

CELEBRATION OF SCHOOLS CREATIVITY

As part of St Helens Borough of Culture 2023, CulturEd (St Helens Cultural Education Partnership) will be curating a series of exhibitions in multiple locations across the Borough in July and August to celebrate the creativity of children and young people. **The Youth Open Art competition** will take place as part of this project. Schools and community groups will be invited to respond to one of the three themes to use as inspiration for creating artwork. This year we are raising the upper age limit for submissions to 19 years of age to allow colleges to get involved.

Artwork already created during this school year can be submitted as long as it fits into one of the themes below.

THE THEMES

A celebration of St Helens past, present and dreams for the future.

This theme provides the option to not only celebrate creativity but also to celebrate St Helens and its rich heritage. Starting points could include:

- Inspirational people from St Helens which could include local heroes, famous people, sporting heroes, historical figures, important figures from the world of science, art, literature, and technology.
- Architecture and buildings
- St Helens history , local facts and folklore of St Helens

Nature and green spaces.

Drawing on the green spaces in St Helen as inspiration and the importance of green spaces for the environment and for personal health and wellbeing. Possible starting points could include natural textures, shapes and colours, animals and their habitats, landscapes, trees and plants.

Positive Protest.

Focusing on art and creativity to explore important issues, using artwork as an empowering tool to communicate the ideas, thoughts and feelings of young people. Topics could include environmental campaigning, gender, political issues, the importance of kindness and mental wellbeing. This theme is about using images and words together to create thought provoking artwork. Outputs may include posters, paintings, animation, photography and even 3D art.

WHAT ARTFORMS CAN BE SUBMITTED

CulturEd invite all schools and education settings to submit an original artwork for selection for exhibition and to be in with the chance to win a prize. A change for this year is that only entries via schools and colleges will be allowed. Please refer to entry guideline below for more information.

Works are welcomed across all mediums including drawing, glass, textiles, sculpture, painting, printmaking, mixed media, photography and digital media. We can also include animation and film work in the final exhibition.

CATEGORIES

Artwork may be submitted into **one** of the following categories. Descriptions are for information only and artists can interpret them as they wish and decide which their work fits into:

- **Drawing and painting** – Drawing is essentially a technique in which images are depicted on a surface by making lines, though drawings can also contain tonal areas, washes and other marks. Painting is the practice of applying paint, pigment, color or other medium to a solid surface. The medium is commonly applied with a brush, but other implements, such as knives, sponges, and airbrushes, can be used. Artworks in this category could be created with pencils, ink, charcoal, graphite, pens and any type of paint.
- **Colour** – Artworks in this category celebrate the use of colour and could include paintings, printing, pastels, watercolours, inks etc.
- **Mixed Media** – Mixed media artwork is when more than one artistic medium is used to create a piece of artwork. This category is open to interpretation and submissions in this category may use a selection of the following methods and mediums, collage, fabric, print making, paints, drawing tools, digital and more.
- **Sculpture and 3D art**- Three-dimensional art made by one of four basic processes: carving, modelling, casting, constructing.
- **Graphic art and photography**– This could include digital art, photography, logo or branding design, poster design, typography and other artwork that fits within the broad spectrum of graphic art.
- **Film and animation** – This could include short pieces of film, motion graphics, short animations and audio visual artwork.
- **Poetry and spoken word**- This is a new category to celebrate the artform of creative writing. Submissions in this category can be submitted as beautifully presented handwritten poetry (with accompanying images and / or boarder artwork) or as spoken word video or audio files.

Primary, Secondary, College and SEND prizes will be awarded and all successful exhibitors will be presented with a certificate.

CELEBRATION OF CULTURE SUBMISSION DROP OFF DATES

- Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday May 24th
- Tuesday 6th June & Wednesday 7th June
- Tuesday 13th June & Wednesday 14th June

10am -5pm each day. **Please note, late entries will not be accepted.**

Primary School entries that will fit in the school black post bags can send entries via the internal post to the Town Hall. Schools who choose to do this will need to notify me by email before sending entries.

