Congressional Research Service
Informing the legislative debate since 1914

The Congressional Arts Caucus and the Congressional Art Competition: History and Current Practice

Updated August 23, 2018

Congressional Research Service
https://crsreports.congress.gov
R42487

CRS REPORT
Prepared for Members and
Committees of Congress

Summary

Sponsored by the Congressional Arts Caucus, and known in recent years as "An Artistic Discovery," the Congressional Art Competition is open to high school students nationwide. Begun in 1982, the competition, based in congressional districts, provides the opportunity for Members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since its inception, more than 650,000 high school students nationwide have been involved in the program.

Each year, the art of one student per participating congressional district is selected to represent the district. The culmination of the competition is the yearlong display of winning artwork in the Cannon House Office Building tunnel as well as on the House of Representatives' website.

This report provides a brief history of the Congressional Arts Caucus and the Congressional Art Competition. It also provides a history of sponsorship and support for the caucus and the annual competition. The report includes copies of the original correspondence establishing the competition, a sample competition announcement, sample guidelines and required forms for the competition, and a chronological list of congressional co-chairs.

Contents

History 1
Congressional Arts Caucus 1
Congressional Art Competition 1
Legislation 2
Recent Exhibit History 2
Administrative and Financial Support 3
Current Operating Practice and Procedures for the Congressional Art Competition 4
Prizes and Scholarships 5

Figures

Figure A-1. Letter from House Office Building Commission Chairman Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. to Representative Fred Richmond 7
Figure A-2. Letter from AOC George White to Chairman Thomas O'Neill Jr. 8
Figure B-1. 2018 Rules and Regulations for Congressional Offices 9
Figure B-2. 2018 Rules and Regulations for Students and Teachers 13
Figure B-3. 2018 Congressional Art Competition Form 16
Figure B-4. 2018 Art Submission Checklist 18

Tables

Table C-1. Congressional Art Competition Leadership, 1982-2018 19

Appendixes

Appendix A. Letters Establishing the Congressional Art Competition 7
Appendix B. Congressional Art Competition Sample Forms 9
Appendix C. Congressional Art Competition Leadership 19

Contacts

Author Contact Information 21

History

Congressional Arts Caucus

Representative Frederick Richmond reportedly began forming what became the Congressional Arts Caucus in response to proposals by the Reagan Administration to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the defeat of other prominent arts advocates in Congress.[1] Within days, 77 Members of the House of Representatives had joined the caucus,[2] and by the start of the 98th Congress (January 1983), House membership had grown to 166 Members—reportedly one of the largest caucuses on Capitol Hill at that time.[3] Representative Richmond served as the first chairman and Representative Jim Jeffords as the first vice-chairman.[4] (See **Table C-1** for a list of the chairs.)

Congressional Art Competition

In July 1981, on behalf of the Congressional Arts Caucus, Representative Richmond proposed to the Speaker of the House, Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., a program for encouraging nationwide artistic creativity by high school students through art exhibits in the tunnels connecting the Capitol to the House Office Buildings.

In October 1981, Speaker O'Neill, in his role as chair of the House Office Building Commission,[5] indicated no objection to an exhibit as long as it was conducted at no expense to the government. The Speaker further required that the Arts Caucus work with the House Office Building Commission and the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) on the details and to ensure that a jury of qualified people approves the final selection of student art for the exhibit. A detailed proposal for the manner of display of the artwork was also requested. (See **Figure A-1**, letter from Speaker O'Neill to Representative Richmond.)

In February 1982, the AOC sent a letter to the chairman of the House Office Building Commission in which he submitted the proposal for the National Art Competition program as prepared by the Arts Caucus. In the letter, the AOC expressed his approval and recommended that the House Office Building Commission do the same. (See **Figure A-2**, letter from AOC George M. White to Chairman O'Neill.) The letter includes the signatures of all three of the House Office Building Commission members.

Subsequently, on February 9, 1982, Speaker O'Neill and several members of the Arts Caucus announced the first annual Congressional Art Competition. Representative Richmond said, about the competition, that "members of Congress would conduct the contest among high school students in their districts. The winning art will line a corridor in the Capitol."[6]

---

[1] Carla Hall, "The Art of Advocacy; Fred Richmond, the Congressman Behind the House Arts Caucus," *Washington Post*, January 25, 1981, pp. H1, H4.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Irvin Molotsky, "Congressional Arts Caucus Thriving," *New York Times*, January 15, 1983, Section 1, p. 13.

[4] For more on the history of congressional Member organizations (caucuses), see CRS Report R40683, *Congressional Member Organizations: Their Purpose and Activities, History, and Formation*, by Matthew E. Glassman.

[5] The House Office Building Commission is composed of the Speaker, who serves as chair, and the majority and minority leaders of the House.

[6] United Press International, press release, February 10, 1982.

