



SAN DIEGO
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 15-19, 2025

FOCUS ON IMPACT

STUDENT ART COMPETITION & EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Exhibit FOCUS

The San Diego International Film Fest Focus on Impact Education Program is a forum for high school and college students to explore a variety of complex social issues with screenings of short films, curated curriculum and pre-recorded interviews with filmmakers. This exhibit opportunity will challenge and encourage students to design and create artwork that represents the Focus on Impact Education Program values of raising awareness of social issues among students, such as inclusion, equality, cultural identity, climate change, ocean pollution, LGBTQAI+. This opportunity will also highlight the creative and critical thinking skills that are developed by students in visual arts programs across San Diego Unified School District.

Student Recognition

A small group of finalists (approximately 6-10 works) will be featured at the Film Festival in an exhibition. One student work will be selected to be used together with the Festival logo for the 2025 Festival marketing campaign. The artwork may also be used on Festival merchandise that will be sold during the Festival. The profits earned from the sale of the merchandise will be allocated towards the Focus Education program, or we can explore options for dividing the profits, so the Visual Arts department can benefit directly. Finalists will be invited to attend the exhibition opening.

Student Eligibility

Original works created by middle and high school SDUSD students are eligible to submit for consideration. Works in all two-dimensional media (traditional and digital) will be accepted. Works must be submitted digitally for evaluation. Student works may be completely image-based or a combination of text and image.

Criteria

Submitted works will be evaluated by SDUSD educators and the SDFP Leadership Team. They will be evaluated based on the following criteria: level of connection to Exhibit Focus, level of craft demonstrated, and level of creativity demonstrated.

A variety of SDUSD Critical Concepts and Learning Targets can be addressed in the visual arts curriculum when students are developing ideas and creative works for this challenge. See below for examples.

7.AMP1—Develop and apply methods and criteria to meet goals

Prof.AMP2- apply relevant criteria to examine and revise works of art and design in progress

Prof.AME1- Investigate and respond to an aspect of everyday life using contemporary art and design practices

Acc.AME1- Redesign or design in response to contemporary issues

Acc.AME2- Use inquiry methods to investigate unfamiliar subjects through artmaking

Student Works Deadlines (all dates tentative)

May 30, 2025- works submitted with necessary release forms and waivers

June 1-15, 2025- works are evaluated

June 16, 2025- students selected for exhibit are notified.

Additional Information and forms can be found at: www.sdfilmfest.com/art-competition/