We won't be able to exhibit all artwork entries, a list of successful exhibitors will be sent to schools by Tuesday 27th June.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

- All submitted artworks must be original works of art.
- Due to space limitations, artwork must not exceed **A3** for pieces submitted by **Key Stage 1, 2 or 3 pupils and A2 for Key Stage 4, college and Further Education pupils**.
- Only one entry per person will be accepted.
- **Up to 50 entries per school** - please do not submit whole classes but select work that your pupils are the most proud of.
- Please note that not all artwork that is submitted will be displayed in the exhibitions a list of successful exhibitors will be shared with schools, colleges and community groups.

ARTWORK GUIDELINES

- All work must be **ready for display**. Please **do not frame** the artwork but do mount it on some backing paper.
- All work must be clearly labelled on the **REVERSE** of the mounted artwork with the applicants **name, age, category and school**.
- A spreadsheet will be shared with schools to fill out accompanying details for each submission to avoid handwriting an application for each pupil entry.
- Artwork that isn't labelled or included on the spreadsheet won't be displayed.
- Please note that work is submitted at your own risk. Although every care will be taken, no liability will be accepted by the organisers, exhibition installers, exhibition venues or St. Helens Council for damage or loss.

APPLICATION PROCESS: STEP BY STEP

- 1) Email me laurakatepontefract@sthelens.gov.uk to register your school's involvement, confirming the name of an email for the person responsible for submissions in your school.
- 2) A submission spreadsheet will be sent to school to be filled out for each artwork your school will be submitting.
- 3) CREATE THE ARTWORK
- 4) Email completed submission spreadsheet to me along with the date you will be dropping off artwork at The Town Hall.
- 5) Drop artwork off on one of the designated drop-off days at the Town Hall. **OR** send via the school's internal post system to the Town Hall.

TEACHER MAKE SESSION

As schools and education settings are at the forefront of Celebration of Creativity exhibition, we are inviting teachers to get involved. Artist Emmer Winder will be hosting a Positive Activism Artwork session for teachers to create their own pieces for display in the exhibitions.

Date: 5th July 4pm-5.30pm

Venue: De La Salle

Booking Link: Places are limited and will be on a first come first serve basis. Please register your interest via the Doodle Poll link: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/dNYX3EDb>

KEY DATES

ENTRY SUBMISSION

Artwork submissions will be accepted in person at:
St Helens Town Hall, Victoria Square, Bickerstaffe Street, St Helens WA10 1HP
On the following dates.

- Tuesday 23rd May & Wednesday 24th May
 - Tuesday 6th June & Wednesday 7th June
 - Tuesday 13th June & Wednesday 14th June
- 10am-5pm each day**

EXHIBITION DATES & VENUES

We will be hosting several exhibitions across the Borough during July and August. A list of successful submissions, confirmation of venues and exhibition dates will be sent out to participating schools, colleges and community groups by **Tuesday 27th June**.

COMPETITION PRIZE-GIVING

St Helens Town Hall on Tuesday 18th July
CulturEd, a cohort of St Helens teachers and a St Helens local artist will select the exhibitors from the submitted artworks, and a panel of judges will select the prize-winners. We will be inviting a special guest to present the awards to this year's winners as well as selecting her favourite artwork from the exhibitions.

ARTWORK COLLECTION DATES

(including artwork not selected for exhibition)

- Tuesday 10th September & Wednesday 13th September 2023
 - Tuesday 19th September & Wednesday 20th September 2023
- 10am-4.30pm on each day. Entries will not be stored after these dates.**

For more information please contact Laura-Kate Pontefract

Email: laurakatepontefract@sthelens.gov.uk

Phone: 07712 543 592

Using and Sharing your Information: St Helens Council's Art Service will collect & store your data securely in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We will get in touch with the first named contact on your form in the case of any queries about your entry as well as to share occasional reminders or information about the exhibition, presentation event and artwork collection. The information will be stored in line with strict data management protocols and treated confidentially. It will be used only for the purposes of the Youth Open Art exhibition. However, should you wish to be included on our Arts Service emailing list, please tick here. You can unsubscribe at any time. Please visit our website at www.sthelens.gov.uk/artsezine to view our Privacy Policy in full.

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