

# 2026 BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART CONTEST



## 2026's Contest Theme is **Building Tomorrow: Black Youth Shaping the Future**

Create an original art piece that highlights the influence of young Black trailblazers and activists on New Orleans and the nation, or connects past movements to future progress. Honor their legacy, amplify their voices, and imagine the future they and you are building.

Black youth have always been at the forefront of change, from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s, to the Black Power Movements of the 1960s, to today's Black Lives Matter movement. Now it's your turn to participate.

**Deadline: Saturday, February 28**

### Rules:

- To enter, artists must live in or go to school in Orleans Parish and be in grades K–12. Entries will be judged by grade categories (K–2, 3–5, 6–8, 9–12) and a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner will be determined in each category.
- Only one entry per person.
- The preferred size of artwork is 8.5"x11", not smaller.
- Digital submissions should be a PDF or JPG file (at a resolution of 300 dpi or higher).
- Artwork may be submitted in person to a Library location, with a completed submission form paper-clipped to the artwork. Name should be on entry form not artwork.
- **The deadline for entries is Saturday, February 28, 2026.**

### How to Submit Digitally:

Use online entry form, found at [nolalibrary.co/BHM](http://nolalibrary.co/BHM) or by scanning the QR code. Upload your art submission to the form. Email us at [contest@nolalibrary.org](mailto:contest@nolalibrary.org) with questions or if assistance is needed.



### Prizes:

- All entrants will receive a free book
- 1<sup>st</sup> place winners in each grade category will receive a gift card
- 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> place winners receive a framed poster of their winning artwork

Complete this section if you are submitting your artwork in person at the Library:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Homeschool students check this box  Work is original to person submitting entry

Parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME SIGNATURE

Parent or guardian contact info  
(if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL PHONE

Title of piece  
optional \_\_\_\_\_

Who or what inspired you?  
optional \_\_\_\_\_

By participating in this contest, the winners (and their parents or guardian) agree to let the New Orleans Public Library use their photographs, names, and/or likenesses for promotion of the Library without further compensation. All information gathered is for the use of the New Orleans Public Library in administering the contest and will not be shared except to publicize the winners. The Library may reproduce the artwork for promotional materials of the contest including printing and posting online. The artist retains all permissions and copyright to the work.