



Changes to 2017 Congressional Art Competition Instructions

Although rules and procedures for the Congressional Art Competition remain largely the same from year to year, it is necessary to update them on occasion. Information about changes to the 2017 Congressional Art Competition is below.

1. Art Dimensions: 26 inches by 26 inches by 4 inches, including the frame

The Cannon House Office Building restoration project has reduced the amount of space available for the artwork in the Cannon Tunnel. To accommodate this, artwork may be **no larger than 26 inches by 26 inches by 4 inches, including the frame.**

If you plan to send students and teachers documents from previous years that you have updated, it is absolutely critical that you change the size requirements. Also, please update any information about the Congressional Art Competition on your website.

If you anticipate that the new dimensions standard will be problematic, please contact art@conginst.org or call 703-837-8812 as soon as possible.

2. Letter of Support for Winning Artwork

Each Member of Congress will be required to submit a Letter of Support for their winning artwork. This letter is to ensure that the Member has seen the artwork before it is submitted, has taken full responsibility for its content and has certified that the artwork, in the Member's opinion, adheres to the longstanding Suitability Guidelines of the House Office Building Commission. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in this highly travelled area leading to the Capitol. For that reason, we ask that Members carefully review the artwork for adherence to the Commission policy.

The letter should be attached to the back of the artwork when it is submitted in Washington, DC. A copy of the letter must be emailed to art@conginst.org by May 9.

The letter must bear the **original signature** of the Member.

A sample Letter of Support is included below. The letter **must** contain verbatim the second paragraph ("I have viewed...").

Congressional Institute, Inc.
1700 Diagonal Road #730
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Congressional Institute:

On behalf of the [NUMBER] District of [STATE], I am pleased to submit [ARTWORK TITLE] by [STUDENT'S NAME] for inclusion in the 2017 Congressional Art Competition exhibit. I have selected this artwork because [EXPLANATION OF ARTWORK].

I have viewed the above-named student's artwork and approve of its content. I have reviewed the artwork and find it to be in accordance with the policy of the House Office Building Commission, which prohibits subjects that depict contemporary political controversy, or of a sensationalistic or gruesome nature. I understand that in the event of a dispute, the final decision regarding whether artwork adheres to this policy will be made by the House Office Building Commission.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [STAFF NAME(S)] at [EMAIL ADDRESS] or [PHONE NUMBER].

Sincerely,

[MEMBER'S SIGNATURE]
[MEMBER NAME]
Member of Congress

If you have any questions or concerns about changes to the Congressional Art Competition, please contact the Congressional Institute at 703-837-8812 or art@conginst.org.