Legislation

No legislation has been introduced to authorize, sanction, or otherwise make permanent the Congressional Art Competition. On July 23, 1991, H.Res. 201 (102nd Congress, first session) was introduced by the Congressional Art Competition co-chair, Representative Ted Weiss, to recognize the 10th anniversary of the competition. On November 18, 1991, the resolution was agreed to by voice vote.[7] The only other piece of legislation was H.Res. 1453 (111th Congress, second session) introduced by the Congressional Art Competition co-chair, Representative Steve Driehaus, to celebrate the 29th anniversary of the competition. This resolution was introduced on June 17, 2010, and referred to the Committee on House Administration with no further action.[8]

Recent Exhibit History

Throughout the competition's history, reportedly, a few submitted artworks have been removed as part of a controversy or otherwise. In 2012, an entry submitted to the Illinois Fourth Congressional District for the Congressional Art Competition was the subject of a controversy before being selected as the district winner. A Chicago high school student entered a city-wide competition to determine the next city vehicle sticker. Days before the city was to print 1.2 million new stickers, allegations surfaced on a number of police blogs claiming the design displayed gang signs and other symbols of the Maniac Latin Disciples street gang. The city decided not to use the artwork. It was subsequently entered into the Congressional Art Competition for the IL-04 congressional district. The artwork won the district competition and hung in the Cannon Tunnel for a full year without objection.[9]

Prior to the 2016-2017 Congressional Art Competition, the federal government, in a court filing, identified only one other occasion when a piece of art was removed after it was put on display as part of the competition; the work appeared to be a copy of a photograph that had appeared that year in Vogue magazine.[10] In two other identified instances prior to the 2016-2017 competition, when suitability questions arose and the AOC reached out to the sponsoring Member of Congress, the Member agreed to submit another piece.[11]

During the 2016-2017 competition, an AOC-convened panel reviewed submissions and identified two works that raised suitability concerns, one titled "Recollection," which depicts a young man with apparent bullet holes in his back, and the other depicting marijuana use by Bob Marley. Consistent with its usual practice, AOC staff contacted the sponsoring Member'' offices regarding these works, and the Members indicated they supported the works' display. Both of these works were displayed.[12].

Artwork for the 2016 Congressional Art Competition went on public exhibit in May 2016. In early December 2016, letters from Members of Congress and the Capitol Police requesting the removal of the winning entry from Missouri's 1st Congressional District were sent to Speaker

[7] See https://www.congress.gov/bill/102nd-congress/house-resolution/201?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5C%22hres201%5C%22%22%5D%7D.

[8] See https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-resolution/1453?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5C%22hres1453%5C%22%22%5D%7D.

[9] "City clerk investigates: Does new city sticker have gang signs?" See http://www.onqpi.com/blog/city-clerk-investigates-does-new-city-sticker-have-gang-signs.

[10] Pulphus v. Ayers, 249 F. Supp. 3d 241 (2017).

[11] 249 F. Supp. 3d 241 (2017).

[12] 249 F. Supp. 3d 242 (2017).

Paul Ryan and AOC Stephen T. Ayres. The artwork was viewed by some as violating suitability guidelines in the rules for the competition, as it depicted law enforcement officers as animals abusing protesters.

Subsequently, the artwork was repeatedly removed and re-hung in the Cannon Tunnel to the Capitol by various Members of Congress. An administrative decision to prohibit the painting was made by Architect Ayers, which triggered the filing of an injunction in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of the artist, claiming violation of First Amendment rights.[13] In April 2017, a judge in the District Court for the District of Columbia denied the plaintiffs' injunction, ruling that due to the public location of the artwork in a tunnel connecting the U.S. Capitol to a House office building, the art was government speech and that Members of Congress who objected to the content had a right to remove it. The artwork continued to be banned from display until May 2017 when all artwork from that competition year was removed.[14]

Administrative and Financial Support

The *House Ethics Manual* addresses the issue of the appropriateness of congressional involvement in the Art Competition in the section on "Official and Outside Organizations." House ethics rules generally prohibit endeavors jointly supported by a combination of private resources and official funds. For example, House Rule 24 prohibits the use of private resources for the operation of both congressional Member organizations (CMOs) and Member advisory groups. Yet, the *House Ethics Manual* goes on to explain that, "Nevertheless, the giving of advice by informal advisory groups to a Member does not constitute the type of private contribution of funds, goods, or in-kind services to the support of congressional operations that is prohibited by House Rule 24."[15] Later the *Ethics Manual* specifically addresses the Congressional Art Competition in the following:

> "One instance when cooperation with private groups has been explicitly recognized is the annual competition among high school students in each congressional district to select a work of art to hang in the Capitol, referred to as the Congressional Art Competition. Members may announce their support for the competition in official letters and news releases, staff may provide administrative assistance, a local arts organization or *ad hoc* committee may select the winner, and a corporation may underwrite costs such as prizes and flying the winner to Washington, D.C. Private involvement with the Congressional Art Competition in this manner is not viewed as a subsidy of normal operations of the congressional office. Members may not solicit on behalf of the arts competition in their district without Standards Committee [now Committee on Ethics] permission unless the organization to which the donation will be directed is qualified under § 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code."[16]

The general guidelines concerning Member solicitations is stated in the *Ethics Manual*,[17] and solicitation guidelines as related to the Art Competition are addressed in the "Ethics Guidance" document for the 2018 Congressional Art Competition.[18]

---

[13] 249 F. Supp 3d 238 (2017).

