



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Office for Diversity and Access

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Administrators, Directors, Headmasters and Deans:
For Distribution to ELA Teachers, History Teachers, and Art Teachers

FROM: Elatisha Kirnon, Director, Office for Diversity and Access

SUBJECT: Request for Submissions: 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fine Arts and Essay
Exhibition Sponsored by the New York State Education Department

DATE: September 22, 2022

We are pleased to announce that the New York State Education Department will sponsor an exhibition in recognition of the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As in years past, we honor Dr. King's memory by inviting schools to submit student art and essays that reflect Dr. King's teaching. This exhibition is not a contest. We encourage all schools to join in this initiative and all submissions will be exhibited. A maximum of one piece of artwork and one essay entry may be submitted per student. Group work within each level is permitted and encouraged.

This year, we are offering schools an opportunity to submit their student works online. Schools may submit physical or digital versions of their original artworks illustrating Dr. King's Six Principles and Steps of Nonviolence or essays celebrating Dr. King's birthday. Students enrolled in any K-12 program are encouraged to participate. As part of the celebration, all entries will be viewable in an online exhibit via www.empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking. Entries of physical work received in the U.S. Mail will be photographed and included in the online exhibit. Unless specified, artworks will not be returned. As always, we look forward to the creativity and understanding students demonstrate in developing their ideas on these themes.

GUIDELINES

- Distribute to students Dr. King's Six Principles and Six Steps of Nonviolence. They can be found by following this link: <https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/the-king-philosophy/>. Artwork may include all types of media, digital photography, painting, drawing, writing, sculpture etc. Artwork must be neatly matted for display purposes. If mailing, paintings, matted drawings, and matted photographs should be no larger than 12" x 18" overall and should be mailed flat rather than in poster tubes. Please note that due to space constraints, heavy 2-dimensional art and all 3-dimensional art can ONLY be accepted online as a digital image.
- Encourage students to create artwork based on one or more of Dr. King's principles and/or to write an essay examining the ways in which they can celebrate Dr. King's birthday all year long. Student essays traditionally focus on core ideas of social justice and Nonviolence. Essays should be one page in length, whether typed or handwritten. If mailing, please submit essays in a plastic sleeve.

- Please note that under Personally Identifiable Information (PII), which include protections for minors under law, students' names cannot be displayed online. Please remove student names from the front of any artwork or essay images of their online submissions.

PURPOSE:

- To understand that Monday, January 16, 2023, commemorates the birthday of Dr. King and reminds all Americans of his dreams and goals for this nation
- To have the opportunity to take part in the celebration of Dr. King's birthday
- To reflect on ways to celebrate Dr. King's birthday and legacy in everyday life
- To learn about the social, political, and economic factors that contributed to the civil rights movement
- To learn about the philosophy of nonviolence as practiced by Dr. King and to understand its Relevance for today's society
- To appreciate and respect the contributions and rights of others without regard to the Similarities or differences they may present

GRADE LEVELS:

All students enrolled in grades K-12 in New York State public and non-public schools are eligible to submit entries.

- Level 1: Kindergarten – 3rd grade
- Level 2: 4th grade – 6th grade
- Level 3: 7th grade – 8th grade
- Level 4: 9th grade – 12th grade

ENTRY PROCEDURES:

****All ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA US MAIL OR DIGITALLY VIA DROPBOX BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2022****

U.S. Mail:

- Each school should designate an official who will be responsible for submitting their school's physical entries
- One Class Participation Form per class must be completed and submitted along with mailed entries. See attached
- Artwork Labels must be adhered to the BACK of each individual artwork and/or essay. See attached
- **PLEASE REMEMBER:** All entries of physical work received via mail will be photographed and included in the online exhibit. That is why, under Personally Identifiable (PII), which include protections for minors under law, students' names cannot be displayed online, and we ask that you remove student names from the front of artworks or essays. **Artwork Labels** must be adhered to the BACK of each individual artwork or essay. See attached.
- Schools are encouraged to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope so that art and essays can be returned by request. All entries submitted without a self-addressed envelope will become the property of the State of New York and will not be returned. We are not responsible for lost or damaged items.
- Submit entries to: Curatorial and Visitor Services
Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Concourse Room 120
Albany, NY 12242

Dropbox:

- Each school should designate an official who will be responsible for submitting their school's digital entries.
- Digital submissions must be JPG file formats of 1-5 MB. All sculpture and 3D submissions MUST be submitted digital.
- Please refer to the Photo Guide for best practices when taking photographs of your Submissions. See attached.
- Each file name must be structured:
STUDENTLASTNAME_TEACHERFULLNAME_SCHOOL_GRADE
- **PLEASE REMEMBER:** All entries of digital work received via Dropbox will be included in the online exhibit. That is why, under Personally Identifiable Information (PII), which include protections for minors under law, students' names cannot be displayed online, and we ask or that you remove student names from the front of artwork or essays.
- Once your artworks and essays are ready for upload, please email MLKExhibit@ogs.ny.gov to receive your school's personalized Dropbox link, digital Class Participation Form, and further instructions.

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information about the 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fine Arts and Essay Exhibition, please contact: Curatorial and Visitor Services

Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Concourse Room 120
Albany, New York 12242
Phone: (518) 473-7521
Email: MLKExhibit@ogs.ny.gov