



Hosted by the District 7680's Peace and Conflict Prevention and Resolution Committee (PCPR)

Deadline for Submissions: April 30, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST

Overview & Purpose

The Art of Peace is an art youth competition designed to engage middle and high school students in exploring peacebuilding through creative expression throughout Rotary District 7680. By inviting students to respond artistically to real challenges in their communities, this initiative positions art as both a reflective practice and a catalyst for empathy, dialogue, and social understanding. The competition centers peace not as the absence of conflict, but as an active, imaginative process grounded in awareness, compassion, and possibility.

The program will serve students from Mecklenburg, Union, Stanly, Anson, Richmond, Cabarrus, Gaston, Cleveland, Rowan, Iredell, Alleghany, Wilkes, Alexander, and Ashe Counties.

Prompt + Submission Requirements

- 1) Choose one issue, conflict, or challenge your community is facing, either internally or externally.**

Your work (film/videography, visual art, or poetry) should:

- Name or show the conflict
- Explore who or what is affected
- Imagine a path toward understanding, repair, change, or peacebuilding

The submission does not need to solve the problem. Instead, it should offer a shift in perspective, a moment of recognition, or a vision where peace becomes possible.

- 2) Complete an Artist Statement**

Address the question (1000 characters maximum):

Why did you choose this issue, and what kind of peaceful change does your work imagine?

3) How to submit your artwork and artist statement?

Click [HERE](#) for the link to submit your information.

Competition Categories

Students may submit **one** piece in **one** of the following three categories:

- 1. Film / Videography**
 - Short films, documentaries, or visual narratives (5 minutes max)
 - May include live action, animation, or mixed media
 - One original piece per student
 - Focus on storytelling that explores conflict and peacebuilding
- 2. Visual Art**
 - Painting, drawing, photography, mixed media, or digital art
 - One original piece per student
 - Artwork should visually interpret peace, conflict, or reconciliation
- 3. Poetry**
 - An original poem
 - May be narrative, lyrical, or experimental in form

Eligibility

- Open to middle school through high school (including early college) students who attend public, private, or homeschool from counties represented by District 7680 including Mecklenburg, Union, Stanly, Anson, Richmond, Cabarrus, Gaston, Cleveland, Rowan, Iredell, Alleghany, Wilkes, Alexander, and Ashe counties.
- Individual submissions only (no group entries)
- One submission per student, one category maximum

Judging Criteria

Entries will be evaluated by a panel using the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme of peacebuilding and fully and thoughtfully answers the prompt
- Depth of reflection and insight
- Creativity and originality

Recognition & Presentation

- **Awards and Recognition**

Each category—Film/Videography, Visual Art, and Poetry—will recognize two winners: one Upper Division winner (high school/early college) and one Lower Division winner (middle

school). Upper Division winners will receive a monetary prize of \$200, and Lower Division winners will receive \$100.

In addition to first-place winners, Honorable Mentions will also be selected in each category to recognize outstanding submissions.

- **Presentation of Awards**

Winning entries and honorable mentions will be recognized during the Rotary District 7680 District Conference 2026 in Asheville from May 29–31st, where selected works will be presented and displayed. Winners will also be invited (optional) to attend the conference for recognition. Selected works may also be featured in district communications, exhibitions, or digital showcases with student permission

Impact

Peace Through Art empowers youth to see themselves as peacebuilders. To learn how to be capable of naming harm, imagining repair, and contributing meaningfully to their communities. By bridging creativity and civic engagement, the competition cultivates empathy, critical reflection, and a hope to build peace.