

ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND

Children's Stories & Art Exhibition

Inspiring stories. Sparkling imagination.
Creative expression. Stronger communities.



STORIES



LISTENING



IMAGINATION



ART



ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND CHILDREN'S STORIES & ART EXHIBITION 2026

Participation Guidelines

Theme 2026:

"If Stories Could Come Alive,,

Organized by: 365 for Kids

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The Annual Chicagoland Children's Stories & Art Exhibition celebrates the connection between stories, imagination, and artistic expression.

Children and teens are invited to create original artwork inspired by a book, fairy tale, myth, legend, folktale, family story, or audio story.

Through reading, listening, storytelling, and visual art, young artists are encouraged to bring stories to life through their creativity.

ELIGIBILITY

The exhibition is open to children and teens throughout the Chicagoland area.

Age Categories: • Ages 6–9 • Ages 10–13 • Ages 14–17

Participation is free.

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS

- One artwork per participant
- Original artwork only
- Handmade artwork only
- Any traditional art medium may be used
- Artwork must be inspired by a story
- Artwork should reflect thoughtful effort, creativity, and a meaningful connection to the exhibition theme

Artwork must be created by the participating child or teen.

AI-generated images, copied images, or artwork created primarily by an adult are not eligible.

CONTENT GUIDELINES

Artwork must be appropriate for a children's educational and community exhibition.

Submissions may not contain: • Offensive content • Discriminatory content • Hateful content • Violent content • Sexual content • Other inappropriate material

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Create one original artwork inspired by a story.

Photograph the artwork.

Complete the official online submission form.

Upload the artwork photograph.

The submission form includes: • Artwork Title • Story That Inspired the Artwork • Short Description • Artwork Photograph

EXHIBITION & RECOGNITION

All participants who submit a valid entry by the deadline will receive a Certificate of Participation by email.

All artworks that meet the participation guidelines will be included in the exhibition.

Accepted artworks may be featured in:

• The virtual exhibition • Online galleries • Social media • Exhibition publications • The official exhibition catalog

Awards will be presented to:

• 1st Place • 2nd Place • 3rd Place
in each age category.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Deadline: November 15, 2026

Winners & Selection Results Announced: December 1, 2026

Official Exhibition Catalog Published: December 1, 2026

Virtual Exhibition Opens: December 10, 2026

ORGANIZER'S NOTICE

The exhibition organizers reserve the right to decline submissions that do not meet the participation guidelines.

All exhibition, publication, gallery, and award selections are made at the sole discretion of the organizing committee.

Decisions of the organizing committee are final.

SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK



365 for Kids

• *Stories* • *Learning*
• *Creativity* • *Every Day*

365forkids.com

