



Launching Leaders in the Arts

Art Submission Rules & Guidelines 2026

Each student may submit only **one** work of art. The work must be the ORIGINAL work of the student and have been completed within the past year.

All Applicants must submit a digital photo of their art.

Please title your work: firstname_lastname_artwork title, school, size, and medium

*Medium meaning - oil, digital, watercolor, acrylic, photography, sculpture, etc.

For Digital Art Medium Entries – No AI generative or prompt engineering AI will be accepted. Please describe your process for digital art.

Submitting a digital image of your art:

- Each image should be 1200-1500 pixels on the long side, 72 ppi, with a file size less than 2 Mb.
- Formats accepted: .jpg, and .png

Art Submission Rules:

- Minimum size should be: 11 x 14 or 12 x 12 or larger, mounted, matted.
- All art should have name, title, school, contact information on top right back corner for hanging art, or tagged for ceramic, sculptural art
- All art should be exhibition-ready for display
- Please review protocol for jurors' selection.
- Picture frame wire should not be above the frame. Picture frame wire is a multi-strand wire. Do not use monofilament. No sawtooth hangers.
- Screw eyes/D-rings and hanging wire MUST be attached firmly to the back of the piece with screws. Works on canvas must be framed or have finished edges.
- Gallery wrapped canvas is acceptable, provided that no staples are showing, and the edges are clean and free of smudges and smears that are not in keeping with the stylistic intent of the artwork.

Deadline for Entries: Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

Judging: Saturday, March 7, 2026

All judging will be conducted in person. Please bring your completed art to the Gulf Gate Library (7112 Curtiss Ave, Sarasota, FL 34231) from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. Please return between 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. to pick up your art.

**The National League of American Pen Women is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.
Certificate # given on request.**

National League of American Pen Women, Inc. – Sarasota Branch
700 John Ringling Blvd. #308W Sarasota, FL 34236
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NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN, INC.

SARASOTA BRANCH

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Launching Leaders in the Arts Criteria for Judging 2026

Since art is very subjective, judging criteria are necessary in an art contest so that the members of the judging panel can make a fair decision and choose a winner. The use of these criteria has been deemed necessary for an art piece or image. Any image, art piece, or photograph will reveal some measure of these elements, while a visually superior piece or image will reveal obvious consideration of each one.

Jurors will evaluate each submission on composition, color, contrast, and overall quality when making their selections. In addition to technical components, they will also consider subject interest, point of view, and whether the image tells a story.

VISUAL IMPACT — How strong is your first impression? Are you compelled to come closer?

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE — This is the quality and clarity of the image or object as it is presented for viewing. Does the artist exhibit good control over their medium? This speaks to the light, color balance, sharpness, and mood or style of the art.

COMPOSITION/DESIGN — Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the artist intends. Does the design pull you through the piece to the center of interest, encouraging you to continue to view it?

CREATIVITY — Is it an original idea, a fresh take on an old one? Did the artist use imagination in their expression by the medium to convey an idea, message or thought?

PRESENTATION — The image should have a finished appearance. Mats, borders, frames should support and enhance the image. Do the colors of the framing complement the art? Is it clean and well done?

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