6th Annual Art Contest

Home and Belonging: What Home Means To Me

Grades 9-12

For more information, visit www.cedar-rapids.org/CivilRights

Submit Original Visual Art or Spoken Word/Written Poetry

Win up to $1,000 in scholarships!

DEADLINE
April 23, 2020
Art must illustrate the theme:

Home and Belonging: What Home Means To Me

This is an opportunity for Cedar Rapids students to share what home and belonging means to them.

Questions to consider:
1. What does it mean to belong in your neighborhood?
2. Why is it important for communities and neighborhoods to be welcoming and diverse?
3. What does home mean to you?

What is Fair Housing?
Fair housing is everyone’s right to choose housing free from discrimination.
Fair housing laws protect people from discrimination in housing transactions such as rentals, sales, lending, and insurance.
The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission enforces local fair housing laws that prohibit discrimination in the area of housing based on:
- Age
- Association (with persons or groups)
- Color
- Creed
- Disability (mental and physical)
- Familial Status
- Gender Identity
- Marital Status
- National Origin
- Race
- Religion
- Retaliation
- Sex (Gender)
- Sexual Orientation
- Race
- Religion
- Retaliation

Guidelines
- This contest is open to all 9-12 grade students who attend Cedar Rapids area schools, including students who are not US citizens.
- There are two categories for submissions:
  - Visual Art
  - Spoken Word/Written Poetry
- Past participants who have received two first place prizes are ineligible to participate.
- Immediate family and/or members of the households of judges, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commissioners, and Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission employees are ineligible to participate.
- Entries must be submitted to our designated drop off locations or emailed by 4:00p.m. Thursday, April 23, 2020.
- All entries must have a parent or guardian complete and sign the attached applicant entry form.
- All entries must be the original work of the contestant.
- Non-English submissions must include English translation.
- Please only print name on back of art, as applicable.
- Art will be judged based on its originality, creativity, evidence of understanding, impact, and mechanics.
- Questionable entries may be disqualified.
- All submissions will be judged by a panel of qualified professionals during the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Art Exhibition on April 30, 2020 at 6:00p.m.
**General Information**

**Why Submit Art?**

The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission wants to recognize, accept, and celebrate the unique beauty each individual brings to our community.

It is the Commission’s vision to have a community that is welcoming, inclusive and preserves the personal dignity of all people regardless of their protected class so that we all may fulfill our productive capacities.

Your art will help educate community members on the importance of ensuring housing, free from discrimination, in our community!

**Prizes**

Winners in each category will be awarded the following toward Post Secondary Education through a College Savings Iowa 529 Plan:

- **1st Place:** $1,000
- **2nd Place:** $500
- **3rd Place:** $250

*These funds can be used for any qualified educational institution in the US or abroad, including 4-year colleges, community colleges, trade and vocational schools, graduate schools, and online degree programs.*

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will also receive a civil rights swag bag.

A bonus prize will be given to any 1st place winner who incorporates a language other than English.

**Drop-off Locations**

**Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission (CRCRC)**
50 2nd Avenue Bridge
7th floor
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
(319) 286-5036
M-F 8am-5pm

**Cedar Rapids Public Library**
450 Fifth Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
(319) 261-READ
M-Th 9am-8pm
Fri-Sat 9am-5pm
Sun 1pm-5pm

**Ladd Library**
3750 Williams Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
(319) 261-READ
M-Th 8am-8pm
Fri- Sat 9am-5pm
Sun 1pm-5pm

**Resources**

We gladly offer poster boards, art supplies, and classroom presentations by request. Please contact the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission at (319) 286-5036 or visit our website [www.cedar-rapids.org/CivilRights](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/CivilRights) for more information about fair housing and/or the contest.
Submission Categories

Visual Art Category
Drawing/Illustration
• Original hand-completed artwork
• Pencil, colored pencils, markers, etc.
Painting
• Usage of watercolor, tempera, poster, acrylic, etc.
Photography
• Photography work includes color or black and white
Graphic Design / Digital Art
• Use of computer media and innovative computer applications art.

Note: Contestants may not submit any toxic or transferable artwork (E.g. Chalk, pastels, glitter, etc.)

