

CALL for YOUTH-FOCUSED POLITICAL ART

Opportunity to Join Cadre 2 of the National Youth Art Movement Against Gun Violence

NYAM Overview

[National Youth Art Movement Against Gun Violence](#) (NYAM) is a Chicago-based organization with a mission to foster artistic talent in youth directly impacted by gun violence, letting art give voice to their experience. NYAM has the twin-focus of raising marginalized youth to the position of thought leaders in gun reform by giving them the opportunity to use their talent to transform commercial spaces into grassroots, counter narratives while simultaneously serving as a vehicle to motivate more residents to take action.

To this end, in its pilot year, NYAM commissioned youth in the city of Chicago to create and share their stories in the form of 16 interactive artworks placed on commercial billboards across the city.

- The billboard artwork of these youth were integrated with Augmented Reality technology to create interactive teachable moments in people's daily lives.
- Involving the city's youth in transformative learning through individual meaning-making through art is integral to NYAM's activist agenda, the goal of which is to support the development of persons and communities in creating alternative futures that transcend current social ills.

A few of NYAM's accomplishments to date include:

- In 2017, NYAM emerging artists were invited to showcase their artwork at the [Noble Peace Prize Forum](#) in Minneapolis.
- In 2018, NYAM emerging artists were selected to facilitate a demonstration of the NYAM project at the prestigious Human Factors in Computing conference (CHI2018), session entitled: "[Art, Human Computer Interaction, and Shared Experiences: A Gun Violence Prevention Intervention.](#)"
- In 2018, in response to the Parkland shooting and as complement to the March for Our Lives (MFOL) protests, the youth artist-activists of NYAM launched a protest poster campaign entitled "Art for our Lives" to complement the March for Our Lives movement. NYAM protest posters were carried in DC, Chicago, Orlando, Oakland and other MFOL sites across the country.

CALL-FOR-ART

NYAM is partnering with *Get Loud Now*, a political postcard platform, as a featured content provider. The purpose of *Get Loud Now* is to make postcard activism an easy and streamlined process that individuals and groups can use to contact city, state, and national politicians in order to have a direct impact on the political process for issues like gun violence legislation. As a content provider, NYAM artists will design artwork to be used in local and national gun violence prevention campaigns.

Youth/Emerging Artists between the ages of 12 and 25 years old who are interested in the opportunity to participate in NYAM's partnership with *Get Loud Now* are asked to complete and submit the following by Saturday, August 18:

Art Exercise

- 1) Look up the definitions of the following words:
 - a. Identity
 - b. Experience
 - c. Point of View
 - d. Perception

- 2) Use these words and their meanings as a starting point for reflecting on how gun violence affects you, your family, your community – whether it is through a personal experience with gun violence, the fear and worry of getting caught up in gun violence, and/or your feelings about living in a city or a neighborhood that is perceived as violent. Write a paragraph on what comes to your mind.
- 3) Considering what you just wrote – What do you think people would need to know, feel, and experience through artwork that could motivate them to help stop violence? What objects, symbols, people, and/or places would you include to spark this motivation?
- 4) Focusing on the meaning of just one of the key words above, develop an image (with pen and ink, paint, and/or markers) on an 8.5x 11 sheet of paper that tells a story that connects the meaning of the word with your thoughts, feelings, and/or experience with gun violence and what you believe people need to see, feel, and understand to become activists. Make sure the dimensions of your artwork is landscape and not portrait. And – FYI – including an image of a gun is not always the strongest way to illustrate your message and if a gun is included the artwork should be very thoughtful in its execution. Look at NYAM’s past artwork for examples.

Submission Requirements

For those youth/emerging artists between the ages of 12 and 25 years old who choose to submit artwork to NYAM – this opportunity is not only just for getting your artwork on the Get Loud Now Platform. It also means that you must be willing to participate in workshops to explore the issue of gun violence as a collective and to receive mentoring to enhance your artwork and talents. Additionally, by submitting artwork to NYAM, you will be in consideration to be selected to join NYAM (a 1-year commitment) to take part in further art presentation and education opportunities.

Deadline of Saturday, August 18 at 5 pm for the call for art:

- At minimum a 300 DPI JPEG in color of the artwork. The file should be named as follows: LastName_FirstName_ArtworkTitle.jpg
- 500-word essay on the meaning of the artwork submitted, the significance of objects in the artwork, and what message this artwork is meant to communicate and to whom. Included on this document should be the artist’s full name, age, phone number, home address, and email as well as confirmation of availability to take part in ALL four workshops in June. The file should be named as follows: LastName_FirstName_ArtworkTitle.jpg
- A confidential recommendation and ranking must also be submitted by a teacher or mentor by the August 18 deadline – see attached form to be completed for each submission. The file should be named as follows: Artist’sLastName_FirstName_Recommendation.jpg

All items should be submitted to the Dropbox on the **Submissions** page of the NYAM website [<https://www.nationalyouthartmovement.org>] no later than 5 pm on the announced deadline for submission. Youth artwork and essays should be submitted separately from the teacher/mentor assessments of the learner/mentee.