

# ***The World I Imagine — Global Youth Art Contest***

## **Official Rules & Submission Guidelines**

Hosted by Tulip's Promise

July 17 **Contest Year:** 2026

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the “*The World I Imagine*” Global Youth Art Contest — an international, youth-led initiative celebrating creativity, belonging, and hope.

This contest invites **refugee, immigrant, and global youth** to envision a more inclusive and peaceful world through art. Whether you paint, draw, or create collages, your artwork can help others see *the world you imagine* — one where everyone belongs.

## **1. Contest Theme**

### **“The World I Imagine.”**

Through your art, show us your vision of a future filled with compassion, unity, and hope. You may explore any of the following ideas:

- **Belonging** — finding home, identity, or community in new places
  - Make an artwork that shows what it means to find home, feel accepted, or be part of a community.
- **Resilience** — overcoming challenges and adapting with strength
  - Make an artwork that shows how people stay strong, face challenges, and keep going.
- **Hope** — envisioning a peaceful, inclusive, and creative world
  - Make an artwork that shows your vision of a kind, peaceful, and inclusive world.

Each artwork should connect personally to “*The World I Imagine*” while expressing your own story and perspective.

## **2. About the Contest**

The *World I Imagine* Art Contest is organized by **Tulip's Promise**, a non-profit organization supporting refugee and immigrant youth through creativity, cultural exchange, and educational empowerment.

This contest provides a platform for young voices worldwide to express hope and reimagine belonging through visual storytelling.

### 3. Contest Advisors

The contest is guided by a group of experienced mentors and educators committed to uplifting refugee and immigrant youth through art:

- **Alyssa Clifford** — Manager of Resource Center, *Lutheran Social Services National Capital Area*
- **Emilia Schulz** — MHD Outreach and Professional Development Assistant, *Maryland Humanities*
- **Marzena Maksym** — Sr. Program Supervisor, Mental Health Programs, *Centro SOL*
- **Dr. Sheree Tilley** — Coordinator of Student Access and Achievement, *Howard County Public School System*
- **Melissa Onante** — Community Outreach Coordinator, Bilingual Department, *Infinite Legacy*

### 4. Eligibility

The contest is open to young artists worldwide who meet the following criteria:

- **Age Range:** 11–19 years old
- **Divisions:**
  - *Junior Division:* Ages 11–14
  - *Senior Division:* Ages 15–19
- **Eligibility:**
  - Open to all youth globally, with a focus on **refugee and immigrant participants**
  - Only **one artwork per participant** may be submitted
  - There is **no entry fee**

Group entries are not allowed; each submission must be an individual's original work.

### 5. Art Categories

Participants may submit **one artwork** in one of the following categories:

1. **Drawing / Painting** — Make an artwork using things like watercolor, acrylic, markers, pencils, or ink.
2. **Collage** — Make an artwork by cutting, layering, or combining materials like paper, photos, or fabric.

All artwork must be original and created solely by the artist.

## 6. Submission Requirements

**Submission Deadline: March 31, 2026**

All entries must be submitted **online** through [<https://forms.gle/QUykmk7BLMLGJCFG>].

### **Required Materials:**

1. **Artwork Image**
  - JPEG or PNG format, high-quality, max 10MB
2. **Artist Statement (50–200 words)**
  - What inspired your piece?
  - How does it reflect “*The World I Imagine*”?
3. **Artist Information**
  - Full name, age, division (junior or senior), country, and contact email
4. **Parent/Guardian Consent (for participants under 18)**
  - A signed form or checkbox confirming consent

Incomplete submissions or late entries may not be considered.

## 7. Judging Criteria

Each artwork will be evaluated by a diverse panel of **artists, educators, and community leaders**, including the three contest advisors.

Judges will assess each piece based on the following criteria (scored 1–5):

| <b>Criteria</b>                     | <b>Description</b>                                 |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Creativity &amp; Originality</b> | Uniqueness of idea and visual expression           |
| <b>Emotional Impact</b>             | Ability to move, inspire, or connect emotionally   |
| <b>Technical Skill</b>              | Proficiency in the chosen medium                   |
| <b>Relevance to Theme</b>           | Clear connection to “ <i>The World I Imagine</i> ” |
| <b>Artist Statement</b>             | Reflection and clarity of message                  |

Judges’ decisions are final.

## 8. Awards & Recognition

Winners will be selected for each age division (Junior and Senior).

### Grand Prize Winner (1 per Division)

- \$200 Prize (cash, visa, etc.)
- Certificate of Achievement
- Featured in online exhibition

### Second Place Winner (1 per Division)

- \$150 Prize (cash, visa, etc.)
- Certificate of Achievement
- Artwork featured in the online exhibition

### Third Place Winner (1 per Division)

- \$100 Prize
- Certificate of Achievement
- Artwork featured in the online exhibition

### Honorable Mentions (5 total)

- \$25 Prize
- Certificate of Achievement
- Artwork featured in the online exhibition

### All Participants

- Digital Certificate of Recognition
- Artwork included in the online exhibition

All finalists will be honored in the official online exhibition and recognized through our digital platforms.

## 9. Digital Exhibition

A global **digital exhibition** of finalist artworks will launch in **June, 2026**.

Select artworks may also be included in a **community showcase or museum partnership exhibition** during **June 2026 (World Refugee Day)**.

## 10. Code of Conduct

By submitting artwork, participants agree to the following terms:

- All entries must be **original** and created solely by the artist.
- **AI-generated**, copied, or plagiarized works are not accepted.
- By submitting, artists grant **Tulip's Promise** permission to display their credited work online or in exhibitions.
- Artists retain **full copyright** and ownership of their work.

## 11. Important Dates

| Stage                         | Date            |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Submissions Open              | January 1, 2026 |
| Submission Deadline           | March 31, 2026  |
| Finalists Announced           | May 1, 2026     |
| Online Exhibition Launch      | June 2026       |
| (Optional) In-person Showcase | June 2026       |

## 12. Contact Information

**Email:** leadership@tulipspromise.org

**Website:** [www.tulipspromise.org/art-contest](http://www.tulipspromise.org/art-contest)

**Instagram:** @tulipspromise

For questions about eligibility, submission, or partnership, please contact us via email.

## 13. Acknowledgements

This contest is made possible by the dedicated efforts of youth volunteers, community advisors, and educators committed to uplifting the voices of refugee and immigrant youth worldwide.

Together, we believe art can build bridges — and help us imagine a world where everyone belongs.