

Olympics of the Visual Arts

Competition Guidelines



NEW YORK STATE ART TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Welcome!

WELCOME

Submission
Guidelines

Team
Introduction

Evidence of
Research

Design
Planning

Event Day
Details

Awards
Info

FAQs



Thank you for choosing to enter a creative design solution in this year's OVA event.



This document has been created to provide your team with guidelines and the requirements for completing your OVA entry and supporting documentation.



Your team will install your long term design solution and planning portfolio on site at the Saratoga City Center on April 30th.



It is important to read and review the information in this document very carefully and follow the competition directions. If you need support along the way please email us at ova@nysata.org

Welcome

WELCOME

Submission
Guidelines

Team
Introduction

Evidence of
Research

Design
Planning

Event Day
Details

Awards
Info

FAQs



At OVA 2026, the long term design problems will be scored on site. **ALL** Category teams (including Fashion) will also complete in an on-demand design challenge.



[Link to Sample Rubric on NYSATA website](#)



The **on-demand spontaneous design problem** will be scored and the points **will be added** to the scores of the category design solution.



Teams are required to upload a slide with a photograph of their completed long term design solution **PRIOR** to the event date. **Teams who fail to upload their slide will not be eligible for awards.**



Submitted slides will be shared at the event and used to announce awards.

WELCOME

Submission
Guidelines

Team
Introduction

Evidence of
Research

Design
Planning

Event Day
Details

Awards
Info

FAQs

EVENT
Date
April 30

Competition Guidelines



Competition Guidelines



Teams arrive to the Saratoga City Center with their long term designs & portfolios ready to install, their supplies for the on-demand design competition, and their bag lunches in a box/bin.



1 District Representative will report to the check-in table with the **registration form, chaperone form, and media release forms.** Teams will be assigned numbers and be directed where set up. **Teams do not select their own spaces.**



Every effort will be made to provide equitable space for teams to set up and work on their on-demand challenge. Flexibility and cooperation of all teams is expected. Volunteer coordinators oversee team installation and competition.



Teams must clearly display their assigned number on their **category entry, portfolio, and completed on-demand solution.**

Competition Guidelines



Teams are required to upload a LINK to a slide (*anyone can edit setting*) with a jpeg or png file of their completed long term design solution by 4pm **THURS. APRIL 23rd** , in order to be eligible for awards.



The upload access link will be on the OVA page of the NYSATA Website. Photos should be clear resolution and tightly cropped with little to no background. (Students should NOT be in the photo.)



Slide Links should be titled according to the example below:

Category.DistrictName.Level

Example: (Painting.Hicksville.Middle)

Levels are: Elementary, Middle, HS

WELCOME

Submission
Guidelines

Team
Introduction

Evidence of
Research

Design
Planning

Event Day
Details

Awards
Info

FAQs

Read each
section
carefully!

Team Introduction



Team Introduction

Each team will present their planning portfolio alongside their long term design solution. The **FIRST PAGE** should contain a team introduction.

The Introduction should communicate the following information:

- The Design Category
- Your NYSATA Region
- Your School Name
- Your School District
- All Team Member Names w/grades
- Art Teacher Advisor
- Advisor Email Contact
- **TEAM/ARTIST** Statement

The Artist/Team Statement should briefly describe yourself and explain how you chose to respond to the design prompt in this category.

Cite sources
for Evidence
of Research

Evidence of Research



Research

In the portfolio include a section highlighting the research the team conducted when brainstorming and developing the design.



WEBSITE LINKS **ALONE** are **NOT** considered research. Links to websites may only be included to *cite sources*.



JUDGES **WILL NOT** consider research if it is only a link to a website.



You **MUST** capture your research in your own words, images, or recorded statements. You may include pictures of your resource books or imagery. (*Website addresses are simply to cite your sources.*)

Artistic Integrity

Artistic Integrity Understanding



Artistic Integrity refers to an artist's commitment to generate their own original ideas and work. All work that is entered for adjudication in O.V.A. must be original, created by the participants. If existing artworks, images or Ai are used in the creation of work, they must be documented and cited. All work should represent original ideas AND a significant transformation of any images used. (beyond changed colors, cropping, or material use)



For more help on student Artistic Integrity, visit:

<https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/copyright-plagiarism/>

WELCOME

Submission
Guidelines

Team
Introduction

Evidence of
Research

Design
Planning

Event Day
Details

Awards
Info

FAQs

Show Us
Evidence of
Brainstorming
& Designing

Design Planning



Design Plans

In the portfolio include a section documenting your design development process. How did your design evolve? Help us understand your process?



Evidence of your Brainstorming and Planning of your Design Solution Process can be shown in sketches, photos or other images.



Journalled notes and written remarks can help describe your decision making process.



