

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 2020**! Now in its thirteenth 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, **WOMEN: NOW & THEN** comes nearly half a century after the founding of the Women's Movement in the United States. Women have played a huge role in the creation of our everyday lives. This year's theme calls for reflection on the women who have shaped our lives personally or in their service to society, through history, literature, science, art, and even what women will do far into the future.

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

- Who are some of the famous women we know about through stories, literature, and history? What time period are they from? Where do they live? What did they do that made you think of them? What do you picture when you think of them?
- What are some descriptions or adjectives we use to describe these women? Make a list of descriptive words and consider how your illustrations could express those ideas. Think about how you might use the elements of art to portray her: color, texture, lines, shape...
- Who do you find the most fascinating? The most inspirational? The most important to you and your life? What about her interests you?
- If you could create your own historical female figure for our future, what would she do? How would she benefit the world? What would she wear? Where would she work? What makes her unique? What is the environment like that needs her in it?

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 2020** 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, we have provided a digital entry form in light of the COVID-19 situation. You can find additional details on our festival, including an entry form, in the enclosed brochure. You can find details on the digital entry form on our website. You may also download a PDF of this document at our website, www.southbendart.org.

Warm Regards,

Casey Smallwood
Curator of Education
South Bend Museum of Art

