

2026 Watercolor Contest Guidelines

High School Students in Pomona

THEME

This year's theme is where do we find or see "Boundless Culture & Creativity: The Essence of Freedom" with a sub-theme of "Building Joy, Action + Power" in Pomona. This theme is to honor April as the state's designated Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month theme by [CA for the Arts](#).

"At its heart, creativity is freedom itself, the boundless capacity to imagine without limits, shape culture, and drive change. Culture and creativity together embody resilience, resistance, and renewal, fueling the movements that transform our communities."

SCHEDULE

Contest Opens	Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Contest Deadline	March 23, 2026, by 6PM
Artwork and supplemental materials must be received on or before the deadline at the Office of Economic & Business Affairs at City Hall (2 nd Floor), 505 S Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91769.	
Artwork Judging	March 24 – March 30, 2026
Artwork judging will be done by a selected group of artists familiar with the watercolor medium.	
Awards Notifications	Tuesday, March 31, 2026
All winners will be announced via email to all student and teacher information provided on the application.	
Exhibition and Reception	Friday, April 10, 2026, at 6PM
Reception will take place at the dA Center for the Arts, located at 252 #D S. 2 nd Street, Pomona, CA 91766.	
Artwork Pick-Up for Awardees	May 4 – 7, 2026, open from 7:30AM - 6PM
Artwork selected will be returned to artists after exhibit closes and available to be picked up at City Hall.	

CRITERIA & SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

The following contest is open to public and private High School students, as well as students who live in and/or are home-schooled, in Pomona, CA. All entries shall follow the theme of this year's Watercolor contest and be of the **watercolor medium ONLY**, use of any other medium will result in disqualification. In order to be considered all artists shall submit the following:

- Application.** All submissions shall include a completed and signed application.
- Artwork.** All submitted artwork must be representative of the theme and shall meet the following dimensions: 11"x14" (matted on a white 16"x20" mat). Framed artwork will NOT be accepted.
- Artist Statement.** The Artist statement should include a brief paragraph explaining the meaning /motivation behind the artwork. Artist statement shall be attached to the application form.

AWARDS

The Judge's Panel will select the following:

Award	Amount
3 Finalists	\$200.00 each awardee
3 Semifinalists	\$100.00 each awardee
3 Honorable Mentions	\$50.00 each awardee