

Art & Writing Contest: *Young Black Voices*

The Carnegie Center for Literacy & Learning wants to hear your voice!

To celebrate Black History Month, the Carnegie Center invites artists ages 5-17 to submit to our first-ever Young Black Voices contest!

We're accepting pieces of writing, or visual art focused on the topic of what your Black identity means to you.

All qualifying entries have the opportunity to be published in an original chapbook, which will contain entries for both visual art and writing. The winning entries will receive a copy of the chapbook at no charge. This contest is open to writers and visual artists of African American heritage who are residents of the U.S.A. and at the time of entry are at least five years of age and no older than seventeen years of age.

The submission deadline is February 28, 2021. No late submissions will be accepted.

Contestants may only submit material to one contest.

Categories: Writing, Visual Art

WRITING CONTEST

Eligible entries will include original fiction, nonfiction, lyrics, or poetry inspired by the prompt: What does your Black identity mean to you?

Eligibility

To enter you must be:

- of African American heritage
- a resident of the United States of America
- at least five years of age and no older than seventeen years of age

Submission Guidelines

All entries must be your original work, unpublished, and not accepted for publication anywhere when they are entered in the contest. Please include the following items in your entry:

- A statement briefly describing your writing, specifying the intended audience (including age range), and why you decided to write it
- A brief biography
- Contact information: current name, date of birth, mailing address, E-mail address, and phone number
- Entries must be received by the submission deadline listed

Submit your entries via email to Contest@CarnegieCenterLex.org. If you prefer to send your entry via snail mail, send to: Young Black Voices; Carnegie Center; 251 W. Second Street; Lexington, KY 40507. Please include a cover sheet with the required information and ensure postmark by the submission deadline. Handwritten entries will not be accepted. The deadline to submit is February 28, 2021.

Judging Criteria

- Authentic voice
- Presentation (follows submission guidelines, neatness)
- Content (tightness, clarity, structure, strength of lead/beginning, transitions, impact, satisfactory close)
- Alignment with the spirit of the Contest
- For nonfiction proposals: logical flow, accuracy of information

Awards & Prizes

First Place: \$100 Visa gift card, a Carnegie Center T-shirt, a journal and pen. The winning submission will also be featured and highlighted in a published chapbook, *Young Black Writers*, and will receive a copy of the chapbook. The winner will be announced on Carnegie Center's social media and website.

Second Place: \$50 Visa gift card, a Carnegie Center T-shirt, a journal and pen. Submission will also be featured in a published chapbook, *Young Black Writers*, and will receive a copy of the chapbook.

Third Place: \$25 gift card to Sav's Grill, a Carnegie Center T-shirt, a journal and pen. Submission will also be featured in a published chapbook, *Young Black Writers*, and will receive a copy of the chapbook.

Winner Notification

Winners will be notified by email on or around **April 1, 2021**. All potential winners are subject to verification. Upon confirmation of eligibility, prizes will be awarded no later than **May 1, 2021**.

Chapbooks will be completed and mailed to all published contestants on or around May 1, 2021.

All prizes are non-transferable and non-assignable, and non-cash prizes cannot be redeemed for cash. All costs, fees, expenses, and taxes (including, without limitation, federal, state, and local taxes) associated with any element of a prize are the sole responsibility of the winners.

Everyone who enters the contest has the chance at publication.

Contestants may only submit material to one contest.

VISUAL ART CONTEST

Eligible entries will include photographs of original drawings, comic strips, paintings, sculptures, fashion, and any other art form inspired by the prompt: What does your Black identity mean to you?

Eligibility

To enter you must be:

- of African American heritage
- a resident of the United States of America
- at least five years of age and no older than seventeen years of age

Submission Guidelines

All entries must be your original work, unpublished, and not accepted for publication anywhere when they are entered in the contest. Please include the following items in your entry:

- A letter briefly describing your art, specifying the intended audience (including age range), and why you decided to create it
- A brief biography
- At least one high-resolution photo and no more than three photos of your art submission
- Contact information: current name, date of birth, mailing address, E-mail address, and phone number
- Entries must be received by the submission deadline listed

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Judging Criteria

- Authentic voice
- Presentation (follows submission guidelines, high-resolution photo of art, neatness, legibility)
- Content
- Alignment with the spirit of the Contest

First Place: \$100 Visa gift card, a Carnegie Center T-shirt, a journal and pen. The winning submission will also be featured and highlighted in a published chapbook, *Young Black Writers*, and will receive a copy of the chapbook. The winner will be announced on Carnegie Center's social media and website.

Second Place: \$50 Visa gift card, a Carnegie Center T-shirt, a journal and pen. Submission will also be featured in a published chapbook, *Young Black Writers*, and will receive a copy of the chapbook.

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