



**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/  
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

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Office for Diversity and Access

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

**FROM:** Na-Kia Walton, Director, Office for Diversity and Access

**SUBJECT:** Request for Submissions: 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fine Arts and Essay Exhibition Sponsored by the New York State Education Department

**DATE:** September 30, 2021

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](http://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 any images of their online submissions.

**PURPOSE**

- To understand that January 17, 2022 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Level 2: 4<sup>th</sup> grade – 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Level 3: 7<sup>th</sup> grade – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Level 4: 9<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

## **ENTRY PROCEDURES**

***\*ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA US MAIL OR VIA DROPBOX by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2021\****

U.S. Mail:

- Each school should designate an official who will be responsible for submitting the school's entries. The official is encouraged to submit a type-written list of all students that participated along with any additional information relevant to the submissions.
- The Student Information Sheet must be completed for each submission and attached to each individual work being mailed.
- An identifying label must be adhered to the bottom right of each individual work. Please see the label template on the last page.
- 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 Attention: Alyssa Oggiono  
Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza, Concourse Room 120, Albany, New York 12242  
Phone: (518) 473-7521 \* Email: [alyssa.oggiono@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:alyssa.oggiono@ogs.ny.gov)

Dropbox:

- Please be sure to remove student names from the image of their work. Refer to page 4 of this letter for best practices when taking photographs.
- Digital submissions must be JPG file formats of 1-5 MB. All sculpture and 3D submissions MUST be submitted digitally.
- Each file name should be structured **STUDENTLASTNAME\_TEACHERFULLNAME\_SCHOOL\_GRADE**
- Once your artwork is ready for upload, please email [Alyssa.Oggiono@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Oggiono@ogs.ny.gov), [Matthew.Hamm@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hamm@ogs.ny.gov) and [Remington.Jones@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:Remington.Jones@ogs.ny.gov) to receive your school's personalized Dropbox link, digital Student Information Sheet, and further instructions.

***All entries must be received virtually via Dropbox or postmarked for U.S. Mail by Friday, December 17, 2021.***

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

- For more information about the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fine Arts and Essay Exhibition, please contact:

Alyssa Oggiono  
Curatorial and Visitor Services  
Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza  
Concourse Room 120  
Albany, New York 12242  
Phone: (518) 473-7521  
Email: [alyssa.oggiono@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:alyssa.oggiono@ogs.ny.gov)



## Student Information Sheet

# 2022 NYS Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fine Art & Essay Exhibition

Instructions: Please submit one entry for each piece.

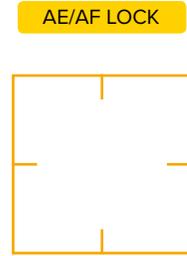
School Information	
School Name:	
School District:	
School Address:	
Teacher Information	
Teacher Name:	
Teacher Email:	
Teacher Phone:	
Artwork Information	
Artwork/Essay Title:	
Artwork Medium:	
Student(s) Information	
Grade:	
Student Artist Name:	
Group Project Students Names: Please print or type. Use additional paper if needed.	
1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

# 5 Tips for Taking Phone Photos

1

## Focus, focus, focus.

Tap once on the phone screen on the person or subject of the picture. A yellow box will appear and the screen will adjust to focus on whatever is in the box. If the subject is still out of focus tap and hold the subject until the screen says "AE/AF LOCK" and then take the photo.



2

## Move closer and stay in frame.

Physically moving closer (instead of zooming in) to your subject helps capture the detail, which would be lost if taken further away. Also always remember to center the subject in the frame.

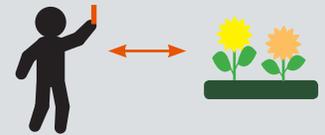
**Tip:** For video or photo, try landscape to fit everything in frame.



Subject out of frame



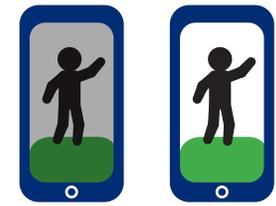
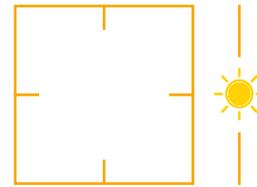
Subject centered in frame



3

## Brighten or Darken the image.

If the photo is a little dark, tap the screen once and you will notice the yellow box described in tip #1. Next to the box there's an image that looks like the sun. As soon as you notice the sun-like image on the screen slide one finger up to make the image brighter, or slide down to make the image darker.



Down = Dark

Up = Light

4

## Position the light behind you.

Before you take your picture look for the sun. If it's behind you, great! If the sun is in front of you, if possible, move to a position where it's behind you. If you're taking the photo inside try to have the strongest light in the room behind you.



Light behind camera



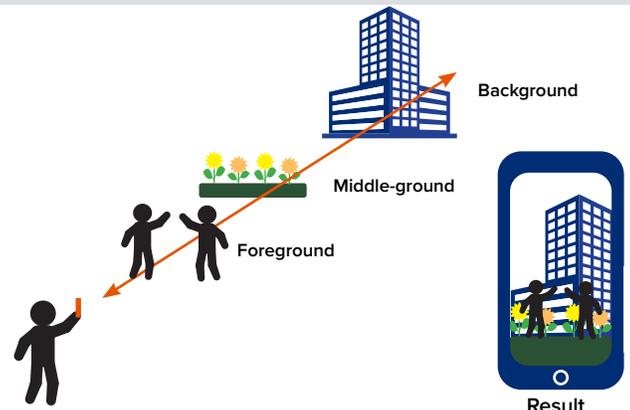
Light in front of camera



5

## Add depth to the photo.

Include objects in your photos that aren't the subject of the photo, but add dimension. Let's say a photo has 3 areas: the foreground, middle-ground and background. A photo with a lot of depth will have an interesting object in all three grounds. A photo with some depth and more clarity will have objects in 2 grounds. Photos with no depth will have an object in only one.



STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

INSPIRED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

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