



# **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

## **ART & ESSAY CONTEST**

OPEN TO ALL GRADE-LEVELS  
IN LEON COUNTY

RECEPTION EVENT ON FEBRUARY 6TH (4:00- 6:00 P.M.)  
AT TALLAHASSEE CITY HALL

SPONSORED BY:



**DETAILS ON BACK!**

# Leon County Black History Month Art & Essay Competition

*Celebrate Black History Month with Creativity and Inspiration!*

Calling all young creatives! Showcase your talents and honor historical Black leaders by participating in our Black History Month Art & Essay Competition.

## Competition Categories (*More Details in Enclosed Letter*)

### 1. Audio

- Create a rap or jingle (2 minutes or less) on a selected subject.

### 2. Writing

- Junior (Grades 4-8): Essay or poem (250 words or less).
- Senior (Grades 9-12): Essay or poem (500 words or less).

### 3. Visual

Draw or paint a selected subject and include a one-paragraph description highlighting their societal contribution.



## Prompts

Choose one historical figure:

- Zora Neale Hurston
- Hawk Massalina
- Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune
- Frederick Douglass



Answer these questions in your submission:

1. Why should this person be celebrated during Black History Month?
2. What unique contributions did they make to our country?
3. If you met this person, what would you ask them?

## Special Junior Activity (Grades K-3 ONLY)

### Color & Reflect

- Color a provided drawing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Answer these questions:

1. Why do you think we celebrate Dr. King?
2. If you met Dr. King, what would you ask him?

## Submissions

Leon County written and drawn entries need to be turned in to **The Commerce Group** located at **104 South Monroe St, Tallahassee FL 32301** during the week of January 27-31, before 5:00 p.m. (EST). **Please call this number prior to delivering the entry to ensure the office is open: 850-425-1344.** Rap or song entries need to be submitted in a digital or electronic format that can be easily listened to on a computer such as a YouTube recording or .mp3 file and emailed to [blake@lwvfl.org](mailto:blake@lwvfl.org) by January 31, 2025, 5:00 p.m. (EST). *The rap or song can also be placed on a flash drive and delivered to the office designated above.*

**CO-PRESIDENTS**

Cecile M. Scoon, Esq.  
Debbie Chandler, Esq.

December 19, 2024

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Dear Leon County Schools,

We are reaching out today on behalf of the **Our Voices, Our History, Our Future Coalition**, a working coalition composed of the League of Women Voters of Florida, Common Cause Florida, the NAACP Florida State Conference, and Florida Watch who are dedicated to promoting civic engagement in our state.

**In order to advance this objective and to celebrate Black History Month in February, we are holding a contest for students in Florida to highlight key figures in Black history from our state and our nation.** While instruction in Black history is required in Florida's public school system, fostering new ways to bring historical African American figures to light with relevant context, is important for all students to develop a deeper understanding of their place in history and to encourage their civic involvement as they become young adults.

**The contest is open to all students K-12 in Bay and Leon counties.** Contestants will be judged by grade divisions and the category of their entry. The division of grades will be K-3 (Junior), Grades 4-8 (Intermediate) and Grades 9-12 (Senior).

**Rubric:**

- Grades K-3 (Junior - Visual Entries Only): Coloring a drawing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (drawing attached) and answer the following questions underneath: *Why do you think we celebrate Dr. King? If you met Dr. King, what would you want to ask him?*
- Grades 4-8 (Intermediate) and Grades 9-12 (Senior) will both have the opportunity to choose to create either an audio, written, or drawn contest entry. The student can choose to respond to one of the following prompts about one of the African Americans listed below.

**MAILING ADDRESS**

PO Box 1911  
Orlando, Florida  
32801

Prompt for Grades 4-8 and 9-12:

- Students, please select ONE of the distinguished African Americans to focus your entry on. Your entry should answer the questions presented: *What are the reasons that any ONE of the following African Americans – Zora Neal Hurston, Hawk Massalina, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, or Frederick Douglass – should be celebrated during Black History Month? What unique contributions did this person make to our country? If you met this person, what would you want to ask them?*

Grades 4-8 and 9- 12 can select ONE of the modalities listed below that they want to use to answer the questions above.

- I. Audio: Rap or Jingle answering the questions posted in the prompt about ONE of the listed African Americans above. Grades 4-8 have a minimum time of 45 seconds and a maximum time of 1 minute. Grades 9-12 will have a minimum time of 1.5 minutes and a maximum time of 2 minutes long.
- II. Writing: Essay or poem answering the questions posted in the prompt about ONE of the listed African Americans above. Grades 4-8 will have a word count of a minimum of 200 and a maximum of 250 words for the essay and a minimum word count of 45 and a maximum word count of 60 for the poem. Grades 9-12 will have a minimum word count of 450 and a maximum word count of 500 words for the essay and a minimum word count of 75 and a maximum 100 word count for the poem.
- III. Visual: Drawing or Painting depicting answers to the questions posted in the Prompt about one of the listed African Americans above. Please create an image of one person listed above showing them carrying out an element of their positive contributions. Each drawing or painting must be accompanied by two - five sentences describing the subject and their contributions to society.
- IV. All Visual entries should be on 8x10 inch paper and mounted on black or brown construction paper that is at least 10 x 12 inches.

#### Deadlines and Submission Process:

Bay County written and drawn entries need to be turned in during the week of January 27-31 5:00 pm. (CST) to Peters & Scoon, Attorneys at Law, 25 East 8<sup>th</sup> St, Panama City, FL.

Leon County written and drawn entries need to be turned in to The Commerce Group located at 104 South Monroe St, Tallahassee FL 32301 during the week of January

27-31, 5:00 p.m. (EST). Please call this number prior to delivering the entry to ensure the office is open: 850-425-1344.

Rap or song entries need to be submitted in a digital or electronic format that can be easily listened to on a computer such as a YouTube recording or .mp3 file and emailed to [blake@lwvfl.org](mailto:blake@lwvfl.org) by January 31, 2025, 5:00 p.m. (EST). *The rap or song can also be placed on a flash drive and delivered to the offices designated in Bay County or Leon County as stated above.*

**Each contest entry needs to be accompanied by an index card (or a 3x5 piece of paper) with the name of the student, grade, school, name of the county the student lives in, and the name and contact information of the parent or adult guardian of the student. If a teacher had students work on the contest, please also include the teacher's name and email address. The index card should be taped to the back of the visual entries. For songs and raps the information can be stated before the content of the song.**

Winners will be honored at one of two events during Black History Month. For Leon County entries, at 4:30 p.m. on February 6 at Tallahassee at City Hall. For Bay County entries the program and award ceremony will be on February 7 at 4:30 p.m. in Panama City at the Bay County Commission Auditorium. *At the award event, winners will be awarded prizes of \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place. All contestants and their families and the public are invited to the programs.*

**We hope the students and young people you work with will find value in participating as they learn more about the incredible contributions of these Black Americans to our nation's shared history.**

Please reach out with any further questions or for more details on how to encourage participation! Please contact Cecile Scoon at [cecile@lwvfl.org](mailto:cecile@lwvfl.org) or Blake Summerlin at [blake@lwvfl.org](mailto:blake@lwvfl.org) or 407-377-5777.

Sincerely,

League of Women Voters of Florida on behalf of the Our Voices, Our History, Our Future Coalition

