



*Human Relations Commission*

## **6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DREAM PROJECT ART CONTEST**

In 1963, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke eloquently of his dream for America. “I have a dream,” he said to throngs of people who had gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., “that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’”

He also spoke of a dream for his children: “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

As the 55th anniversary of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech nears, America has changed in many ways. Thanks to the leadership of Dr. King and the bravery of thousands of other Americans who participated in the Civil Rights Movement, America passed new laws that made racial discrimination illegal. Today, however, the nation and the world face new social, political, and environmental challenges. These challenges demand new visions of how we can best relate to one another as human beings. The time is right for all of us to revisit Dr. King’s speech.

The City of St. Charles Human Relations Commission and the Foundry Art Centre invite your school and your students to revisit the hopes Dr. King expressed in the “I Have a Dream” speech by participating in the Dream Project Art Contest. The goal of the Dream Project Art Contest is to embrace the arts as a vehicle for making American history come alive for students and sharing their creative visions with residents of St. Charles. We believe that participation in the contest will clarify lessons from the past and empower students to build stronger communities based on mutual understanding and respect for all.

The call for entries for 2017 are based around Dr. King’s landmark speech. We have divided the contest into three different grade categories and topics. These include:

Elementary School (Grades K-4): *Portraying the Dream!*

Middle School (Grades 5-8): *What is your Dream today?*

High School (Grades 9-12): *Choose one of the following themes:*

*Visually interpret Dr. King’s speech as he originally presented his dreams in 1963.*

*Use your art to illustrate one or more of today’s social or political movements as Dr. King might see them.*

*How might you visually translate Dr. King’s speech to represent some of our modern-day social or civil rights issues?*

In preparation, we hope that teachers will provide age-appropriate opportunities for students to discuss Dr. King's speech, the Civil Rights Movement, and the challenges of justice and equal rights that face us today.

Any student grades K-12 who resides within the city limits of Saint Charles is eligible to participate in the Art Contest by creating an original artwork inspired by specific words or phrases from Dr. King's speech. Detailed guidelines will be found on the City website. All submissions must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2018.

Time is short! We hope that your school will quickly select a representative, inform us of your intention to participate and your representative's contact information, and encourage students to participate. Questions may be directed to [chuck.lovelace@stcharlescitemo.gov](mailto:chuck.lovelace@stcharlescitemo.gov).