[14] 249 F. Supp 3d 255 (2017).

[15] See Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, *House Ethics Manual*, 110th Cong., 2nd sess. 2008, Ch. 10, p. 339, available at http://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/documents/2008_House_Ethics_Manual.pdf.

[16] Ibid., p. 346. For more information on the history of CMOs and the rules under which they operate, see CRS Report R40683, *Congressional Member Organizations: Their Purpose and Activities, History, and Formation*, by Matthew E. Glassman.

[17] Ibid., pp. 347-349.

In their earliest years, the Congressional Arts Caucus and Congressional Art Competition were financially supported by a $300 contribution from the allowances of members of the caucus. The funds were used to pay the salaries of two full-time staff and other operational costs.[19] During the period 1982 to 1994, the caucus used its staff and interns to manage administrative duties related to the competition, such as announcements, guidelines, deadlines, the receipt of completed forms and art, and recordkeeping. These individuals also coordinated the art competition's awards program and reception to honor the winning artists. After 1995, many administrative tasks were undertaken by two Member offices—typically the offices of the co-chairs of the Arts Caucus.

From the competition's inception, the AOC curator and the House superintendent have assisted with the moving, arranging, labeling, and hanging of the art works, as well as returning the art to participating Members' offices at the end of a competition—this is done in May of each year just prior to the commencement of a new competition. The curator also arranges the winning artwork alphabetically by state, maintains a tracking system, works with the House carpenters to have the artwork hung in the Cannon House Office Building tunnel, and prepares and attaches the accompanying descriptive labels.

In 2005, General Motors, which had provided financial and logistical support to the Art Competition since 1982, asked the Public Governance Institute to assist with logistical support. In 2009, the Congressional Institute, Inc.[20] took over from the Public Governance Institute, providing both advice and logistical support for the competition. According to its website, the Congressional Institute was founded in 1987 and "is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to helping Members of Congress better serve their constituents and helping their constituents better understand the operations of the national legislature."[21]

Current Operating Practice and Procedures for the Congressional Art Competition

Currently, each participating House Member solicits entries from high school students for the event and establishes his or her own method of judging the submissions. There is no entry fee for the competition and previous entrants (including winners) may re-enter as long as they are high school students.

The winning artwork must conform to strict guidelines and meet all deadlines. By mid-February of each year, the Art Competition guidelines and forms to accompany the submitted art are available to the public on the House of Representatives website at https://www.house.gov/content/educate/art_competition. It is the prerogative of the co-chairs, the House Office Building Commission, the AOC curator, or the Congressional Institute, Inc., to modify the guidelines from year to year.

Two sets of guidelines are available:

- The "2018 Rules and Regulations for Congressional Offices" (shown as **Figure B-1**, unavailable electronically).

(...continued)

[18] See https://housenet.house.gov/serving-constituents/art-competition

[19] Irvin Molotsky, "Congressional Arts Caucus Thriving," *New York Times*, January 15, 1983, Section 1, p. 13.

[20] See http://www.conginst.org.

[21] Ibid.

- The "2018 Rules and Regulations for Students and Teachers" can be found on the House of Representatives public website at https://www.house.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/2018Rulesfor StudentsandTeachers.pdf (shown as **Figure B-2**).

The "Student Information & Release Form" is available at https://www.house.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/2018StudentReleaseForm.pdf (shown as **Figure B-3**), and a "2018 Art Submission Checklist" is shown as **Figure B-4** (unavailable electronically).

Since 2009, the Congressional Institute, Inc. has assisted and advised Member offices on how to run the competition. The institute responds to questions from participants, collects district winner information, prepares the list of winners, organizes the receipt of the artwork, and shares coordination of the reception honoring the district winners. The institute also photographs the artwork and provides a digital record of each annual competition to the House of Representatives for posting on its public website.[22] It has been the practice for the Congressional Institute to mail the invitations, print the programs, and provide food for the annual reception.

The reception, transportation, name tags, T-shirts, photography, event website, and program printing have always been privately sponsored. Recent corporate sponsors have included General Motors and Southwest Airlines. Members of Congress may also obtain the services of local sponsors to assist with transportation and local awards.

At the culmination of the annual Art Competition, the winning entries from participating congressional districts are available on the House of Representatives website. The names of the 2018 winners and their artwork are available at https://www.conginst.org/art-competition/?compYear=2018&state=all. The Congressional Art Competition co-chairs generally invite an artist from their respective congressional districts to address the student winners at the reception.

