

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners Presents:

[Celebrating our 175th Anniversary: Ocean County Art Contest
For Ocean County Community Members, Age 18 Years Old and Up](#)

General Rules and Regulations

1. **The contest is open to anyone who would like to participate, 18 years old and up, residing in Ocean County.**
2. **Theme: Please create a two-dimensional artwork that exemplifies this title:**

"Ocean County at 175 years is a great place to be."

3. **Only one submission per person will be accepted.**
4. **Design Requirements:** We are only accepting two-dimensional works in the following mediums: graphite, charcoal, colored pencils, pen and ink, pastels(soft, oil, hard), chalk, crayon, acrylic paint, oil paint, watercolor, gouache, sumi-e, lithography, etching, screen-printing, woodcut, linocut, monoprints, digital painting(Photoshop, Procreate), photography, paper collage, and mixed media from the above. If creating a digital artwork or you use photographs in a collage, all work MUST be your own. To use anything not created by you will disqualify your work from the competition.
5. Your work must be no larger than 24 inches by 36 inches. To allow for blind judging, no signatures are allowed to be visually recognizable; please sign the back of your artwork to allow for this. For submission to the contest you must photograph your artwork without frames/glass or matting, on a plain, solid color background, and you'll submit this image for judging.
6. **The artwork image must be attached to an email submitted to kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us no later than 5PM on October 1, 2025.** Artists will attach a high quality jpeg, at least 2 mgs/600 dpi; in the file name, include the name of the artist and township the entry is from. Your subject line should read: "175th Anniversary of Ocean County Community Art Contest Submission"; in the body of the email, include the artist name, medium(s), phone number where we can reach you during the day, and a direct contact email. Include the artist statement document and the contact information/release form, attached to the email. We cannot accept any submissions for the contest without these forms.
7. Artworks will be judged by panel on the following judging criteria, with a possible 125 points awarded:

Interpretation to Theme (possible 30 points): How well does the artwork represent or embody the theme of "Ocean County at 175 years"? Does it highlight aspects of the county's history, landmarks, people, culture, or natural environment?

Creatively addressing the prompt (possible 25 points): Is the artwork an original and fresh take on the theme, offering new perspectives or innovative ideas?

Artistic Execution (possible 25 points total with two subcategories worth 12.5 each): Technical Skill, showing the overall quality of the execution in the chosen medium. This includes composition, use of color, texture, depth, and the handling of the materials. Attention to detail notices how well has the artist paid attention to the finer details: Is there precision and careful craftsmanship in the work?

Emotional Impact and Engagement (possible 20 points total, with two subcategories worth 10 points each): Visual Appeal asks if the artwork captivates the viewer's attention. Is it engaging and thought-provoking? Emotional connection measures if the artwork has a sense of pride, nostalgia, or a positive connection to Ocean County? Does it resonate emotionally with viewers?

Originality and Innovation (possible 15 points): How does it stand out from other submissions? Is there any originality in their concept that helps them stand out from the other submissions?

Presentation and Quality (possible 10 points): The artwork should be clean, polished, and thoughtfully presented.

8. By virtue of submission, the participant gives permission to the Ocean County Board of Commissioners to publish the work (including but not limited to) the respective County Facebook pages for publicity once chosen for a prize. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded.
9. Prizes are as follows: \$500 gift card to an art supply store for 1st place, \$200 gift card to an art supply store for 2nd place, \$100 gift card to an art supply store for 3rd place. Winners will receive notice if they won by email. They will be invited to receive recognition and their prize at the November 19th "Countdown to Independence" Event, taking place at Ocean County Courthouse, Courtroom 1, at 11AM. All winners will be asked to participate in a reception at a later time to celebrate their accomplishments, to be announced.
10. Terms and conditions subject to change without notice.
11. Decisions of judges are final.
12. For more information or any other questions, please contact: Kristen Kosa at kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us.

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Contact Information/Contest Release Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

The participant must sign and agree to the below statement:

“By submitting an entry to the Ocean County Board of Commissioner’s art contest, participants consent to the publication of their name and artwork on (including, but not limited to) official Ocean County Government Facebook pages, to be determined. These details will be shared as part of the contest’s promotion. By entering the contest, participants agree to this publicity and acknowledge that their information may be publicly displayed in connection with the contest.”

Printed name: _____

Signed name: _____

Date: _____

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Artist Statement

Please include a short artist statement to allow the judging panel more information about your artistic journey while creating the artwork, **no more than 50 words**. This statement will help the panel get a glimpse into your artistic identity, connect to your audience, and support your work. Be specific about your themes and approach, use clear, accessible language, stay concise and focused, highlight key ideas, and write with your viewers in mind.

Please attach this separate statement to your submission email, submitted in a word document or PDF format. Please include your name, medium(s), phone number where we can reach you during the day, and a direct contact email on the artist statement.

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Checklist of what to submit by email

- **Image of your artwork as high quality jpeg**, at least 2 mgs/600 dpi; artwork must follow these requirements: a two-dimensional work in the following mediums: graphite, charcoal, colored pencils, pen and ink, pastels(soft, oil, hard), chalk, crayon, acrylic paint, oil paint, watercolor, gouache, sumi-e, lithography, etching, screen-printing, woodcut, linocut, monoprints, digital painting(Photoshop, Procreate), photography, paper collage, and mixed media from the above. If creating a digital artwork or you use photographs in a collage, all work MUST be your own. To use anything not created by you will disqualify your work from the competition. It must be physically no larger than 24 inches by 36 inches. To allow for blind judging, no signatures are allowed to be visually recognizable; please sign the back of your artwork to allow for this. For submission to the contest, you must photograph your artwork without frames/glass or matting, on a plain, solid color background.
- **Your complete contact information/contest release form.**
- **Your artist statement document** (Word or PDF format) with a maximum of 50 words that includes your name, medium(s), phone number where we can reach you during the day, and a direct contact email.
- **Submit all of the above by email: the subject line should read: “175th Anniversary of Ocean County Community Art Contest Submission”;** in the body of the email, include the artist name, medium(s), phone number where we can reach you during the day, and a direct contact email.
- Send this email to Kristen Kosa kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us no later than October 1, 2025 at 5pm.

Thank you for your participation in this exciting contest!

Sincerely,

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners