

Ralph Ellison Foundation Expressions Artists Submission Guidelines

In order to be selected and displayed, the submission must meet 5 out of the 8 requirements:

ART

- Representation – Does the artwork represent a notion or idea valued by sectors of the community?
- Historical – Does the artwork have historical value?
- Impact – Does the artwork have emotional, inspirational or intellectual impact?
- Value – Will this item be available for purchase price and if so, at what price?
- Safety – Does the work meet safety standards? (age appropriate, sexual nature etc.)
- Technicality – Is the design technically feasible?
- Creativity – Is the design visionary and creative?
- Quality – Is the work of the highest quality?

MUSIC

- Does the artist have music on one or more social media platforms?
- Is the music original and displays potential?
- Are there any musical reviews?
- Is it genre appropriate?
- Does it address a social issue?
- Will this item be available for purchase price and if so, at what price?
- Does the artist own the copyright to their music?
- Are there video performances to accompany the music?

In order to be selected and displayed, the submission must meet all of the 4 requirements:

WRITING / POETRY

- Structure – clear story/poetic arc; flows together as a whole.
- Use of Language – proper/appropriate grammar and spelling; complexity of sentence and vocabulary.
- Theme – clear, well thought out; presented in creative way.
- Expressions – vivid imagery, language; unique voice.

VIDEO

- Is the idea practical?
- Does it effectively tell a story?
- Is it a motivating message?
- Is the message clear and compelling?

- Is it a new or big idea?
- Does it have visual appeal?
- Does it have artistic merit?
- Does it have adequate audio / video quality?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- VISUAL ART - Submit 3 - 5 high-quality images in jpeg format. Images must be a minimum of 600px wide and an artist statement not exceeding 500 words.
- MUSIC - Submit 3 - 5 relevant files in .mp3 format and an artist statement not exceeding 500 words.
- VIDEO - Submit 1 - 3 relevant excerpts or videos with a short written synopsis for each item submitted. All material presented in the *videos* (including soundtrack) should be original, from the authors, or the authors should have proper permission to use it.
- FICTION - Submit one short story or a novel excerpt (with one-page synopsis).
- CREATIVE NONFICTION - Essay may not be a research paper. It may be opinion/editorial, biography, in-depth/feature story or personal essay.
- PLAYS/SCREENPLAYS - Monologue, one act or excerpt (with one-page synopsis).
- POETRY - Submit 3 poems.