

Jackson County Historic Preservation Commission
National Historic Preservation Month Art Contest
May 2026 Guidelines- Submissions Due April 15, 2026 by 4:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Historic Preservation Commission invites residents of Jackson County to participate in the **2026 Historic Places Art Contest**. This contest celebrates National Historic Preservation Month in May and encourages everyone to explore their local history and artistic talents.

Contest Overview

In honor of National Historic Preservation Month, this art contest invites residents to create a visual representation of a historic structure or place that is meaningful to their community. Participants are encouraged to consider historic buildings, structures, or places in Jackson County that are important to the identity of their town or community. Examples include:

- Historic buildings like schools, libraries, community centers, houses, and bridges.
- Public spaces such as cemeteries, parks, memorials, and green spaces.

The **2026 contest is open to all residents** of Jackson County, North Carolina. The finalists and/or winners will be featured in a public art exhibition within the County. Winners will receive special recognition and prizes, with the number of prizes determined by the total number of entries.

Eligibility

Open to all **residents of Jackson County, NC.**

- Submissions must represent historic places in Jackson County that are at least **50 years old**.

Submission Guidelines

- **Two-dimensional Artwork**
 - **Artwork Size:** Artwork must not exceed **11 x 17 inches** (poster size). **Free Poster Size Paper Located at the Jackson County Planning Department**
 - **Medium:** Artwork must be created on paper (no stretched canvas). Acceptable mediums include:
 - Pencil, ink, charcoal, acrylic paint, pastels, and other similar media.
 - Collage is permitted as long as the components are created by the artist.
 - Other creative approaches such as textiles.
- **Photography Artwork**
 - **Artwork Size:** Artwork must not exceed **11 x 17 inches** (poster size).
 - **Medium:** Acceptable mediums include:
 - Digital or film photography (color, B&W, sepia or toned, infrared, etc.)
 - Basic adjustments and editing are allowed (cropping, contrast, exposure, color correction, sharpening, noise reduction)
- **Three-dimensional Artwork**
 - **Artwork Size:** Artwork must not exceed **11 x 17 x 12 inches**.
 - **Medium:** Artwork must be built or sculpted. Acceptable mediums include:
 - Clay/ceramics, wood, stone, metal, plaster, mixed-media, and other similar media.
 - 3D printed works are not permitted.
- **Originality:** All artwork must be original. No reproductions, copies, or electronically generated artwork will be accepted. Participants should not trace, duplicate, or copy from published sources or photographs.
- **Artwork Presentation:** Entries must not be framed, under glass, or have any protective covering attached. Chalk or pastel pieces can be sprayed with fixative to prevent smudging. Photograph pieces can be matted.

Submission Deadline

- **Submission Location:**
Jackson County Planning Department by **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.**
Attention: Ashley Clapsaddle: 538 Scotts Creek Rd, #217, Sylva, NC 28779
OR
Jackson County Public Library- 310 Keener Street, Sylva, NC 28779

Entry Form

- Each submission must be accompanied by a **completed entry form**.
- The **entry form** must be firmly attached to the **back of the artwork** using glue or tape.
- **Important:** No names, signatures, or identifying marks should appear on the front of the artwork. The artist's name should be printed **neatly on the back** of the artwork, in case the entry form becomes separated.

Judging Criteria

Judges will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria (K-5th, 6th-9th, 10th-12th, and Open Division):

- **Visual Impact:** How well does the artwork draw the viewer's attention? Consider the use of color, composition, and creativity.
- **Originality:** Entries should reflect the participants individual artistic expression and a unique interpretation of a historic structure or place.
- **Historical Relevance:** The artwork should illustrate a historic place or structure in Jackson County that is at least **50 years old**. Participants should aim to highlight how the place contributes to local identity or history.
- **Effort and Participation:** How the artwork shows exceptional effort, planning, and pride.
- **Understanding Achievement Completion:** The artwork is exceptional understanding of project requirements. Assignment followed and completed.
- **Craftsmanship:** The artwork is done with exceptional care and attention to detail and neatness.
- **Creativity:** The artwork is exceptionally unique, detailed, and interesting. Takes creative risks.

Awards and Recognition

- **Grand Prize Winner:** The winning artwork will be prominently displayed within the **County** as part of a public art exhibition in May 2026. The grand prize winner will also have their artwork featured on the **Jackson County Historic Preservation Commission's Facebook page**.
- **Finalists:** A selection of finalist pieces will be chosen for display in the exhibition.
- **Certificates and Publications:** All participants will receive a **certificate of participation**. Artwork from the contest may also be published in **informational materials** produced by the Jackson County Planning Department or Historic Preservation Commission.

Terms and Conditions

By submitting artwork, participants agree to the following:

- **Ownership:** The Jackson County Planning Department and/or Historic Preservation Commission retains ownership of all artwork submitted to the contest and may use the artwork in informational materials, publications, and public displays without compensation. All artwork will be returned to participants once the duration of the exhibit is over.
- **Liability:** The Jackson County Planning Department and/or Historic Preservation Commission is not responsible for any loss or damage of entries. Every effort will be made to safely return artwork to the artist following the contest.
- **Publicity:** Winning artwork and selected entries may be used in future publications, promotional materials, or online content related to Jackson County's historic preservation efforts.

Contact Information

For additional information or questions about the contest, please contact:

Ashley Clapsaddle

Planner 1, Jackson County Planning Department

Phone: (828) 631-2263

Email: ashleyclapsaddle@jacksonnc.org

****Free Poster Size Paper Located at the Jackson County Planning Department****

Jackson County 2026 Historic Places Art Contest Entry Form

Please complete all sections of this form and attach it firmly to the back of your artwork.

Participants Name: _____ Grade (if applicable): _____

Date of Birth (MM/YYYY): ____ / ____ School Name or List Homeschooled (if applicable): _____

Teacher Name (if applicable): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (if applicable): _____

Participants/Parent/Guardian Phone Number: (____) _____

Participants/Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Artwork Title: _____

Description of Artwork: (Provide a brief description of the historic structure or place featured in your artwork, including its name, location, and why you chose to depict it.) *Word limit to the space provided*

Medium Used: (Circle all that apply)

Pencil/ Pen or Ink	Charcoal	Acrylic Paint/ Paint	Pastels	Collage	Other (Specify)
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Size of Artwork:

(Two-dimensional/Photography: Please confirm the size of your artwork does not exceed **11 x 17 inches.**)

☐ Yes, the size is correct. **OR**

(Three-dimensional: Please confirm the size of your artwork does not exceed **11 x 17 x 12 inches.**)

☐ Yes, the size is correct.

Acknowledgment and Signature

- ☐ I certify that this artwork is **original** and was created by me. It has not been copied or traced from any other source, including photographs, published images, or electronic sources.
- ☐ I understand that by signing this entry form, I give permission for my artwork to be displayed publicly and used in publications or other promotional materials by the Jackson County Historic Preservation Commission and Jackson County Planning Department.

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher's Signature (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Important Notes:

- Please attach this completed entry form to the **back** of your artwork using glue or tape. Do **not** include any identifying marks or names on the front of your artwork.
- Deadline: All submissions must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.**