You may also reference your **Artist Statement** from your introduction page to further explain your overall design solution.

WELCOME

Submission
Guidelines

Team
Introduction

Evidence of
Research

Design
Planning

Event Day
Details

Awards
Info

FAQs

Upload
Entry
Photo by
Apr. 23

Event Day Details



Event Day Details

Upon arrival and check in, teams will be assigned a number and report to areas by category for set up directions.



OVA volunteers are in charge of each category to assign teams their spaces and oversee the competition.



Following the Opening Ceremony ALL category teams will develop the On Demand Design until noon.



Fashion teams will participate in a parade in the main hall before lunch.



Awards are presented in each category at each level of competition.

Media Release Waivers



Upon Check in please include a Media Release Form for **EACH** team member. Staple them together for each team.



Link to the Media Release form is on the OVA page of the NYSATA website.



Photos of entries and candids from the event may be used to celebrate and promote the event on social media, and within NYSATA and its associated networks.

On-Demand Design Challenge



Teams may use any and all designated materials in their on-demand design solution.



Materials to use on the spontaneous design include **only**:

White drawing paper (8 pieces- 18x24), Colored Paper (8 pieces- 12x18), Masking tape 1 roll, Box 24 Crayons, Scissors, Glue Stick, Pencils, Erasers, 2-3 Magazines, 3 ft Long String, Large Plastic Bag



All Teams in every category (including Fashion) will participate in the On-Demand Design Challenge.



All spontaneous designs will be assessed by the judges and scores will be added to the team total.

Awards are
presented
at each
level.

Awards Information



Awards Information



Volunteer judges will be assigned to the 8 categories. They will provide quantitative and qualitative feedback for the teams. The top three scores at each level in each category will be announced during the awards ceremony.



The Rubric used by adjudicators will cover the following criteria: [RUBRIC link](#)

- Evidence of brainstorming and research
- Clear presentation of planning and research
- Imagination/originality/risk taking
- Communicates/answers the design problem
- Quality craftsmanship of presentation (including how the slides are presented)

Awards Information



The OVA committee plans to provide each team a summary of judge feedback to share with students upon departure.



Awards will be presented in **each level** of **each category** .

- First Place
- Second Place
- Third Place



Hyndman Creativity Awards may be presented to teams as determined by the judges.



Ribbons and plaques are distributed during the afternoon award ceremony.

WELCOME

Submission
Guidelines

Team
Introduction

Evidence of
Research

Design
Planning

Event Day
Details

Awards
Info

FAQs

Contact
ova@nysata.org

FAQs



FAQs

 When should I arrive? **April 30, 2026**
between 8:30-9:30am

 Where should busses and parents park?
Drop off on the side street, Ellsworth Jones Place. Parking in the lot behind the City Center the connected garage or off site.

 Follow Up info will be sent about parking, arrival and departure.

 What should we wear to OVA? **Many groups design team T-Shirts. The ONLINE OVA merchandise STORE will offer items you may wish to pre-order to ship or pick up onsite.**

 When will the On-Demand Design Problem occur? **Right after the Opening Ceremony at 10:30am**

FAQs



What limits are there on size for entries?
All entries must not exceed 16 square feet



What are the Install Rules? **There may be NO use of water or any WET materials on/in entries. NO Items may be attached to the walls of the City Center. NO electric is available for installation. No helium balloons.**



How much does the Portfolio count towards the team total? **15 out of 45 points**



Where can we eat lunch? **There is room to designated in the upstairs meeting room. Outside is an option too if weather permits .**



When are awards announced? **After the Fashion Parade and lunch, the Closing Awards Ceremony is scheduled from 2-3pm.**

FAQs



Why is the Design Solution Slide Upload necessary? **The Committee uses the slides to prepare the awards ceremony slideshow, and slides that run during the event. We also post entries on the NYSATA website.**



What are the Social Media Sites to post and tag your work?

Instagram= @olympicsofthevisualarts

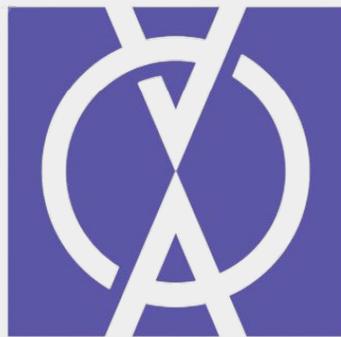
Facebook= Olympics of the Visual Arts



What are the rules for Break Down after the Awards? **NYSATA and the OVA**

Committee strive to maintain good relations with our host venue. Be sure to carry out all items your team brought in and leave the space as you found it. PLAN AHEAD and bringing extra garbage bags is recommended.

We hope
to see
you again
in 2027!



OLYMPICS ^{OF THE}
VISUAL ARTS



NEW YORK STATE ART TEACHERS ASSOCIATION