Spoken Word/Written Poetry Category
Spoken Word
• An original poem or prose performed as a monologue.
Poetry-Written:
• An original poem or prose written, not performed by author.
• Poetry can be written in any poetic style as long as the poems fits the theme of “Home and Belonging: What Home Means To Me.”
• Length: 1 page, maximum, double-spaced 12 point font
• Written format: Typed is preferred; however, handwritten will be accepted, if it is legible.

How to Submit an Entry
Drawings, Illustrations, Paintings, Photography, Graphic Design / Digital Art
• Entries must be submitted to one of our designated drop off locations: Downtown Library, Ladd Library, or CRCRC office.
• Entry form must accompany submission.
• Submissions will be judged at the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Art Exhibition on April 30, 2020.

How to Submit an Entry
Spoken Word/Written Poetry
• Entries must be submitted via email to civilrights@cedar-rapids.org.
• Please submit poem or text of spoken word in a Word document (.doc) file.
• Entry form must accompany submission.
• Spoken Word submissions will be performed and judged at our April 30 event
• Written Poetry will be judged at our April 30 event.

Each work must be original. Individual work by the person entering the contest must not be previously published anywhere, in any form, including online.

All rights, including copyright, remain with the artist. The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission reserves the non-exclusive right to publish any submission, whether or not the submission has won.
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I learn more about Fair Housing?
The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission offers presentations on fair housing and the art contest to groups of students by request.

Feel free to give us a call at 319-286-5036 for more information. We would love to present to your group! The Cedar Rapids Public Library (Downtown and Ladd) is also a great resource for information on fair housing.

2. Are there any additional Fair Housing resources I can explore?
Links to the following resources are also available on our website.

- Franklin the Fair Housing Fox Coloring Book (Dept. of Housing and Urban Development)  
  https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/FRANKLIN_COLORING_BOOK.PDF
- List of Fair Housing Children Books  
  https://www.fhcmichigan.org/childrens-books-for-fair-housing-month/#.Xi7L96hKiUk
- A Matter of Place Documentary. This film tells the stories of three people who experienced and challenged the injuries of housing discrimination.  
  https://vimeo.com/77785957
- Seven Days Video (National Fair Housing Alliance)  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EKo5rBBzpl

3. How will my poster be judged?
Art will be judged by a panel of judges during the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Art Exhibition on April 30. The art will be judged based on the following criteria:

- **Originality**: The theme or message is conveyed in a way that is original and unique.
- **Creativity**: There is creative use of visuals, imagery, and messages.
- **Evidence of Understanding**: The content accurately and clearly conveys messages about Fair Housing.
- **Impact**: The visual art creates an overall impression, provokes discussion, or engages the viewer.
- **Mechanics**: The product is neat, proofread, and in final form.

4. If I am not a United States citizen, can I participate in this contest?
Yes! Any student, grades 9-12, in Cedar Rapids is welcome to participate in this contest.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission by email at civilrights@cedar-rapids.org or by phone at (319) 286-5036.
Thank you for your interest in the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission’s 2020 Art Contest

Please complete the Applicant Entry Form below and submit with your art.

If you have any questions and/or are in need of any special accommodations, please do not hesitate to contact us at (319) 286-5036 or civilrights@cedar-rapids.org.

We are excited you decided to participate and wish you the best of luck in this year’s contest!

Instructions:

- Please fill out the requested information, sign, and submit with your art
- If working with another student, two separate applicant entry forms must be completed for each student and submitted with the pair’s entry.

NOTE: Participants may work individually or in groups of two (maximum). Only one entry is allowed per individual and/or pair. Scholarship prizes will be divided equally among paired winners.

STUDENT INFORMATION

First and Last Name: ____________________________________________ Grade: _______

Address: ________________________________________ City: ____________________

Zip: ________ School/Organization: ________________________________

Teacher's Name: ______________________ Teacher's Phone: ____________________

Teacher's E-mail: _________________________________________________

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION (if participant is under 18)

First and Last Name: ____________________________________________

E-mail: __________________________________________ Phone: ____________________

Please check the following:

_____ No copyrighted material or content is contained in the artwork.

By signing this, I am acknowledging art submitted to the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission is original work by the student.

____________________________________________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian (or student if 18 years of age or older) Date