

WILLIAM PEDUTO
MAYOR



JAM HAMMOND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CITY OF PITTSBURGH
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
CITY-COUNTY BUILDING

Press Contact:
Jam Hammond
Jam.Hammond@Pittsburghpa.gov
412-255-2600

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2021

The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PghCHR) is proud to announce that it will be holding its annual Human Rights Speaks Creative Arts Contest for youth. PghCHR is inviting students who live in or go to school in the City of Pittsburgh in grades 6th-12th to come up with their own, original answer to the following prompt:

The New Pittsburgh Courier, originally published as the Pittsburgh Courier, has been in publication for over a century. The Courier became one of the most well-known Black newspapers in the U.S. through a commitment to advancing civil and human rights. Under the leadership of Robert L. Vann, the Courier attracted a variety of African American journalists and intellectuals, such as Frank Bolden, Evelyn Cunningham, George Schuyler, Elijah Muhammad, Zora Neale Hurston, and W.E.B. DuBois, and many others. The Courier famously documented the plight of African Americans in Pittsburgh and beyond on the precipice of the Civil Rights Movement to expose the hypocrisies of discrimination in American society and demand change. The unique perspectives of Courier staff and contributors have informed and inspired others. As an institution, the Courier has helped shape history in our city and our world through its ongoing recognition and telling of stories that support and empower the Black community.

In keeping with the tradition of the Pittsburgh Courier, PghCHR is asking this year's contestants to answer the following question: What human rights story do you want to tell?

PghCHR encourages creativity and self-expression. Entries must be the original work of the person entering the contest. Each contestant may submit only one entry and may choose from one of the three categories:

- **Writing:** a poem, essay, or fiction or non-fiction story. Entries may not be more than 1,000 words.
- **Physical or Tactile Art:** a painting, sculpture, or fashion. Entries may include a short, written explanation of the entry of no more than 50 words on a separate document or paper.

- **Digital Art:** a music/song recording, music video, short film, photograph, or graphic design. Entries may not be more than 5 minutes long

There will be two age groups awarded prizes (Middle School: 6th-8th; and High School: 9th-12th) in each of the three categories (digital art, physical art, and writing). **First place winners** in each group and category will receive prizes **valued at \$250 or more** and public recognition. **Prizes will be monetary and non-monetary.** Please complete our entry form when submitting your entry and provide necessary identifying information, including name, grade, school, the type of entry (Written, Physical Art, or Digital Art), and the title of the entry.

Contestants can begin submitting their entries on October 1st, 2021, and all entries are due by October 31st, 2021. Entries can be submitted in one of the following ways:

- For all entries, email the file or link for the work to human.relations@pittsburghpa.gov with the subject line “Human Rights Speaks Submission.” Include all of the entry information in the email or attached document.

- For physical or tangible entries, you can either drop off your entry during normal office hours, 9 AM – 5 PM, M-F, or email a photograph or short video of the entry, along with a short description. The short description may be in an attached document. The video should be no more than 20 seconds long.

- If you are not able to email your entry or drop it off during normal business hours, please contact us to try to make arrangements.

For more information on the contest, please visit our webpage at pittsburghpa.gov/chr/human-rights-speaks. You can access printable contest materials and view the 2020 winners’ submissions. We look forward to continuing our Human Rights Speaks Creative Arts Contest. The Human Rights Speaks Creative Arts Contest is a safe space for Pittsburgh’s youth to speak about human rights, civil rights, justice, equality, and equity, and aims to expand awareness of the existence and work of the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations.

If you have any questions or concerns or need to request an accommodation, translation, or interpretation, please call us at 412-255-2600 or 412-426-5449, or email us at human.relations@pittsburghpa.gov.

Special thanks to all our sponsors:

Allegheny County Bar Association Arts and the Law Committee

American Eagle Outfitters

ASCEND Pittsburgh

Carnegie Library

Construction Junction

Heinz History Center

Highmark

Mattress Factory

Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse

Pittsburgh Pirates

Pittsburgh Racial Justice Summit, A Multicultural Initiative of the
Black & White Reunion

Media Sponsor:

WQED