



SITAR ARTS CENTER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE POSTER AND T-SHIRT ART CONTEST

Sitar Arts Center invites artists of all ages living in Washington, DC, to submit original designs for Sitar's 25th Anniversary Commemorative Poster and T-Shirt Art Contest!

For 25 years, Sitar Arts Center has provided high-quality, affordable arts education to children, teens, and young adults across Washington, DC. By removing financial and cultural barriers to arts education and career training, Sitar ensures that all young people—regardless of their background—have access to the transformative power of the arts.

This contest is an opportunity for artists of all levels to join Sitar in celebrating its 25th anniversary, showcase their talents, and be a part of a growing creative community of learning and belonging.

THEME

Since 2000, Sitar Arts Center has been a community anchor in Adams Morgan, and it is the people—students, families, artists, and supporters—who make Sitar truly special. Artwork **designs should draw inspiration from the essence and meaning of community**, reflecting themes of connection, creativity, and belonging.

Sitar is unique in that it brings all the arts under one roof, offering programs in visual arts, music, theater, dance, and digital arts. Artists may choose to highlight these artistic disciplines, but if represented, all disciplines must be incorporated to reflect Sitar's multidisciplinary approach. Additionally, designs can incorporate elements that represent Sitar's core values—equity, belonging, balance, trust, transformation, and collaboration.

Designs may be abstract or representational, but they should capture the spirit of Sitar and the transformative power of the arts.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all artists living in Washington, DC.

DESIGN

Submissions must be **100% original in idea, design and execution, and created solely by the artist entering the contest**. Designs may not include AI-generated images or copyrighted materials unless the artist holds an extended commercial license granting the right to use such materials in products for sale. Entries that do not meet these criteria will be disqualified and ineligible for judging.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Medium:** Entries may be created digitally or in any traditional 2D medium (painting, drawing, watercolor, collage, mixed media, etc.).
- **Design Size:** minimum design size is 8" x 10", and the maximum is 18" x 24".
- **File Requirements:** Digital designs must be saved as a high-resolution JPG or PDF (300 DPI or higher). Traditional 2D designs must be scanned at their original size and saved as a high-resolution JPG or PDF (300 DPI or higher). Or traditional 2D designs must be photographed at the highest resolution possible. The image must fill the frame, and the edges must be square. No background or background objects should be visible. Photographed work must be well lit and free of glares and shadows.
 - [Click here](#) for tips on how to photograph artwork.
 - [Click here](#) for common mistakes made when photographing artwork.
- **Limit:** Up to **two (2) designs** per artist.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY

Entries must be submitted electronically. Visit <https://www.sitarartscenter.org/news-events/postercontest> complete the entry form and upload design files. Include your name, age, address, phone number, and email.

Entries submitted by a minor must include the name, email and phone number of a parent or legal guardian. All entry forms must be electronically signed by the artist (if 18 years of age or older) or a parent/legal guardian (if the artist is under 18 years of age).

Deadline to submit entries is Friday, July 11, 2025, 11:59 p.m. EDT.

JUDGING, WINNER SELECTION and AWARD CATEGORIES

All entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges comprising of Sitar staff and volunteers. Jurors will use a point-based system to evaluate designs based on interpretation of the theme, originality, visual impact, and overall creativity of the design.

One (1) design will be selected as the grand-prize winning design and will be used in the creation of Sitar’s 25th anniversary commemorative poster and T-shirt. Some elements of the grand prize-winning artwork may be used in/on additional 25th anniversary merchandise and marketing materials.

Four (4) designs will be selected as honorable mentions across four categories. Some elements of any of the four honorable mention artwork designs may be used in/on 25th anniversary marketing materials.

- Adult (22+)
- Young Adult (16-21)
- Youth (15 and under)
- Sitar Artist (current or former student)

Honorable mention winners will be selected by an online vote open to the public. Designs receiving the most votes in each category will earn the distinction of honorable mention.

All entries will be considered for the grand-prize award and adult, young adult and youth honorable mentions. All artists who are currently or have previously taken a class or participated in a Sitar program will be considered for the Sitar artist honorable mention category. Artists are eligible to be selected as the grand-prize winner and as an honorable mention winner.

AWARDS

- **Grand Prize:** \$400 and featured as the official design of Sitar Arts Center 25th anniversary commemorative poster and T-shirt
- **Adult Honorable Mention (22+):** \$100
- **Young Adult Honorable Mention (16-21):** \$100
- **Youth Honorable Mention (15 & under):** \$100
- **Sitar Artist Honorable Mentions** (current or former student): \$100

ANNOUNCEMENT

Winners will be announced during Sitar’s 25th anniversary community event (to be announced) in September 2025. Winners do not have to be present to receive their award. Winners who are not present at the event will be notified by email and their monetary prize will be mailed.

The grand-prize winning design and four honorable mention designs will be displayed at Sitar Arts Center and/or Sitar Next Door during the block party and become part of Sitar’s rotating permanent collection of artwork on display at the Center.

TIMELINE

- **Entry Deadline:** Friday, July 11, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EDT
- **Online Public Voting:** Monday, July 21 – Friday, August 1, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EDT
- **Winners Announced & Artwork Unveiling:** September 2025 at Sitar’s 25th anniversary community event (to be announced)

CONTEST TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Entries that do not meet the submission guidelines will be disqualified and will not be considered for the grand-prize award or honorable mentions.
- By entering this contest, winners grant Sitar Arts Center permission to use their name, likeness, and artwork for promotional and marketing purposes without additional compensation, where permitted by law.
- Sitar Arts Center reserves the right to crop, resize, or make minor modifications to the winning design as needed to accommodate various communication channels and production formats.
- The grand-prize winning artist grants Sitar Arts Center the rights to reproduce their winning design for use on posters, T-shirts, and other merchandise (to be determined post-contest) to be sold for fundraising purposes.
- The grand-prize winning artist may be required to sign an affidavit confirming that they hold an extended commercial license granting the right to use any copyrighted materials present in their design for products intended for sale.
- For reproduction purposes, the grand-prize winning artist may be required to provide an original design file (e.g., PSD, AI, EPS, etc.). If a design file is required, the grand-prize winner will be notified by **Friday, August 1, 2025**, with the final file due by **Friday, August 8, 2025**.
- The grand-prize winner agrees not to publicly disclose their selection or winning design until after **Sitar Arts Center's official announcement at the 25th anniversary community event (to be announced) in September 2025**.

QUESTIONS? Please contact communications@sitarartscenter.org

