March 13, 2012

Dear Friends:

Once again, I am proud to announce that The Congressional Art Competition is now underway. Each spring, the nation-wide high school arts contest is sponsored by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nation-wide competition. The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent that exists throughout the nation.

I would like to invite you to select your schools top candidates to represent your campus. You will be required to submit their entries to my District Office by April 20, 2012. The Congressional Art Competition is open to all high school students within the 33rd Congressional District. Please follow the 2012 Art Competition Guidelines. The student must fill out and sign the Information/Release Form to be considered a candidate. The artwork and form must be submitted to my District Office.

Principals and art instructors are who are interested in advising students to participate in the competition are invited to call (323) 965-1422 or visit my District Office, 4929 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 650, Los Angeles, CA 90010 for more information.

An independent panel of judges and an online voting site will select one winner from our Congressional District that displays outstanding creativity and insight. All entries submitted must be an original in concept, design, and execution. The overall winner will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol.

If you would like more information on the annual Congressional District Art Competition please contact Lauren Johnson in our office at (323) 965-1422 or visit my website at www.karendownes.house.gov

I look forward to having our district represented in this competition.

Sincerely,

Karen Bass
US House of Representatives
California, 33rd District
2012 GUIDELINES
FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

General Guidelines

The competition is open to high school students only. Exceptions may be made for schools that have
7th through 12th grades on one campus.

Artwork must be two-dimensional.

Each framed piece can be no larger than 28" x 28" x 4" (28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4
inches deep). If your artwork is selected as the winning piece, it will be required to be framed and
must still adhere to the size guidelines.

Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 pounds.

Artwork accepted mediums are as follows:
- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (It is recommended that
  charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)
- Collage: must be two dimensional
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer-generated art
- Photography

Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright
laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting,
graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the
competition rules and will not be accepted. Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not
a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).

Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned to the
students earlier. Students should, therefore, submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

The final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2012 Congressional Art Competition
exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the
Capitol. Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance
with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic
or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired
by the Architect of the Capitol and any portion not in consonance with the Commission’s policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

**Framing Guidelines**

Framing guidelines apply only to the ONE winning artist/artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC. Each Member of Congress may include additional entry rules for his or her own District; please consult your Representative’s office to see whether a frame is required for entry. Even if your Member of Congress does not require a frame to enter the artwork in the competition, **if your artwork is selected for display in Washington, it must have a frame.**

**All winning artwork must be framed.** Frames should be wood or metal and should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended. No “snap on” frames with glass are to be used.

All artwork except works in oil or acrylic on canvas must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, special packing and shipping arrangements are encouraged to ensure that the work is not damaged if the glass breaks.

All works, **including frame,** should be **no larger** than 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, to the outside of the frame, and 15 pounds in weight. Please double check the size before sending the entry to Washington, DC. Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed work larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.

Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.

Use sturdy picture hangers on the back of the frame. For wood frames, two sturdy eye hooks should be attached at the top right and left sides of the back of the work for hanging in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. For metal frames, solid hangers should be used. Do not put wire between the hooks for hanging; it will be added when the artwork is hung in the Capitol.

Do not attach labels, ribbons, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.

If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the back which side is “up” with arrows.
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. THIS INFORMATION IS USED FOR CERTIFICATES AND AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS. INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MEMBER/DISTRICT INFORMATION

| MEMBER OF CONGRESS NAME: | STATE: |

STUDENT INFORMATION

| NAME: | GRADE: |
| STREET ADDRESS: | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT): | |
| STUDENT EMAIL: | |
| T-SHIRT SIZE: | |
| PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME(S): | |
| PARENT PHONE: | PARENT WORK PHONE: |

SCHOOL

| SCHOOL NAME: | |
| STREET ADDRESS: | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| ART TEACHER NAME: | |
| ART TEACHER PHONE: | ART TEACHER EMAIL: |

ART COMPETITION ENTRY

| TITLE OF ENTRY: | |
| MEDIUM: | |
| DESCRIPTION: | |

Please include a detailed description of the artwork, clearly identifying the major elements of the piece.

FRAMED DIMENSIONS: Height: _______ inches Width: _______ inches Depth: _______ inches

See official guidelines for framed size and artwork weight restrictions.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE RELEASE FORM ON PAGE 2.
### 2012 Congressional Art Competition
Student Information & Release Form

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#### (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT NAME:</th>
<th>STATE:</th>
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<td>TITEL OF ENTRY:</td>
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#### ORIGINALITY CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the art entry described above is an original work of authorship by the undersigned student and that it is not copied from, nor does it include, any other person’s copyrighted work.

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<tr>
<th>STUDENT SIGNATURE</th>
<th>ART TEACHER SIGNATURE</th>
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#### ARTWORK RELEASE

We, the undersigned, represent that the art entry described above is an original work of authorship personally created by the undersigned student to which the student is entitled copyright protection. In consideration for the acceptance of the art entry by the Member of Congress designated above in *An Artistic Discovery* (the Congressional Art Competition sponsored by the U.S. House of Representatives) and intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned grant the Member and the House the right to publicly display the art entry, if it is selected for display, in accordance with the rules of the Art Competition, for a period of two years from the latest date on this form. The undersigned acknowledge that the final decision regarding the suitability of an art entry to be displayed in the Capitol will be made by a House panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. The undersigned also grant the Member, the House, their employees and agents, and the United States the right to reproduce the art entry for any non-commercial purpose. The undersigned further grant the Member, the House, their employees and agents, and the United States from any and all liability for damage, loss, or misappropriation of the art entry during and subsequent to the Art Competition. The undersigned further agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Member, the House, their employees and agents, and the United States against any and all claims of any nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, claims of copyright infringement, by any party whatsoever, arising out of or in any way related to the submission of the art entry in the Art Competition.

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<th>STUDENT SIGNATURE</th>
<th>PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (IF UNDER 18)</th>
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#### MEMBER APPROVAL (FOR OVERALL WINNER ONLY)

I have viewed the above-signed student’s artwork and approve of its content. I understand that by signing this form I am supporting this artwork and am responsible for its content.

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<th>MEMBER SIGNATURE</th>
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