



Kansas Youth Art Month Exhibit

February 24-March 28, 2026
**Topeka Shawnee County Public
Library**



Every year March is set aside nationally to celebrate Youth Art. The Kansas Art Education Association coordinates a celebration at the state level, which features an art exhibit and a reception for student artists, parents, and teachers. KAEA also partners with BLICK Art in sponsoring an art competition during Youth Art Month. Entries will be on display at the YAM Exhibit and Award recipients will receive recognition at the YAM Celebration on **March 28th** during the YAM Celebration/Reception.

This packet will provide the information that you will need to make you and your school a part of the celebration of **YOUTH ART** in **Kansas**!

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1	Start making local plans for Youth Art Month
February 21	LAST DAY to deliver YAM Artwork to your area YAM volunteer or work with them individually to set up a deadline to get work to Topeka by the 21st. (Area YAM volunteers are listed below)
February 21	LAST DAY to deliver YAM artwork to the Sabatini Gallery in the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. All artwork must be received by 6:00 PM in order to be included in the show! This includes any mailed work. Plan ahead to make sure that it is received in time.
March 1	LAST DAY for KAEA members to email your submissions into the Blick YAM Art Competition
March 10	LAST DAY to submit entries for the “Best YAM Classroom/School Display” Competition sponsored by Royal Brush
March 21	Last day to vote in the People’s Choice Awards
February 24-March 28	Youth Art Month Exhibit—Topeka Shawnee County Public Library
March 28	Youth Art Month Celebration/Reception & Awards 11-2:30
March 4-7	National Art Education Association Convention, Chicago , National Youth Art Month exhibition

Rules for Submitting Artwork

1. **EVERY art teacher** (members and non-members) in the state may be represented by ONE piece of student artwork from every school they teach at. For example: if you have two elementary schools, you may enter one piece of artwork from each school. Or if you are a K-12 teacher, you can enter one piece of artwork from each level that you teach (one elementary, one middle, and one high school piece).
2. **Artwork** must be completed by students enrolled in grades K-12 in the 2025-26 school year.
3. **All artwork** must be original, ready to hang and labeled according to directions.
4. **Artwork** can be either 2-Dimensional or 3-Dimensional.
 - **2-Dimensional artwork needs to be matted on a black mat board, black cardstock or black poster board with a minimum 1" border all around, but no larger than a 2" border. No frame. No glass.**
 - **2-Dimensional artwork must be no larger than 20"x24".**
 - **Canvas paintings must have wire hanger attached in order to be hung—no saw-tooth hangers accepted.**
 - **If the artwork is made up of multiple pieces—such as a diptych or triptych—it must be matted as ONE piece and fit within the size limitations.**
 - **3-Dimensional work must not be any larger than 20" x 20" x 20".**

Guidelines for packing artworks to transport:

Please clearly **label** all boxes, portfolios, etc. so these can be used for returning artworks.

Two-Dimensional Artworks

- Do NOT put anything up against fragile surfaces, example: wet paint.
- Stack front to front or back to back. Pay attention to where the hardware is, if any.

Three-Dimensional Artworks

- The 2" rule: There should be 2" of padding around the object.
- Do NOT use packing peanuts.
- Bubble wrap is best with bubbles on the inside of the wrap and the flat side on the outside.
- Tape wrap securely but don't put tape on the object.

KAEA, The Sabatini Gallery and the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library reserves the right to not display any work that is not ready to hang. All artwork is insured for a maximum of \$50 while on display at the gallery/library.

5. **All artwork** must include the official label and an artist statement written by the student and limited to the space provided (type and adhere if necessary to fit the space restrictions).
6. **THREE forms** need to be filled out and attached as instructed. All three forms are important for facilitation of the show! Forms need to be placed in a clear page protector and placed on the back of the 2-D work and boxed with the 3-D work.
Having trouble getting the permission form back? It is acceptable to get permission by email or a phone call! Just make a note of that next to the guardian signature!

