



2026 SHIFTING SPACES STUDENT ART SHOWCASE: OFFICIAL RULES

WHO: Students in Montgomery County (grades 6-12)

WHAT: Design an original art piece of your choosing (poster, collage, painting, photograph, poem, sculpture, graphic media, video, etc.) describing this year's main theme.

THEME/BACKGROUND: The theme for the 2026 Shifting Spaces Art Showcase is "What Is Love?". The showcase is a way to help influence people to practice healthy relationship skills that prevent domestic violence and sexual assault and affirm people's right to feel safe in relationships. Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive with nearly 1 in 3 teens experiencing some form of abuse within a dating relationship before graduating high school and many victim/survivors do not seek help or support. But we know that we can put an end to both by practicing healthy relationship skills like:

- Open and honest communication
- Mutual respect of boundaries and practicing consent daily
- Fair negotiation and safe compromises
- Supporting each other with compassion and empathy
- Accountability and taking responsibility for mistakes
- Active listening and feeling safe

WHEN: All artwork must be submitted to Laurel House by **January 12, 2026**. Artwork can be mailed to **Laurel House ATTN: COMMUNITY EDUCATION P.O. Box 764 Norristown PA 19404** or dropped off at our office location at **180 W Germantown Pike #2, East Norriton, PA 19401**. Pickup by Laurel House can also be arranged, but notice must be given 2 weeks in advance.

AWARDS: There will be a first, second, and third place prize for each academic level. Academic levels are set as: middle school (6-8th grade) and high school (9th-12th grade). By submitting an art piece, you are allowing Laurel House and Victims Services Center of Montgomery County, Inc., to utilize your artwork publicly.

- First Place: \$100
- Second Place: \$75
- Third Place: \$50

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JUDGING: Winners will be selected based on the following criteria: creativity/originality, professional quality (neatness and craft), and interpretation of the theme, “What Is Love?”. For 6th-8th graders, the artwork should help answer the question, “How do we show people we care about them?” For 9th-12th graders, the artwork should help answer the question, “What does a healthy relationship look like?”. Artwork should be compelling, aesthetic in design, and carry a message that promotes healthy relationships.

RECOGNITION: Participating students are invited to attend the Student Art Showcase, recognizing Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month, on February 26, 2026 at the **Innovation & Discovery Center** at Ursinus College ([use this map](#)). The ceremony will take place from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Selected student artwork will also be displayed throughout the year at various events and through social media.

RETURN OF ARTWORK: Students have the option to receive their art back OR to donate it to Laurel House and the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, Inc., to be used in promotional materials or awareness events. If students opt to have their artwork returned, it will be returned by March 30, 2026.

HOW TO ENTER: Along with their artwork, students must submit a completed STUDENT ENTRY FORM (see attached). Requirements include name, grade, school, and signature of supporting teacher or parent. You can also use the digital version of this form by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/shiftspace26>. **If you use the digital version of the entry form, ensure your name and contact information are on your artwork so we can match your form to your piece.**

QUESTIONS: For general questions about the contest or art showcase, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jessica Carson at education@vscmontcopa.org (phone: 610-277-0932 ext. 232) or contact Eve Johnson at education@laurel-house.org (phone: 610-277-1860 ext. 121).

If you have questions about mailing/arranging pick-ups for your submission or want to confirm your submission was received, please contact Eve Johnson at education@laurel-house.org or at 610-277-1860 ext. 121.



STUDENT ENTRY FORM

Please complete and submit to Laurel House along with your artwork no later than **January 12, 2026**. Selected students will be notified by February 6, 2026.

Artwork can be mailed to: **Laurel House ATTN: COMMUNITY EDUCATION P.O. Box 764 Norristown PA 19404** or dropped off at our office location at **180 W Germantown Pike #2, East Norriton, PA 19401**. Pickup by Laurel House can be arranged with 2 weeks advance notice. Contact Eve Johnson at education@laurel-house.org or at 610-277-1860 ext. 121.

For general questions, contact Jessica Carson at education@vscmontcopa.org or 610-277-0932 ext. 232 or Eve Johnson at education@laurel-house.org or 610-277-1860 ext. 121.

By completing this form, you are allowing Laurel House and Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, Inc. to utilize your artwork publicly during and after the event. You are also allowing Laurel House and VSC to make copies of your art to be used within outreach and social media.

Please write clearly on the form below to ensure we can reach out to you with further information.

Name*: _____

Grade*: _____

School*: _____

Personal Email Address* (Your school email will not work): _____

Name of Supporting Teacher or Parent/Guardian*: _____

Email Address for Teacher or Parent/Guardian*: _____

Phone Number for Teacher or Parent/Guardian*: _____

Please note: we cannot reach out to you without the name, email address, and phone number of your teacher or parent/guardian.

Type of Artwork (poster, collage, video, poem, etc.): _____

Brief Description of Piece*:

Title of Piece (optional): _____

Signature of Teacher/Parent*: _____