



racialunityteam1@gmail.com

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Non-profit 501 (C) (3)

Art & Poetry Challenge 2023

The Racial Unity Team is hosting its fifth annual **Art & Poetry Challenge** in 2022-2023. New Hampshire residents are invited to submit a **poem** or **visual work of art** inspired by this year's theme: *"A hidden past >>> an inclusive future."*

Find an under told story and express how it helps you move toward a more inclusive future. An inclusive future is one in which every person receives what they need to reach their full potential.

The following resources are offered to all participants and are especially meant to assist teachers and parents discuss the theme as they help students create their submissions. These resources are meant as examples to be helpful in finding a story that is not well-known. Please research one of these or other stories or find a story from your personal or family life that has been rarely told and use it to imagine a better, more inclusive future.

Looking for additional resources? Check your local library or bookstore.

For teachers and parents encouraging students to participate, please consider the following prompts:

- What can we learn from stories that are unknown to us?
- Does the story you chose depict bias? How so?
- How would our world look in the future if everyone was accepting of differences?

Eligibility and Rules

The Challenge is open to all residents of New Hampshire. Submissions are welcome in the following five categories:

Elementary School (Grades K-2)

- Elementary School (Grades 3-5)
- Middle School (Grades 6-8)
- High School (Grades 9-12)
- Adult

Each participant may submit only one poem **or** one artwork for review. Collaborative submissions are allowed for both poetry and visual art.

Poems may be no more than 1 to 2 pages and limited to 50 lines. Poems should be submitted in Times New Roman font, size 12; line spacing 1.5.

Visual artwork should be unframed and may not exceed 16x20 inches. You can use pencil, pen, crayons, markers, paint, collage papers, clay, etc.



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We encourage comics, graphic art, and cartoons as well as drawings, paintings, sculptures, and other 3-D submissions. In addition, 3-D submissions may be no larger than 12x12x12 and weigh no more than 10 pounds.

Paintings and drawings must fit within the following standard frame sizes:

- 4" x 6"
- 5" x 7"
- 8" x 10"
- 8.5" x 11"
- 12" x 12"
- 11" x 14"
- 16" x 20"

Elementary school students may enter a collaborative project that includes a poster-sized submission up to 36x48 inches.

Please reach out to us at artpoetry.racialunityteam@gmail.com if a disability requires accommodations.

When and Where to Submit your Entry

The Racial Unity Team will accept submissions starting January 1, 2023. Participants must submit their poem or their original artwork by **April 15, 2023**.

Complete the [Submission Form](#) online. The form includes an "artist statement," which should be written with the theme, "*A hidden past >>> an inclusive future*" in mind.

Then email a copy of your poem to artpoetry.racialunityteam@gmail.com.

Please take a photo of your artwork. Please also mail the original work to: Racial Unity Team, PO Box 101, Stratham NH 03885 so that it is received by April 15, 2023.

Judging

Professional poets and artists will select the winners from among the participants, who remain anonymous in the judging process. Judges use the following criteria:

Artwork

1. The artist's point of view is clear.
2. There is a clear focus on the theme of "A hidden past toward a more inclusive future." Artists are encouraged to include past, present, and future in their artwork.
3. The work shows bias or its effects. The bias may be related to race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, ability, faith, gender expression, or gender identity.
4. The work shows originality.
5. The work is clear and detailed.



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Poetry

1. The poet's point of view is clear.
2. There is a clear focus on the theme of "A hidden past toward a more inclusive future." Poets are encouraged to include past, present, and future in their poems.
3. The work shows bias or its effects. The bias may be related to race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, ability, faith, gender expression, or gender identity
4. The poem shows originality.
5. There is supportive imagery that is clear, insightful, and detailed

Awards

Prize money will be given to first-, second-, and third-place winners in both poetry and visual arts for all five categories. The awards will include a minimum of \$300 for first place, \$200 for second, and \$100 for third. In addition, a Racial Unity Team President's Award will recognize collaborative submissions and a positive impact on those around them.

No individual may be awarded a cash prize for more than two consecutive years.

Opening Ceremony and Traveling Exhibit

There will be an awards ceremony and opening exhibit of all submissions in June 2023. The Racial Unity Team will frame the artwork and poems. Submitted artwork will be kept for one year as the exhibit travels the state of New Hampshire in local libraries and/or galleries.

In addition, award-winning poets may be asked to read their poems to local audiences and art winners to describe their art in select ceremonies around the state. This is an offer each participant is free to accept or decline.

There will also be a virtual exhibit on the Racial Unity Team website.

Non-exclusive Permission

By entering the **Art & Poetry Challenge**, you are granting the Racial Unity Team a non-exclusive perpetual license to reproduce images of your artwork or poetry on our social media pages, website, and in the marketing of the **Art & Poetry Challenge** to the general public. Artworks will not be used for any other purpose than that which is stated here. All winning entries will be displayed on the Racial Unity Team website and may be displayed during other public events.