Form #1

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DPN-rqHHNg0PNNF9BjVVTP93N55Mhh95/copy>

Spanish Version:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OJ94jQhlm0xaguO6tYrXqqI1xD83OzeP/copy>

Form #2

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QNIAnsxbHI2FrX-d2wSdGV1TRWWDACyS/copy>

Form #3 (this includes the artwork label and artist statement form)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1REyafYfEEBHJIX6floEYrElMaSEVJaFF/copy>

7. **Delivery of Artwork:** Educators may choose one of the following methods to make sure that their student's artwork arrives at the Sabatini Gallery for the YAM exhibit:
 1. Artwork can be delivered to the YAM Volunteer nearest to their school no later than **February 21st** and the volunteer will deliver it to the venue. (See list below.)
 2. Artwork can be mailed to the YAM Volunteer nearest to their school. The volunteer must receive the artwork no later than **February 21st**, so plan ahead to make sure that it arrives in time! **This date may vary depending on your volunteer's schedule! Don't delay in contacting them to make arrangements!**
 3. Artwork can be delivered directly to the Alice Sabatini Gallery/Topeka Shawnee County Public Library no later than 6:00pm on **February 21st**.
 4. Artwork can be **mailed** directly to the Alice Sabatini Gallery and must be received no later than 6:00 on **February 21st**. Plan ahead to make sure that it arrives on time. If you want your work to be mailed back to you—include the appropriate return postage with your artwork. **Put the return postage in a clearly marked envelope so that it does not get lost!!**

Send artwork to:

Sherry Best
 c/o The Alice Sabatini Gallery
 Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
 1515 SW 10th Ave.
 Topeka, Ks 66604

YAM Volunteers:

If you would like to volunteer, please give your name and contact information to Lynn Felts, 620-229-1309

<u>NORTH CENTRAL REGION</u> Shannon Wedel—GREAT BEND Great Bend Elementary shannon.wedel@usd428.net Cal Mahin—Hays cjmahin65@gmail.com AnnMarie Morris—Salina Salina South Middle School annmarie.morris@usd305.com Karen Cooper—Soloman/Abilene kcooper@usd393.net	<u>SOUTH EAST REGION</u> Bob Cross--CHANUTE bjcross@juno.com Charity-Mika Woodard—EMPORIA Emporia State University charitymika@gmail.com Rebecca Lomshek--PITTSBURG Pittsburg High School rlomshek@usd250.org Lynn Felts—WINFIELD/ARK CITY lynnfelts@cox.net
<u>NORTH EAST REGION</u> Linda Nelson-Bova—LAWRENCE nelsonbova@yahoo.com Karie Covert--HIAWATHA Hiawatha Middle School kcovert@usd415.org Katie Morris--HOLTON Holton High School k.morris@holtonks.net Mary St. John--TOPEKA Capital City High School mjohn@tps501.org Charleen Stessman—TOPEKA Washburn Rural District cstessman@sbcglobal.net Rebekah Thomas—JUNCTION CITY JC Elementary schools rebekahthomas@usd475.org Chi Dougherty—MANHATTAN Amanda Arnold Elementary chi-und@usd383.org chiundougherty@gmail.com Amy Lawson—Tonganoxie Tonganoxie Elementary amylawson243@gmail.com alawson@tong464.org	<u>SOUTH CENTRAL REGION</u> Johnna Stoffregen--ANDOVER Andover Middle School stoffrej@usd385.org Audra Shelite--AUGUSTA Augusta High School ashelite@usd402.com Natalie Brown—DERBY/WICHITA Derby High School 316-683-9185 nataliebrowncly@gmail.com LaDonna Voth--NEWTON Newton Schools ladonna.voth@usd373.org Kathy Schroeder--HESSTON redhousekat@gmail.com Lynn Felts—WINFIELD/ARK CITY lynnfelts@cox.net Shannon Massey—Cheney shanmassey511@gmail.com Lisa Lang—Wichita St. Francis of Assissi Catholic llang@stfranciswichita.com