Since it began in 1982, "over 650,000 high school students nationwide have been involved with the nation-wide competition."[23]

Prizes and Scholarships

There are no required procedures for selecting the winning entries for participating congressional districts. Any entry that conforms to the general specifications stated in the "Guidelines for Students and Teachers" is eligible to represent a congressional district. Members of Congress may have local art teachers, art gallery owners, civic leaders, local businesses, or Member office staff assist with the judging to select their district winner.

Members of Congress may also enlist the participation of businesses in the congressional district to donate plaques, savings bonds, and other prizes, or to sponsor a reception or event to announce the competition's district winner. For example, since 2004, the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Savannah, GA, has offered scholarship opportunities to the first-place winners of the district competitions as long as funding is available, according to school sources. The $3,000 scholarship may be renewed annually.[24]

[22] Information obtained in email exchanges with Congressional Institute staff in January/February 2012.

[23] See https://housenet.house.gov/serving-constituents/art-competition.

[24] See https://www.scad.edu/admission/financial-aid-and-scholarships/scholarships/entering-students. Although the scholarship for matriculating CAC winners is not currently listed on the SCAD paged dedicated to scholarships website, Office of Financial Aid staff confirmed that the scholarship is still offered on April 19, 2018.

Other scholarships are targeted for winning entrants from a specific congressional district. In recent years, these have included scholarships to the High School Summer Institute at Chicago's Columbia College and the Art Institute of Phoenix. Georgia's 13th congressional district winner may receive a scholarship to the Art Institute of Atlanta, in Pennsylvania, the 15th congressional district winner is eligible for a full-year scholarship to the Baum School of Art in Allentown, and Tennessee 3rd congressional district participants are eligible for a $3,000 scholarship to Tennessee Wesleyan University in Athens, TN.[25]

Additional prizes that have been awarded include roundtrip airfare to Washington, DC, for the opening of the annual exhibition, gift certificates to local art supply stores, family memberships for a year to an art museum, and cash. Although no congressional or taxpayer funds may be used for prizes or scholarships, corporate sponsorship is allowed.

As in past years, Southwest Airlines is providing two roundtrip tickets to winning entrants from any city with scheduled Southwest service to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport or Baltimore-Washington's Thurgood Marshall International Airport (BWI).[26] Tickets will be issued to a parent or guardian as ePasses and are to be used within the period of two weeks before and two weeks after the Washington, DC, Congressional Art Competition ceremony. Southwest Airlines does not provide hotel accommodations or hotel discounts.

[25] See http://www.tnwesleyan.edu/admissions/tuition-aid-scholarships/financial-aid/scholarships/other-scholarships.

[26] Southwest Community Affairs and Grassroots, swacac@wnco.com, April 25, 2018.

Appendix A. Letters Establishing the Congressional Art Competition

Figure A-1. Letter from House Office Building Commission Chairman Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. to Representative Fred Richmond

The Speaker's Room
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 14, 1981

The Honorable Fred Richmond, Chairman
Congressional Arts Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Fred:

This will respond to your letter of July 17, 1981 on behalf of the Congressional Arts Caucus, proposing a program for art exhibits in the tunnels connecting the Capitol to the House Office Buildings.

I have no basic objection to the proposal conditioned upon your assurance that this program would be conducted at no expense to the government, and, in fact, I share the frequently expressed opinion that the tunnels could benefit from aesthetic enlivenment. However, there are a great many administrative details to be determined and decided upon in order to assure that the dignity and appearance of the Capitol Buildings are maintained and that professional juries screen the exhibits on behalf of the House Office Building Commission. To that end, I request that you work out the details of the program with the Honorable George M. White, Architect of the Capitol, whom I would further designate as Chairman of a jury of qualified people selected by him, in consultation with the Arts Caucus; the jury would have the authority to approve final selection of student works to be exhibited.

I would further ask that the Caucus and the Architect submit a detailed proposal for the program for approval of the House Office Building Commission prior to implementation, including sketches indicating the proposed manner of display of the artwork.

Sincerely yours,

Tip

Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Chairman
House Office Building Commission

Source: Architect of the Capitol (AOC) curator's office.

Figure A-2. Letter from AOC George White to Chairman Thomas O'Neill Jr.

THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL 1793

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 8, 1982

ROUTING CODE		ACTION CODE	INITIAL	
	MR. WHITE			CODES
	MR. ENEIGN			1. ACTION
	MR. C. CARROLL			2. REPLY
	MR. RAINES			3. DRAFT REPLY
	MR. R. CARROLL			
	MR. WINBERLY			4. COMMENT, REPORT
	MR. CRUPI			
	MRS. STANLEY			5. INFO
				6. FILE
				7. OTHER, AS NOTED

The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Chairman
House Office Building Commission
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to your request in your letter of October 14, 1981 to the Honorable Fred Richmond, Chairman of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I am transmitting herewith the detailed proposal for the National Art Competition program submitted by the Caucus incorporating suggestions made by this office.

