



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The purpose of the Waverley Youth Art Prize is to encourage creativity in young artists from Sydney's Eastern Beaches. It is an open prize with all artwork entries hung to allow young people the experience of being an exhibiting artist and seeing an audience appreciate their creation talents. We ask parents, guardians, and teachers to respect the age guidelines of the prize. While prizes are awarded, the joy of experiencing their artwork in a public exhibition is the real prize.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

To submit works to the Waverley Youth Art Prize Online Exhibition, complete the online application form available at: waverley.nsw.gov.au/youthartprize

THEME INTERPRETATION

Dreaming Future Worlds is a theme which asks young artists of Sydney's Eastern Beaches to create innovative artworks that may envisage surreal realms that defy the rules of reality, devise fantastical inventions that change the way we live, or depict their dreams for the future. Broad artistic interpretation of this theme is encouraged. Entrants may utilise ideas relating to science fiction, popular culture, sustainability or something else entirely. All mediums and interpretations are welcome.

KEY DATES FOR 2026

9 February: Waverley Youth Art Prize theme launched, and online portal opens. Judges and Prizes announcements commence.

Friday 1 May: Artworks due through the online portal

Friday 22 May: Artworks delivered to Waverley Library between 9.30am-5pm.

Thursday 4 June: Waverley Youth Art Prize announcement at 5pm.

27 May-26 July: Youth Art Prize exhibition open at the Waverley Library Galleries.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all young artists from 9 to 18 years of age. There are three categories:

- 9 to 12 years
- 13 to 15 years
- 16 to 18 years

We ask parents, guardians, and teachers to respect the age guidelines of the prize. HSC major works are eligible. Any Waverley Councillor, Waverley Council staff and members of their immediate families are ineligible. Artists are able to submit up to 5 artworks for inclusion in the online exhibition.

CONNECTION TO WAVERLEY

Artists entering the Waverley Youth Art Prize do not have to be residents of the Waverley Local Government Area. It is encouraged that entrants have some connection to Waverley. This means that they may live, work, attend school or play in the area, or have some other personal connection.

MEDIUM

Artworks are accepted across a broad range of mediums including drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and video/film/new media.

USE OF AI

While we recognise AI as a tool for inspiration, the final entry must be 'handmade', either digitally or traditionally. Artworks created with generative AI, where a prompt is used to produce the primary image or major visual elements, are not eligible.

PRESENTATION OF WORK

Artworks must be suitable for public exhibition in a public library environment. We ask that entries follow the below guidelines:

- Drawings, photography or works on paper should be mounted on a sheet of black cardboard or mountboard. Framing is not required. Where entrants have chosen to frame a work, we encourage Perspex instead of glass.
- Paintings on board or canvas must be delivered with D-rings on the rear of the artwork. Wet paintings will not be accepted.
- Ceramics and sculptures should be smaller than 30 x 30 x 30 cm. Artworks larger than this may not fit into protective Perspex cases and therefore are entered at the artist's own risk.
- Video artworks and animations should be submitted on a labelled USB in a mp4 format.
- Artworks larger than 1.5 x 1.5 metres will not be accepted.

GROUP ENTRIES

Group entries are accepted for the Waverley Youth Art Prize. A group might include siblings, classmates, or friends. Groups should only submit one entry form. It is the responsibility of the teacher/parent/guardian who submits a group entry form to ensure that all group members and their guardians understand and agree to the terms and conditions of the Waverley Youth Art Prize prior to submitting. Groups who receive a prize will receive a prize pack. It is the group's responsibility to divide this prize pack amongst themselves.

JUDGING

The judges' decision will be final, and no subsequent discussion will be entered into. Due to the high volume of entries, individual feedback cannot be given.

PRIZES

The Waverley Youth Art Prize offers over \$5000 in art material packs and art experiences. The Senior Category Prize will receive a voucher to attend the National Art School's Summer School Program in an area of their choosing. Additional prizes will be announced via the Waverley Youth Art Prize webpage and e-news in the lead up to event.

SALE OF WORKS

Artworks in the Waverley Youth Art Prize are not for sale.

RECEIPT OF ENTRIES

Entries must be entered through the online portal before 5pm Friday 1 May. If you have any problems with the online form, email visualarts@waverley.nsw.gov.au

All artworks must be delivered to Waverley Library on **Friday 22 May between 9.30am-5pm**. To arrange alternate delivery times, email visualarts@waverley.nsw.gov.au

COLLECTION OF ARTWORKS

All artworks must be collected on **Monday 27 July 2026, between 9:30am and 5pm**. No artworks will be stored by Waverley Council beyond this date, unless alternative arrangements are made. To make alternative arrangements, email visualarts@waverley.nsw.gov.au.

CURATORIAL DECISION

Council staff reserve the right to change, deny or remove any work of art, signage or wording placed in the gallery that is deemed inappropriate, unsuitable, poorly presented, or offensive to public taste. Artists and their teacher/parent/guardian will be informed of this decision.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Winners will be announced at Waverley Library on Thursday 4 June at 5pm. Should this not be possible, the winners' announcement will be released on Waverley Council's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram and YouTube) and e-news on Thursday 4 June at 5pm instead. All entrants will be considered for their respective age category prize and any overarching prizes, and they will also be eligible for the Mayor's and Packing Room Prizes.

The People's Choice Award will be voted on for the duration of the exhibition and will be announced via Waverley Council's social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) and the Waverley Youth Art Prize eNewsletter at the conclusion of the exhibition. Entrants are reminded that the joy of exhibiting, and the sharing of their artistic talents, are the real prizes of the event.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Throughout the Waverley Youth Art Prize, members of the public can vote for the People's Choice Prize. Only 1 vote per IP address will be counted. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the exhibition via Waverley Council's social media channels and the Youth Art Prize eNewsletter.

WAVERLEY COUNCIL PRIVACY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The information you supply in this form will only be accessed by Council staff. It will be stored within Council's record system for as long as necessary during which time you may access or amend it. Your information will only be given to a third party with your consent or if required by legislation.

CHANGE OF EVENT DETAILS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

These details and terms and conditions are subject to change in line with any actions or directions required to be taken by any applicable law. For the most up to date arrangements regarding the Waverley Youth Art Prize, please check waverley.nsw.gov.au/youthartprize

QUESTIONS AND ENQUIRIES

Questions and enquiries are welcome via visualarts@waverley.nsw.gov.au

PHOTOGRAPHY

Participants exhibiting in the Waverley Youth Art Prize also agree to have their work and themselves photographed for promotional purposes related to the Youth Art Prize. This includes print media and Waverley Council's social media pages. Participants who do not wish to have their images used for these purposes should contact visualarts@waverley.nsw.gov.au to notify us of this prior to June 1, 2026.