



Black Collar awards Overview

The Black Collar Award is The National Black Worker Center Project's annual recognition of an individual who inspires, supports, and expresses effective social and worker justice for African Americans. This individual works to end the Black jobs crisis through: confronting racism and oppression as barriers to social change and healthy human relations; building multicultural community and solidarity; achieving diversity in membership, leadership, and staffing, and removing workplace barriers through the pursuit of racial justice and inclusion. This award celebrates tireless dedication to acting in solidarity with Black workers everywhere in the quest for racial and economic justice. It represents triumph in the face of adversity and a demonstrated commitment to dismantling systemic oppression through community building, and courageous leadership. It is our way to show sincere gratitude for those continue the legacy standing on the shoulders of the giants who have paved the way before us, while fearlessly blazing a new path for those still to come.

Contest Overview

This contest was designed to create a visual representation of what it means to be Black Collar Workers.

The artwork should 1. Communicate the experiences, challenges, aspirations and achievements of Black workers

2. Give voice and validation to Black workers 3. Depict the beauty and triumph of the Black worker experience. We want to bring to life the creation of a unique rendition of art work of that embodies the full spectrum of working while Black. A rendition of the winning creation will be featured in NBWCP's annual Black Collar award ceremony.

Entry Criteria

1. Submissions **MUST** be original works
2. Artists may submit a sculpture, drawing, or painting
3. Only one entry per artist, you may **NOT** submit in multiple categories
4. All entries **MUST** be submitted by the deadline
5. You must be willing to submit a physical copy of the work presented for entry, with the understanding that the winning entry will become the property of NBWCP and will be auctioned off with the proceeds going to support the work of the National Black Worker Center. **Please see additional details in the 'Usage Rights & Donation' section**
6. The Submission must encompass the total spectrum of the Black work experience and the attending political and economic issues that underlie the threats and obstacles to progressive social change; and depict the quest for racial and economic justice in the workplace.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Artists must identify with or represent the Black Community
2. The artist must be a US resident
3. The artist must be 18 or older
4. The winner must be comfortable speaking about their piece, what inspires them, their community, and desire to make a positive impact.

Submission Process

Interested applicants can submit their work by completing the application at the link below.

<https://goo.gl/forms/HfjLe9UD5H5H2XOw1>

Please be prepared to submit the following materials along with the application:

- Statement or letter of Interest - No more than 900 words describing the work (including its medium) and the artist's interest in the project.
- Visual Support Materials - Submit no more than 5 digital images of your professional work.
- Images must be submitted in the following format:
 - File Type: JPEG or PNG
 - Image Size: no more than 1MB
 - File Labeling: Files must be titled with a number indicating the viewing order, followed by the artist's last name. ex: 01Smith

All applications must be completed by Friday May 17th, 2019 at 11:59pm EST. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

If chosen as a contest finalist, you will be required to submit the physical copy of your work for further judging and consideration. Shipping costs associated with the submission of the physical work will be paid for by The National Black Worker Center Project.

Contest Deadlines and Timelines

- Mon. March 4th -- Contest opens for submissions
- Fri. May 17th-- Entry period ends
- Tues. May 21st - Tues. May 28th-- Public Voting period
- Fri. May 31st -- Top 3 finalists announced
- Panel Judging period begins-- Mon. June 3rd
- Mon. June 10th-- Winner Revealed
- Fri. August 23rd-- Opening reception with silent auction
- Sun. August 25th- Award presentation

Voting Process

All entries received by the deadline will be placed on the website for a period of public judging. The public voting period will begin on Tuesday, May 21st and conclude on Tuesday May 28th. Viewers will have the opportunity to vote online for their favorite entry based on the images submitted and artists' statement of interest. The three highest scored entries will go on to face judging by the NBWCP panel. Each contest finalist will be required to submit a physical copy of the submitted work for further judging and consideration. Shipping costs associated with the submission of the physical work will be paid for by the National Black Worker Center Project.

NBWCP Judging Panel and process

The three highest scored entries will be presented to the judging committee, and will be scored on the following criteria:

1. Creativity and originality of the depicted theme
2. Quality of artistic composition and overall design based on the theme
3. Interpretation and clarity of the theme to the viewer.

Prizes and Awards for the Contest Winner

The winning artist will receive the following prizes and awards: **(1)** Their work of art will be produced as the official statue or plaque used for the Black Collar Award. **(2)** They will receive recognition at the National Black Worker Center Project's (NBWCP) Working While Black Expo in Baltimore Maryland August 23rd - 25th 2019. **(3)** They will travel to the expo with Hotel, airfare and meal expenses paid for by the NBWCP. **(4)** They will attend a special, invitation only opening reception where their original work will be auctioned off; **(5)** They will be present on stage for the presentation of the award during the August 25th Black Collar Awards Ceremony. **(6)** They will receive an artist profile on the NBWCP website and **(7)** will have opportunities to speak with the press as a part of the Working While Black Expo and Black Collar Awards Press run.

Usage Rights & Donation of the Original Work

The three artists chosen as finalists must be willing to submit a physical copy of the work presented for entry for further consideration and judging. The two artists not chosen as winners will have their works returned to them if so requested. The winning artist agrees that **(1)** The submitted work becomes property of The National Black Worker Center Project (NBWCP) and the organization will own the artwork in every capacity **(2)** The artist waives all rights to and ownership of the submitted work as a condition of becoming the contest winner, and in exchange for the prizes outlined in the 'Prizes and Awards' section below. **(3)** The work is a donation to the NBWCP and will be auctioned off, with the proceeds going to support the work of NBWCP. **(4)** NBWCP retains the right to sell and reproduce copies of the work across various mediums with proceeds going to support the work of our organization. **(5)** You waive your claim to any compensation from the sale of the original work or any associated reproductions. **Note:** The winning artist's donation *may* be tax deductible, but only for the cost of the materials used to create the work. The winning artist must provide documentation of any such associated costs to claim the possible tax deduction

Any questions? Contact us at bcheatham@nationalblackworkercenters.org

Good Luck!