

2027 Frederick W. Smith International Airport Community Foundation Arts in the Airport High School Visual Art Competition/Exhibition

IMPORTANT DATES

- Preliminary Entries Submission Form Open (Paintings and Photo):
Friday, January 8, 2027
- Preliminary Entries Due (Paintings and Photo):
Friday, February 5, 2027
- Judging and Selection of Finalists Participants (Paintings and Photo):
February 10-17 2027
- Announcement of Final Contestants to teachers/schools and judges
(Paintings and Photo):
Friday, February 19, 2027
- Art Center Kit Pick-Up:
February 24-March 5, 2027
- Final Exhibition Painting Delivery and Photo Submission (selected students):
Friday, April 16, 2027
- Finals Judging:
April 21-28, 2027
- Arts in the Airport Event:
Thursday, May 6, 2027

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TIPS AND THINGS TO KNOW FOR STUDENTS

- **Don't forget to title your entry!** Descriptive and creative titles help make your piece stand out.
- **Push the bounds of your creativity!** Take a look at past years' finalists to see what's been done before — and what hasn't. This is your time to shine!

2026 Painting Finalists:

<https://flymemphis.com/arts-in-the-airport-2026-finals-judging-gallery-painting-entries/>

2026 Photography Finalists:

<https://flymemphis.com/arts-in-the-airport-2026-finals-judging-gallery-photography-entries/>

- In 2026, we increased the award amounts for our winners. **Awards for the top three paintings and photographs are as follows:**

First Place: \$1,000

Second Place: \$500

Third Place: \$250

**2027 will mark the 20th anniversary of the
Arts in the Airport High School Visual Arts and
Photography Competition/Exhibition at MEM.**

Let's make it better than ever before!

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

Theme – Painting and Photography:

All visual art and photography pieces presented for submission must contain iconic/historic images which are symbolic of the city of Memphis, including replicas representative of Memphis' heritage, i.e. blues/jazz/bluegrass music, famous native Memphians, Beale St., downtown Main St. Trolley cars, etc.

Visual Interpretation – Painting and Photography:

It is one of our main goals through this program to provide students with general theme guidelines, while also allowing their creativity and vision to capture the true spirit of our great city of Memphis. We encourage each student to incorporate technical aspects in their submissions, including abstractions, array of colors, lighting, composition, landscapes, environments, etc. Be creative!

Number of Entries Per Student:

Each student will be allowed ONE entry, or if they so choose, are allowed ONE entry into each category for this competition, i.e. one painting, and one photograph. Student entry forms MUST include student name and title of painting/photo in the title, but not the school. For example: "Joe Smith – Memphis Sounds." In addition, entry forms must be submitted digitally via online form at flymemphis.com. The entry form webpage link will be sent out after January 4, 2027.

Paintings:

Each contestant will need to submit a digital sample of their artwork. The recommended size for preliminary artwork is a 12" x 16" on non-matte canvas or sketch paper (heavy stock). Additionally, each student is allowed to incorporate textiles/materials into their artwork. Student submissions MUST include student name and title of the painting, but not the school. For example: "Joe Smith – Memphis Sounds." Finalists selected in the first round of judging will then submit a 30 x 40 canvas by April 16, 2027.

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Photography:

Each contestant can submit a high resolution photo via the online submission form. The judges will be looking for authenticity and originality as it relates to the overall sample. We encourage each student to avoid filters unless the filter assists in the overall vision. Student submissions MUST include student name and title of the photograph, but not the school. For example: "Joe Smith – Memphis Sounds."

Sales:

Final selections may be reproduced for the sole purpose of raising funds for the Memphis International Airport Community Foundation to help purchase the necessary art supplies for the contest. Should the artwork be purchased, any monies collected from this transaction shall be remitted to the student artist.

Sold/Unsold Art:

All pieces sold during the one-year exhibition will be delivered to the respective buyers, and all remaining selections will be returned to the original artist (Date may vary, but approximately May/June 2028).

Questions:

Questions about the contest may be submitted to arts@flymemphis.com.