I have carefully examined the proposal and recommend its approval by the House Office Building Commission. In my judgment, the program will result in the aesthetic enlivenment of the tunnels connecting the Capitol to the House Office Buildings.

I shall, of course, be pleased to assist you in any other way you may deem desirable.

Cordially,

George M. White, FAIA
Architect of the Capitol

Approved by:

Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Chairman
House Office Building Commission

Jim Wright, Member
House Office Building Commission

Robert Michel, Member
House Office Building Commission

Source: AOC curator's office.

Note: Attached in the upper right corner is the routing slip that accompanied the letter.

Appendix B. Congressional Art Competition Sample Forms

Figure B-1. 2018 Rules and Regulations for Congressional Offices

Congressional Art COMPETITION

2018 RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

Important Dates

May 8	**Overall District Winner's Information Due** **Overall winner must be selected by May 8** and the information from the Student Information and Release Form and a copy of the Letter of Support must be submitted to the Congressional Institute. The Member must sign the Letter of Support.
May 25	**Framed Art Due in DC** More information on art submission will be provided later. Please note the framing guidelines below. These guidelines apply only to your overall winner.
June 27	**Congressional Art Competition Reception** More information will be sent to the District and DC staff who have registered for Congressional Art Competition updates.

Questions

If you have questions after reviewing the guidelines, please contact the Congressional Institute at 703-837-8812 or art@conginst.org.

General Information

The rules and regulations contained here apply to the 2018 competition generally. Each Member of Congress may establish additional rules for his or her district competition.

The competition is open to high school students. Members may choose whether to include 7th and 8th grade students in the art competition if schools located in their districts house 7th through 12th grades on one campus.
Each Member of Congress may designate one first-place winner for display in the Cannon Tunnel.

1

Official resources are to be used only to the extent authorized by the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Ethics. For guidance, please contact the Committee on House Administration at 202-226-0647 and/or the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

To allow artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel to the U.S. Capitol, the following rules are enforced:

- All artwork must be framed according to the appropriate framing guidelines, listed below.
- Artwork must conform to these restrictions:
  - Artwork must be two-dimensional
  - Artwork can be **no larger** than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, **including the frame**.
  - No framed piece should weigh more than 15 pounds.
  - Accepted mediums for the two-dimensional artwork are as follows:
    - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
    - Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)
    - Prints: lithographs, silk screen, block prints
    - Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
    - Collages (must be two dimensional)
    - Computer-generated art
    - Photographs
  - Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement), that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted.
  - Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).
- Artwork is due in Washington by **May 25**. More information on submitting the artwork will be provided later.

Artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel for the duration of the exhibit. Students should only submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

Suitability Guidelines

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission (the Commission). In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. Each Member of Congress will be required to submit a Letter of Support, described below, confirming that the Member has determined that the winning artwork adheres to the Commission's policy. However, if another Member of Congress requests review of any artwork for compliance with the Commission's policy, the final decision regarding the artwork's suitability for display will be made by the Commission.

2

Letter of Support (Overall Winner Only)

Each Member of Congress will be required to submit a Letter of Support for their winning artwork. This letter is to ensure that the Member has seen the artwork before it is submitted, has taken full responsibility for its content and has certified that the artwork, in the Member's opinion, adheres to the Suitability Guidelines of the House Office Building Commission. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in this highly travelled area leading to the Capitol. For that reason, we ask that Members carefully review the artwork for adherence to the Commission policy.

The letter should be attached to the back of the artwork when it is submitted in Washington, DC. A copy of the letter must be emailed to art@conginst.org by May 8.

The letter must bear the **original signature** of the Member.

A sample Letter of Support is included below. The letter **must** contain verbatim the second paragraph ("I have viewed…").

> Congressional Institute, Inc.
> 1700 Diagonal Road #730
> Alexandria, VA 22314
>
> Dear Congressional Institute:
>
> On behalf of the [NUMBER] District of [STATE], I am pleased to submit [ARTWORK TITLE] by [STUDENT'S NAME] for inclusion in the 2018 Congressional Art Competition exhibit. I have selected this artwork because [EXPLANATION OF ARTWORK].
>
> I have viewed the above-named student's artwork and approve of its content. I have reviewed the artwork and find it to be in accordance with the policy of the House Office Building Commission, which prohibits subjects that depict contemporary political controversy, or of a sensationalistic or gruesome nature. I understand that in the event of a dispute, the final decision regarding whether artwork adheres to this policy will be made by the House Office Building Commission.
>
> If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [STAFF NAME(S)] at [EMAIL ADDRESS] or [PHONE NUMBER].
>
> Sincerely,
> [MEMBER'S SIGNATURE]
> [MEMBER NAME]
> Member of Congress

Framing Guidelines (Overall Winner Only)

Framing guidelines apply only to the one winning artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC.

All winning artwork must be enhanced and protected by a sturdy frame. Frames must be made of wood or metal. No plastic "snap on" frames or metal frames that can easily come apart are to be used.

