



High School Student Art Contest & Exhibition

ALL CHESTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE IN OUR 10TH ANNUAL STUDENT ART CONTEST:

50 YEARS OF EMPOWERMENT

AT THE JOHN H. BAKER ART GALLERY AT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
E.O. Bull Center for the Arts, 2 E Rosedale Ave, West Chester, PA 19383

ARTIST RECEPTION & AWARD PRESENTATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 from 1 – 3 PM
WITH AN AWARDS PRESENTATION AT 2 PM

Artists and teachers/mentors are encouraged to attend and are welcome to bring
parents/guardians, family, and friends.

GALLERY OPEN TO PUBLIC: MONDAY, MARCH 30 – FRIDAY APRIL 3, 2026



*Event awards sponsored by our friends & partners at the National Arts Program
and the Chester County District Attorney's Office*

SHOW THEME & INSPIRATION – 50 YEARS OF EMPOWERMENT

This year's show is truly monumental! We're celebrating the 10th annual high school art exhibition alongside the 50th anniversary of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. The theme, *50 Years of Empowerment*, invites artists to reflect on decades of courage, resilience, and advocacy in the fight to end domestic violence - locally and beyond. We encourage you to explore how survivors, advocates, and communities have stood up, raised their voices, and sparked change, turning hope into lasting empowerment.

The winning piece from Domestic Violence Center of Chester County's annual High School Student Art Contest will grace the cover of our organization's Annual Report.

You have the freedom to choose your medium, whether it's painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art, or another form. Let your creativity rebel against the silence surrounding domestic violence and speak loudly for those who need a voice. Purple represents domestic violence awareness and is used frequently within our movement - you're encouraged to incorporate shades of purple into your artwork.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION AND ELIGIBILITY

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) provides free and confidential services to victims/survivors of domestic violence and their dependent children with a mission to reduce domestic violence by supporting survivors and advancing prevention strategies. One of these strategies is to promote the talent of young artists through holding a contest and gallery exhibition open to all high school students in Chester County. This year's contest will be hosted by, and entries will be displayed publicly at the **JOHN H. BAKER ART GALLERY AT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY in West Chester, PA.**

- Students should **preregister for the competition** using [the link here](#) or found at www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest **by Friday, March 20th, 2026.**
- Artwork will be due for drop-off to or pick-up by DVCCC on or before **Tuesday, March 24th, 2026.**
- Artwork will be featured online and displayed publicly throughout the week of March 30 – April 3, 2026 with a **Reception Event for Artists on Saturday,**

March 28th from 1 - 3 PM to celebrate the winners and all participants – awards will be presented at 2:00 PM.

- *The exhibit will feature only work submitted to the contest from high school-aged students (GRADES 9-12) who either reside within or attend school within Chester County.*

JUDGING AND AWARDS

A panel of VIP judges will determine the winners. The full slate of judges is TBA and will be found (along with judges bios) at: www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest

Entries will be judged on creative interpretation of the contest theme as well as composition, technique, execution, use of color, and originality of design. All decisions made by the panel are final. Prizes will be awarded to a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners as well as an opportunity to win one of four categorical awards, including “People’s Choice.”

- “People’s Choice” and 3 other categorical awards - \$50 gift card from the National Arts Program and the Chester County District Attorney.
- **3rd Place** – \$75 gift card for artist from the National Arts Program and the Chester County District Attorney.
- **2nd Place** – \$150 cash prize for artist and \$150 for the artist’s teacher/art department from the National Arts Program and the Chester County District Attorney.
- **1st Place** – \$250 cash prize for artist and \$250 cash prize for artist’s teacher/art department from the National Arts Program and the Chester County District Attorney and the winner will grace the cover of DVCCC’s 50th Anniversary Annual Report.

SUBMISSION RULES & REQUIREMENTS

- Students must preregister [HERE](#) or at www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest by Friday, March 20th, 2024. *Preregistration is required for space-planning purposes.*
- The entrant must create the original piece of visual art, unassisted.
- **Entries may be made on a flat or semi-flat surface so that they may be hung for display.** *Non-sculpture artwork *must* have wire, alligator clips, or other means for hanging securely attached to the back/top and/or must be submitted in a frame that can be securely displayed on the wall properly.*
- Submissions are limited to TWO per person.
- Mediums may include, but are not limited to ink, charcoal, pencil, paint, mixed media, photography, sculpture, digital, embroidery, etc.
- Artwork submissions accompanied with a registration form must be provided to or picked up by a DVCCC staff member/volunteer by Tuesday, March 24th, 2024.
- *Each submission must have their registration form (see below) securely attached to the back of the art, regardless of preregistration. Form must include entrant's name, address, cell phone number, email address (for contest communication purposes only).*
- DVCCC retains the rights to reproduce the winning images in social media, website, and/or other printed materials.

ARTWORK PICKUP FOLLOWING CLOSE OF SHOW

Artwork may be picked up directly from the gallery during business hours on Friday, April 2nd, 2026 or artwork will be arranged for pick up from DVCCC staff/outreach offices with Amelia Rayburn-Pizzica (arayburn@dvcccpa.org) the following week.

Please note: by submitting your artwork into this contest, you understand that employees and volunteers of DVCCC and West Chester University are NOT responsible for lost, stolen, damaged or unclaimed artwork.

QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES

You can follow updates at www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest and on DVCCC's social media pages (Facebook and Instagram).

Contact Amelia directly VIA EMAIL at arayburn@dvcccpa.org for questions regarding contest & exhibit.

For more information about the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County visit www.dvcccpa.org

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to providing intervention, education, outreach, advocacy, and programs to prevent, reduce, and remedy domestic violence in Chester County. DVCCC provides trauma-informed and evidence-based services at a main, confidentially located site and satellite sites in Coatesville, Kennett Square, Oxford, and Phoenixville. The mission of the Domestic Violence Center is to reduce, remedy, and prevent Domestic Violence in Chester County.

(Detach and complete the form – on next page – and attach to the back of the artwork prior to drop off)

