



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 2019!** Now in its twelfth 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, **"Monsters and Mythical Beasts!"** asks participants to look at history, literature, science, and far into the future, and explore fantastical or hybrid creatures we all know, and new combinations we have yet to consider. We are excited about this year's theme, and we hope you can get your young artists excited about it, too!

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

- What are some of the famous mythical beasts we know about from stories or literature? What kind of creatures are they? Where do they live? What other creatures do they interact with? Do they have a specific purpose or goal? Do they have fur, scales, thick skin? Think about the details of their physiology.
- What are some descriptions or adjectives we use to describe monsters and mythical beasts? Make a list of descriptive words, and consider how your illustrations could express those ideas. Think about colors, textures, lines and pattern.
- Which do you find the most fascinating? The most beautiful? The most unusual or scary? What about them interests you?
- If you could create your own monster or hybrid mythical beast, what kind of creature would it be? What will it look like? Where would it live? What does it do, what does it eat, what makes it unique?

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 please remember that these will be displayed overhead on poles- simple, bold compositions tend to work best.**

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 2019** 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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