All artwork, except paintings in oil or acrylic on canvas, must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, special packing and shipping arrangements are encouraged to

3

ensure that the work is not damaged if the glass breaks.

All works, **including frame**, should be **no larger** than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, to the outside of the frame, and 15 pounds in weight. Ensure that the framer knows the size and weight limit, and double-check the size before sending the entry to Washington, DC.
Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully selected.

The artwork will be hung from vertical wires. Two sturdy eye hooks or the equivalent **must** be attached at the top right and left sides of the back of the frame for hanging to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Wire between the hooks is not needed for hanging.

Do not attach labels, ribbons, etc., to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.

Please indicate which side is up by marking arrows pointing towards the top on the back.

Each district winner is responsible for framing his or her own entry. No work will be framed by the Architect of the Capitol.

Submission Guidelines (Overall Winner Only)

As soon as you have chosen a winning artwork and/or by May 8, you should submit the winner's name and contact and art information to the Congressional Institute. Submitting the winner's information early will allow us to determine if more information is required from the student before you send the artwork to Washington and will allow us to mail an official invitation to the Congressional Art Competition reception in a timely fashion.

The winner's information must be submitted online. A Web form is available at *****. Each office will receive an access code via email.

Please do not submit the winner's information multiple times. If we are missing your winner's information, we will contact you after May 8.

A **TYPED** copy of the second page of the Student Information and Release Form, signed by the teacher, the student, and a parent or guardian if the student is under 18, **must be** securely attached to the back of the artwork to certify the originality of the piece. Please retain a copy for your office.

Each work must have a large, **typed** label with this information securely applied to the back:

Student Name
Address
Phone Number
Email Address
Title
Medium
Member's Name
State and District

4

Source: The Congressional Institute.

Figure B-2. 2018 Rules and Regulations for Students and Teachers

Congressional Art COMPETITION

2018 RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

General Information

The rules and regulations included here apply to the 2018 Congressional Art Competition generally. Each Member of Congress may establish additional rules for his or her district competition. Please consult with your Member's office to verify whether any additional rules apply and how to enter.

The competition is open to high school students. Members may choose whether to include 7th and 8th grade students in the art competition if schools located in their districts house 7th through 12th grades on one campus. Teachers and/or students should verify their eligibility with the office of the Member of Congress.

Artwork must be two-dimensional. Each framed artwork can be **no larger** than **26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep**. If your artwork is selected as the winning piece, it must arrive in Washington, DC, framed. **Even when framed, it must still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions.** No framed piece should weigh more than 15 pounds.

Accepted mediums for the two-dimensional artwork are as follows:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)
- Collages: must be two dimensional
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer-generated art
- Photographs

Each entry must be **original** in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted. For more information on copyright laws, we recommend you visit the Scholastic website: http://www.artandwriting.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/A-Guide-to-Copyright-and-Plagiarism.pdf.

1

Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).

Artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel for the duration of the exhibition. Students should only submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

Suitability Guidelines

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission (the Commission). In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. Each Member of Congress will be required to submit a Letter of Support confirming that the Member has determined that the winning artwork adheres to the Commission's policy. However, if another Member of Congress requests review of any artwork for compliance with the Commission's policy, the final decision regarding the artwork's suitability for display will be made by the Commission. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in this highly travelled area leading to the Capitol.

Student Information and Release Form

Each entrant must submit a Student Information and Release Form. The Student Information and Release Form is available through the office of your Member of Congress.

The information requested on the first page of the form should be provided as thoroughly as possible. Students should include their mailing addresses, if they differ from their home addresses. Students should also include contact information that will be valid for several years.

The form requires a description of the artwork, which should be detailed, clearly identifying the major elements of the work. For example, "self-portrait" or "a picture of two people" would be unacceptable, since many artworks would fit those descriptions. The following is an example of a useful description: "A painting of two people; the person on the left wears a green sweater and khaki pants; the person on the right wears a black shirt and a striped skirt. A dog sits at their feet."

The second page of the Student Information and Release Form contains a legal release and a certification that the artwork is original in design and execution. The student, an art teacher, and a parent or guardian must sign where appropriate. Entries without signed originality certifications and artwork releases may not be accepted.

A **TYPED** copy of the Student Information and Release Form, signed by the teacher, a parent or guardian, and the student, **must be** securely attached to the back of the artwork to certify the originality of the piece. Please retain a copy for your records.

Framing Guidelines (Overall Winner)

Framing regulations apply only to the winning artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC. Each Member of Congress may include additional entry rules for his or her own District; please consult your Member's office to see whether a frame is required for the district competition. Even if your Member of Congress does not require a frame to enter the artwork in the district competition, **if your artwork is selected for display in the Congressional Art Competition exhibit, it must be delivered in a frame and the artwork can be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, including the frame.**

2

All winning artwork must be enhanced and protected by a sturdy frame. Frames must be made of wood or metal. No plastic "snap on" or metal frames that can easily come apart are to be used.

