

## Subject: Art & Poetry Challenge - Exhibition Proposal 2025

### Art Project Statement

It is often through the arts that we develop a deeper personal understanding of the lived experiences of others and begin to embrace our shared humanity. The Racial Unity Teams' **Art & Poetry Challenge** for New Hampshire residents of all ages is just that opportunity. This is also our sixth year of the **Art & Poetry Challenge**, and each year we take the exhibit on the road.

The **Art & Poetry Challenge**—the living, breathing proof of the power of the arts—is an annual contest hosted by the Racial Unity Team. In 2024, prize money was awarded to winners in elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult categories. New Hampshire residents were invited to submit an original poem or visual work of art inspired by this year's theme "*Belonging - What does it feel like to belong? Or ... Not belong?*" Teachers and parents were encouraged to share the information with their students and children and invite them to enter the contest.

Now we are hoping to take this exhibition of the work of the many young artists from all over the state on a tour of our state. We hope that your organization will be as excited to share the work of Granite Staters from towns like Amherst, Bow, Concord, Contoocook, Dover, Dunbarton, Etna, Exeter, Harrisville, Hollis, Hudson, Lancaster, Marlborough, Merrimack, Milford, Nashua, Newbury, Newmarket, Pembroke, Stratham and more. We are especially overjoyed by the number of entries we received from Elementary, Middle, and High School students and the number of submissions that were the result of classroom projects.

This art and poetry project was created as part of a \$10,000 Racial Unity Team project made possible by the generosity of NH Charitable Foundation, Granite United Way and our sponsors Kennebunk Savings Bank Foundation, Eastern Bank, and M&T Bank.

**Our Mission - To advance relationships among people of different racial identities, increase understanding, and reduce bias in our community**

Visit us on the web - [RacialUnityTeam.com](http://RacialUnityTeam.com)

## Scope of the Exhibition

To promote racial unity in the community, the Racial Unity Team's (RUT's) **Art & Poetry Challenge** is a source of artistic expression that displays the support for racial diversity, equity, and inclusion in the community.



## Exhibition Requirements

The physical space requirements to display the exhibit should be a minimum of 200 square feet of hanging space including display for 3-D art. The art pieces will be hand delivered to the venue by RUT volunteers. All works will be ready to hang with sleeves and hanging slats.

RUT will be willing to help the venue gallery find a time slot that fits their availability. Exhibitors are encouraged to book early for the widest selection of time periods available.

## Educational Elements Supporting the Exhibition

In addition to the art and poetry display, the Racial Unity Team would welcome the opportunity and offer the library a unique opportunity to host an exhibit opening event. That includes a discussion of the display theme 'Belonging' and the opportunity to hear from selected artists and poets sharing their voices about their work. This will be followed with audience discussion and Q&A session of the exhibit pieces. This opening and discussion could take the format of an hour Zoom session or on-site discussion.

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## **Portfolio of Work**

The Racial Unity Team's proposal is to exhibit its **Art & Poetry Challenge** exhibit work that is ready to hang or display. Supporting images include photographs of the finished works by artists and some of their work is shown in the photo gallery or via the QR code below.

### [Photo Gallery of the 2023 Challenge](#)



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#### Planned 2025 Tour Schedule

The Art & Poetry Challenge goes on a state wide tour at these locations beginning in 2025.

- Wiggin Memorial Library - Stratham - January
- Baker Free Library - Bow - February
- Exeter Public Library - Exeter - March
- Amherst Town Library - Amherst - April
- Portsmouth Public Library - Portsmouth - July

If your art gallery or public library would like to host the display, email [racialunityteam1@gmail.com](mailto:racialunityteam1@gmail.com)

[For display requirements](#)

[2023 OPENING CEREMONY VIDEO](#) >

[Visit the website for additional information](#)

### **Send your inquiries to**

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