

Young Artists Showcase 2026:

My Superpower: The Power to Imagine. The Passion to Create

The Santa Clara County Office of Education announces the 2026 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 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. All artwork will be submitted digitally.

Theme – My Superpower: The Power to Imagine. The Passion to Create

Everyone has a superpower—something that makes them unique, resilient, and extraordinary. It might be the rhythm in your music, the emotion in your performance, the movement in your dance, the vision in your art, or the message in your media.

“My Superpower” invites artists across all disciplines to explore and express the inner forces that define them. Whether it’s the courage to speak out, the power of imagination, or the strength to overcome, this theme celebrates the diverse ways we channel our creativity into something powerful.

- Musicians might compose or perform pieces that reflect personal triumph or emotional depth.
- Dancers can embody strength, transformation, or identity through movement.
- Theatre artists can tell stories of hidden powers, resilience, or self-discovery.
- Visual artists can illustrate symbolic or literal interpretations of power and uniqueness.
- Media artists can craft digital narratives, animations, or films that bring their superpowers to life.

This is your moment to shine and turn your superpower into your art.

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/analogue 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, 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 done through the Young Artist Showcase Submission Form found on www.sccoe.org/arts/yas.
- We will accept electronic submissions beginning October 15, 2025, on a rolling basis until April 1, 2026.
- 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_YAS2026

Guidelines for photographing and resizing your artwork

- Free software like <http://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 project the beauty of your piece – use caution with flash or bright sunlight streaming on to 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 be representative of 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 use of media and technique (visual and media art: use of watercolor, crayons, pencil, ink, video, 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 4, 2026**. Awardees will have a digital file of the submitted artwork on display at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Awardees will have their pieces added to the permanent collection.

Key Dates

2025-26 YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE SELECTION PROCESS:

- **October 15, 2025 – April 1, 2026** | Electronic submissions of PK-12th grade student artwork and media
- **Week of April 13, 2025** | People's Choice Awards Adjudication
- **May 4, 2026** | Online Student Art Gallery at www.sccoe.org/arts/yas
- **May 14, 2026** | Young Artists Virtual Showcase Celebration for all grades: 4:00 p.m.

Young Artist Showcase 2024 guidelines, worksheets, and submissions forms can be found here:

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 artspiration.sccoe.org.