All works, including frame, should be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, to the outside of the frame, and 15 pounds in weight. Ensure that the framer is informed of the size and weight limit and double check the size before sending the entry to Washington, DC. *Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed works larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.*

All artwork, except paintings in oil or acrylic on canvas, must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, special packing and shipping arrangements are encouraged to ensure that the work is not damaged if the glass breaks.

Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully selected.

The artwork will be hung from vertical wires. Two sturdy eye hooks or the equivalent **must** be attached at the top right and left sides of the back of the frame for hanging to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Wire between the hooks is not needed for hanging.

Do not attach labels, ribbons, etc., to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.

Please indicate which side is up by marking arrows pointing towards the top on the back.

Each work must have a label with this information securely applied to the back:

Student Name
Address
Phone Number
Email Address

Title

Medium

Member's Name

State and District

Please use the largest label you have available. This information should be typed.

3

Source: U.S. House of Representatives, https://www.house.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/2018RulesforStudentsandTeachers.pdf.

Figure B-3. 2018 Congressional Art Competition Form

2018 Congressional Art Competition
Student Information & Release Form

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

MEMBER/DISTRICT INFORMATION	
MEMBER OF CONGRESS NAME:	STATE & DISTRICT:

STUDENT INFORMATION		
NAME: ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms.		GRADE:
STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT):		
STUDENT EMAIL:	STUDENT PHONE (CELL):	
PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME(S):		
PARENT PHONE (HOME):	PARENT PHONE (WORK or CELL):	
PARENT EMAIL:	STUDENT T-SHIRT SIZE:	

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

ART COMPETITION ENTRY
TITLE OF ENTRY:
MEDIUM:
DESCRIPTION: Please include a detailed description of the artwork, clearly identifying the major elements of the piece.
For office use only: FRAMED DIMENSIONS: Height:_____ inches Width: _____inches Depth: _____ inches See official guidelines for framed size and artwork weight restrictions.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE RELEASE FORM ON PAGE 2. PAGE 1 OF 2

2018 Congressional Art Competition

Student Information & Release Form

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

ORIGINALITY CERTIFICATION	
I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the art entry described above is an original work of authorship by the undersigned student and that it is not copied from, nor does it include, any other person's copyrighted work.	
STUDENT SIGNATURE	ART TEACHER SIGNATURE

ARTWORK RELEASE	
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 *An Artistic Discovery* (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. The undersigned grant the Member, the House, their employees and agents, the United States, and the Congressional Institute, Inc., and its employees, the right to reproduce the art entry for any non-commercial purpose. The undersigned further release the Member, the House, their employees and agents, the United States, and the Congressional Institute, Inc., and its employees, 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, the United States, and the Congressional Institute, Inc., and its employees, 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.	
STUDENT SIGNATURE	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (IF UNDER 18)

PAGE 2 OF 2

Source: U.S. House of Representatives, https://www.house.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/2018StudentReleaseForm.pdf.

Figure B-4. 2018 Art Submission Checklist

2018 Art Submission Checklist

When preparing for the Congressional Art Competition, please complete the following checklist. This will ensure that the Congressional Art Competition staff will accept the artwork. Please consult the official rules and regulations for more information.

This checklist is based on the rules and regulations that apply to the Congressional Art Competition generally. Each Member of Congress may institute other requirements in addition to these.

Requirements for All Students, Parents/Guardians, and Teachers:

- ☐ The artwork is no larger than **26" x 26" x 4"** when framed. (Note: Each Member of Congress may specify whether all entries should be framed. Prior to sending the winning artwork to Washington, DC, it must be framed.)
- ☐ The artwork meets suitability and originality rules.
- ☐ The "Student Information and Release Form" is attached to the back of the artwork.
  - ☐ The release form has signatures from the student, parent/guardian (if necessary), and an art teacher.

Requirements for the Winning Student and Parents/Guardians:

- ☐ Frame the winning artwork.
  - ☐ Remove all labels, ribbons, etc., before framing.
  - ☐ *The artwork is no larger than **26" x 26" x 4"** and does not weigh more than 15 pounds, **including the frame**.*
  - ☐ Attach two sturdy eye hooks or the equivalent at the top right and left sides of the back of the frame.
  - ☐ Draw arrows on the back of the artwork to indicate which direction is "up".

Requirements for Congressional Offices:

- ☐ Submit the winner's name, contact information, and artwork information to the Congressional Institute by May 8.
- ☐ Package the artwork and ship it to Washington, DC, so that it arrives no later than May 25.
  - ☐ If the art is covered by glass, pack the art in such a way that the pane will not break. (Consult a shipping expert for assistance.)
  - ☐ *Mail the artwork to the home of a DC staffer*, not directly to the congressional office.
- ☐ Confirm the second page of the Student Information and Release Form and the Member's Letter of Support, bearing the Member's original signature, are attached to the back of the artwork.