Becky Becker—Onaga/Centralia Onaga Schools babohs1970@gmail.com beckerr@usd322.org	
<u>KANSAS CITY REGION</u> Megan Wendleton--OLATHE California Trail Middle School meganwendleton@hotmail.com Megan Ellis—SHAWNEE MISSION SM Fine Arts Coordinator meganellis@smsd.org Chris LaValley--BLUE VALLEY North West High School clavalley@bluevalleyk12.org Wendy Ping--De Soto Monticello Trails Middle School wping@usd232.org Genevieve Brown--DE SOTO Horizon Elementary gbrown@usd232.org Karen Gerety Folk--KANSAS CITY KANSAS Silver City Elementary kcgeretyfolk@gmail.com karen.geretyfolk@kckps.org Amy Lawson--Tonganoxie amylawson243@gmail.com Linda Nelson-Bova—LAWRENCE nelsonbova@yahoo.com	<u>SOUTH WEST REGION</u> Madi Wiens--Ness City/Colby madi.wiens@usd303.org
	<u>NORTH WEST REGION</u> Kristin Johnson--HOXIE praisinart@gmail.com Cal Mahin—Hays cjmahin65@gmail.com Madi Wiens--Ness City/Colby madi.wiens@usd303.org

8. Return of Artwork—Educators may choose one of the following methods to make sure that their student’s artwork is returned—**make sure that you have indicated on form #2 how you would like the artwork picked up after the YAM Celebration/Reception:**

1. Art Educator will pick up the artwork.
2. Student artist will pick up the artwork.
3. YAM Volunteer will pick up the artwork. Make sure to list their name.
4. Return postage was included for return mailing.

Note: No work can be removed from the exhibit until 2:45 on March 23rd.

When removing artworks from the gallery on March 28th, KAEA board representatives and Gallery staff will remove artworks to pack and to hand to individuals.

9. BLICK Youth Art Month Art Competition

If you are an Active KAEA/NAEA member, you can enter your student's YAM exhibit piece into the YAM Art Competition.

PLEASE set up your artwork in a well-lit area and have it straight before you take your photo so that you get correct colors and the image is not on an angle. We want the judges to have the best representation of the piece to look at! REMEMBER TO TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR ART AND THE ARTIST STATEMENT BEFORE YOU SEND THE PIECE OFF TO TOPEKA!!

The same piece must be submitted to **both** the physical exhibit and the DIGITAL Art Competition.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 3 Honorable Mentions at all 3 levels. BLICK Art Materials, KAEA and other sponsors generously will provide prizes to the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place students and their art instructors AND will provide a \$1000+ prize package to the "Best of Show" student.

Artwork will be judged on the following criteria:

Creativity Craftsmanship Artistic Merit Presentation Artist's Statement

Teachers will be notified if the judges have designated their student's artwork for recognition. This will give the teacher time to personally invite the student and their family to attend the YAM Celebration/Reception where their student will be recognized for their accomplishments.

All submission information and guidelines for the Art Competition can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kOmE6WXKDW7nUKR2vKzLCZrM7FCScabF/view>

10. **NEW (second year) "Best YAM Classroom/School Display" Sponsored by Royal Brush**

Create a unique display celebrating March as Youth Art Month. It can be in your classroom, outside your classroom, in a board office, etc. It can have student art work in it or it does not have to—although last year's judges liked to see student art. **Be creative. The words Youth Art Month or March is Youth Art Month should be in the display and should be the main reason for the display.**

One teacher/classroom will receive a product package valued at \$250 from Royal Brush and 2 teachers/classrooms will receive honorable mention product packages worth \$60.

