



SAN JOSE
DOWNTOWN
FOUNDATION



DOWNTOWN DOORS

2023 Request for Submissions

2023 marks the 20th year of the Downtown Doors program by the San Jose Downtown Foundation (SJDF). The SJDF Board invites your students to create unique, inspiring artwork that can end up publicly displayed on blank utility doors and boxes, helping to transform Downtown into a more vibrant, creative, welcoming and beautiful environment for the entire community.

Submissions Due

All submissions are due by midnight Friday, March 24, 2023.

About San Jose Downtown Foundation and Downtown Doors

SJDF is a non-profit organization founded in 1995 focused on enhancing the cultural, aesthetic and educational environment downtown. Its primary program is Downtown Doors, which gives local high school artists the opportunity

In 2019, Downtown Doors was awarded the coveted Cornerstone of the Arts Creative Impact Award for making a significant impact on our city.

Each year, the look and feel of Downtown San Jose is refreshed with the creative artworks of local high school students whose artwork was selected from students from over 20 schools. Since the start of this program in 2003, student art pieces have been digitized, transferred into vinyl decals and installed on downtown service doors and utility boxes more than 330 times. They are located throughout downtown along busy pedestrian routes, where the artwork can be seen and admired. A walking map of the Downtown Doors is distributed widely through the Downtown Association and the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs.

We welcome you to encourage your students to create and submit artwork to Downtown Doors. This spring, we are excited to hold an in-person reception again, where we can all gather to celebrate the minds and talents of our community's young artists. Students whose piece has been selected to be displayed downtown will receive an award package and honorarium, and their school will also receive an honorarium.

Judging Criteria

- Artwork enhances the environment and has aesthetic quality - is dynamic and makes people stop and look.
- Content is appropriate for all ages and respectful to all communities.
- Content is not political, commercial or religious.

Timeline

- **Friday, March 24, 2023** – Submissions due
- **Late March** – Art Selection Committee reviews and selects 20 winning artworks
- **By April 10** – Winning students and teachers notified and invited to the reception
- **Early May** – Winning artworks are installed on downtown doors and utility boxes
- **May 4 (Time TBD)** – Artist reception ceremony!

Artistic Guidelines

- Original artwork must be larger than 8.5” x 11” and smaller than 36” x 36” for consideration.
- Photographs must be taken at the highest resolution possible – a minimum of 300 DPI.
- Students must have written permission to use any copyrighted material.
- Artwork will remain the property of the artist, however, each program participant must sign an Artist Waiver.
- Selected artists will be expected to create a one-minute video describing their work to be included in the ceremony.

Tips for Students & Teachers

- Think big! Design concepts that translate well onto a larger scale.
- Artwork might be cropped to fit a specific selected site.
- Encourage the highest standards of workmanship, showing significant time investment and thought in design, color, contrast, and content.
- Submit a variety of portrait-oriented and landscape-oriented entries - door sites vary from square to rectangular.
- The larger the original artwork, the better the definition when it is enlarged to fit the door site.
- When designing utility box artwork, the best type of image would be something that can stand on its own on each side but wrap around all four sides to make a complete image.

Submitting Artwork

Each participating school is limited to 10 pieces for consideration. Multiple entries from one student may be submitted as part of the 10 pieces, but only one entry may be chosen.

Submissions will be online only. Email a folder (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.) of all student artwork and supporting documentation to sjdf@sjdowntown.com by midnight on Friday, March 24, 2023. Please also complete the forms listed below.

Each school submission should include:

1. One .jpg file of each piece of art to be considered.
2. One higher resolution file in any one of the following formats – AI, PSD, TIFF or EPS.
3. Completed [Artist Waiver](#) per student.
4. Completed [Student Information Form](#) per student.
5. Completed [Teacher Survey](#).
6. Completed W-9 for your school.

Additional Information

To see our latest Downtown Doors winning exhibits, visit sjdowntown.com/doors.

Contact

For questions or more information, please contact the San Jose Downtown Foundation at sjdf@sjdowntown.com.