#)

Artwork Selection

Judging Criteria for Selection into the Permanent Collection. Pieces will be judged on the following (not in order of priority):

- Interpretation - communicating the theme, an idea, or an emotion
- Imagination and creativity
- Effective use of media as related to content
- Visual (Aural) impact (i.e., bold, strong)
- Originality
- Skill in the use of media and technique (visual and media art: use of watercolor, crayons, pencil, ink, video, and digital technologies)
- Composition:
 - Effective use of elements of art/theatre/music/dance
 - Effective use of principles of design/musical elements/key theatrical concepts/elements of dance
 - Effective use of compositional/performance technique

People’s Choice Awards will be announced before the release of the Online Student Art Gallery on **May 1, 2025**. will have a digital file of the submitted artwork will be projected at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Awardees will have their pieces added to the permanent collection.

Key Dates

2024-25 YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE SELECTION PROCESS:

- **November 1, 2024 – April 1, 2025** | Electronic submissions of PK-12th grade student artwork and media
- **Week of April 14, 2025** | People's Choice Awards Adjudication
- **May 13, 2025** | Online Student Art Gallery at www.sccoe.org/arts/yas
- **May 23, 2025** | Young Artists Virtual Showcase Celebration for all grades: 4:00 p.m.

Young Artist Showcase **2025** guidelines, worksheets, and submission forms can be found here **in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese:** www.sccoe.org/arts/yas

Please share this information with teachers, school site administrators, and other interested colleagues. For further details, please contact Sofia Fojas at artspirationsocialmedia@sccoe.org or visit www.artspiration.sccoe.org.