



Dear Educator,

The South Bend Museum of Art wants you to help us celebrate the visual arts by inviting your students to participate in **Festival of Banners 2018**! Now in its eleventh year, Festival of Banners promotes art in the community by providing a public venue for artists of all ages and skill sets.

This year's theme, **"Out of This World!"** asks participants to look at some of the data we have from the universe outside our planet, or just use their imaginations to consider the possibilities in galaxies far away! We are excited about this year's theme, and we hope you can get your young artists (and space explorers!) excited about it, too!

Before you get started, consider these prompts as a springboard to creativity:

- What do we know about other planets in our solar system? Other solar systems? What are they made of? How do they look on the surface or from our telescope images?
- What are some of the tools we have created to explore and understand the universe outside our planet? How do they get us information? How do they move/ propel/ fly/ land?
- What are some other celestial phenomena we have images or evidence of? Which do you find the most fascinating? The most beautiful? The most unusual or scary?
- What do you think we will discover next? What will it look like? How will we see it/ get there?
- What are some myths, stories, or legends about the universe outside our planet? How would you illustrate them?

While we hope that these prompts help guide your art making, please note that we are looking for variety within this theme. **Abstraction, symbolism, and metaphor are all encouraged.**

Also, keep in mind that the \$8.00 entry fee is waived for school children entering as a class. This year, please be sure to include your name and school, as well as the student's name, on the back of the design. Please make sure that the student's contact information is complete. This helps us notify our selected artists, and helps us make sure they have every opportunity to complete their banner.

We hope to make **Festival of Banners 2018** even bigger and better than before, but we can't do it without you! I look forward to your entries, and I thank you for your participation in making our public programs successful!

Lastly, should you need assistance or supplies to make this project happen for your students, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can find additional details on our festival, including an entry form, in the enclosed brochure. You may also download a PDF of this document at our website, www.southbendart.org.

Best Regards,

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