Due no later than March 10th. Send a photo and a brief description of your display (what it includes, location, etc.) as an attachment to Linda Nelson-Bova at nelsonbova@yahoo.com

11. **NEW "Youth Art Month Activity Calendar"**

We have created a Youth Art Month calendar for you to use over the course of the month filled with a prompt for each day during March.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C0t3SIHDyPr_cNTkJ6joRocjfYBzP-Hw/view?usp=sharing

12. **NEW “Design a Button” Competition**

Students can design a button celebrating Kansas Youth Art Month. THREE designs will be chosen and buttons will be made with those designs and be available for sale at the Sales Table at the YAM Celebration on March 28th. Winning students will be recognized at the YAM Celebration. Designs are due by March 10th.

Template:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bOsv1YcMQqMin_HUJqjfYGzO5y2Cnsx-36B78gsWCKo/copy

Google Slides is the preferred submission format:

You can submit a slideshow with all your student entries rather than emailing separately. student last name, student first name, school (example: YamGogh,Vincent,school.jpg).

Please use this link for a template to submit your entries:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bOsv1YcMQqMin_HUJqjfYGzO5y2Cnsx-36B78gsWCKo/copy

If you share your google slide presentation: please do it to “membership@kaea.com”
NOT “nelsonbova@gmail.com”

13. **Parent Letter**

You might want to consider sending a letter home to notify the parents of the student(s) that you have chosen to represent your school in the YAM Exhibit.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1siAghyw2m3lCk-GPcsv2J8gAc1-Uv_f5/copy

Spanish Version

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14AZRxZ5kqMWCEuQB1bMZQTDacvsCF5-w/copy>

14. **Checklist:**

- _____ No acetate on artwork, as we will be photographing the artwork
- _____ 2-D artwork does not measure more than **20”x24”** including the border
- _____ 3-D artwork does not measure more than 20”x20”x20”
- _____ 2-D artwork is ready to hang as per instructions
- _____ All forms are filled out and attached to artwork securely as per instructions
- _____ Artwork label, artist statement and artist release form are filled out fully
- _____ Delivery deadlines have been checked and delivery planned for
- _____ If mailing—return postage is included, if needed

_____ Parent letter printed and sent home

_____ Appropriate members of the school and community are notified of the student entry.

_____ KAEA member or thoughts about joining??? **Student artwork has been photographed.** Then if entering the BLICK YAM Competition, the image and the excel information form has been filled out and e-mailed for the BLICK YAM Art Competition.

ADVOCACY LETTERS:

_____ **NEW** A “**Youth Art Month Declaration of Support**” form has been created. **Anyone can fill this out to show their support for Arts Education! Teachers, Parents, Administrators, students, etc. Share with everyone that you know! We use this data in our scrapbook that we submit for National Recognition for our program. In addition, we can earn monetary awards that help us to improve our YAM program each year!**

>Link to Declaration of Support: <https://bit.ly/3OxRaLL>

_____ Have the Mayor of your town fill out a Youth Art Month Proclamation Form and send a copy to Linda Nelson-Bova @ nelsonbova@yahoo.com

The form can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dy3auIlnhWOtYdgNdUPPKdaRsSFo4S9G/copy>

NEW A new quick and easy Mayor Proclamation google form can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/CtkNR6pv2ZRc2nPU7>

_____ Sample letter for Administrators and School Board members of your district that you can edit for your own needs can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o6PUsmfYjPG2skG9jryzQ9hIdmrg2OIk/copy>

Consider adding a paragraph that includes the names of participating students.

_____ If you are **not** entering your piece into the BLICK YAM Art Competition and would like to have your student's YAM art piece posted on our social media platforms as a “Youth Art Month Daily Featured Artist”, send a digital image of the piece as an attachment

along with the following information: Student Name, Grade, School, Medium, and Teacher name to Linda Nelson-Bova at nelsonbova@yahoo.com

We will be continuing the “People’s Choice” Awards program this year. Up to 3 pieces will be recognized at the YAM Celebration! ALL works in the exhibit are eligible for awards!!
The top vote getter will also be receiving a huge prize from Pentel!!

Send us photos of all of your Youth Art Month Activities for our Scrapbook! 😊