Source: The Congressional Institute.

Appendix C. Congressional Art Competition Leadership

Table C-1. Congressional Art Competition Leadership, 1982-2018

Year/Congress	Member Co-Chairs	Party/State
1982 (97th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Fred Richmond[a] Representative Jim Jeffords[b]	D-NY R-VT
1983 (98th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Tom Downey Representative Jim Jeffords	D-NY R-VT
1984 (98th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Tom Downey Representative Jim Jeffords	D-NY R-VT
1985 (99th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Tom Downey Representative Jim Jeffords	D-NY R-VT
1986 (99th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Tom Downey Representative Jim Jeffords	D-NY R-VT
1987 (100th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Bob Carr Representative Jim Jeffords	D-MI R-VT
1988 (100th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Bob Carr Representative Jim Jeffords	D-MI R-VT
1989 (101st Congress, 1st session)	Representative Bob Carr Senator Jim Jeffords	D-MI R-VT
1990 (101st Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Bob Carr Senator Jim Jeffords	D-MI R-VT
1991 (102nd Congress, 1st session)	Representative Ted Weiss Senator Jim Jeffords	D-NY R-VT
1992 (102nd Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Ted Weiss Senator Jim Jeffords	D-NY R-VT
1993 (103rd Congress, 1st session)	Representative Louise Slaughter Senator Jim Jeffords	D-NY R-VT
1994 (103rd Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Louise Slaughter Senator Jim Jeffords	D-NY R-VT
1995 (104th Congress, 1st session)	Senator Jim Jeffords (Assisted by the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight staff)[c]	R-VT
1996 (104th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative George Gekas Representative Frank Pallone Jr.	R-PA D-NJ
1997 (105th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Frank Pallone Jr. Representative Curt Weldon	D-NJ R-PA
1998 (105th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Neil Abercrombie Representative Curt Weldon	D-HI R-PA
1999 (106th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Adam Smith Representative Curt Weldon	D-WA R-PA
2000 (106th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Adam Smith Representative Tom Tancredo	D-WA R-CO

Year/Congress	Member Co-Chairs	Party/State
2001 (107th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Elijah Cummings Representative John Shadegg	D-MD R-AZ
2002 (107th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Mark Foley Representative Hilda Solis	R-FL D-CA
2003 (108th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Katherine Harris Representative Darlene Hooley	R-FL D-OR
2004 (108th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Marsha Blackburn Representative Ed Pastor	R-TN D-AZ
2005 (109th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Vito Fossella Representative Linda Sánchez	R-NY D-CA
2006 (109th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Susan Davis Representative Heather Wilson	D-CA R-NM
2007 (110th Congress, 1st session)	Delegate Madeleine Bordallo Resident Commissioner Luis Fortuño	D-GU R-PR
2008 (110th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Dan Boren Representative Jeff Miller	D-OK R-FL
2009 (111th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Mike Castle Representative Rick Larsen	R-DE D-WA
2010 (111th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Jason Chaffetz Representative Steve Driehaus	R-UT D-OH
2011 (112th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Donna Edwards Representative Leonard Lance	D-MD R-NJ
2012 (112th Congress, 2nd session)	Representative Hansen Clarke Representative Tim Griffin	D-MI R-AR
2013 (113th Congress, 1st session)	Representative Robert Aderholt Representative Suzanne Bonamici	R-AL D-OR
2014 (113th Congress, 2nd Session)	Representative Bill Huizenga Representative Loretta Sanchez	R-MI D-CA
2015 (114th Congress, 1st Session)	Representative Lois Frankel Representative Glenn 'GT' Thompson	D-FL R-PA
2016 (114th Congress, 2nd Session)	Representative Kyrsten Sinema Representative Joe Wilson	D-AZ R-SC
2017 (115th Congress, 1st Session)	Representative Mike Kelly Representative Marcia Fudge	R-PA D-OH
2018 (115th Congress, 2nd Session)	Representative Joyce Beatty Representative Steve Stivers	D-OH R-OH

Source: Prepared by CRS from the *Congressional Yellow Book*, news stories, Member websites, and information provided by the Congressional Institute, Inc.

a. Representative Richmond was the co-founder and first chairman of the Congressional Arts Caucus and the Congressional Art Competition.

b. Representative Jeffords was the co-founder and first vice-chairman of the caucus and competition.

c. Senator Jeffords was one of the original co-founders of the exhibition in 1982 when he was a Member of the House of Representatives. His association and support continued through the years. When the Legislative Service Organizations, or LSOs (caucuses) were disbanded at the start of the 104th Congress in 1995, Senator Jeffords used the services of one of the staff members of the Congressional Arts Caucus on his senatorial staff to run the program that year.

Author Information

Gary Sidor
Senior Technical Information Specialist

Acknowledgments

Tim Lang and Amy Hinderliter of the Congressional Institute, Inc., provided historical information.

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.