

7th Annual Doodad Repurposed Sculpture Competition

The 7th Annual Re-Purposed Doodad Sculpture Competition inspires Hillsborough County K-12 students to create imaginative sculptures while they are learning about a critical issue – wildlife conservation. Open to public, private, charter and home schools, the Competition challenges students to think beyond traditional art materials and repurpose an object or “doodad” each year, and create themed sculptures while creatively problem solve how to design a sculpture that meets a theme.

The competition’s focus on repurposing objects and this year’s theme of wildlife conservation which emphasizes environmentalism will attract and engage students who may not think they are interested in art. The competition, which is unique in that it focuses on three dimensional art and is open and free of charge to all the children across the county.

The 2018-2019 school year’s “doodads” are aluminum cans, maps and plastic straws, and the theme is wildlife conservation. This year the sculptures will be exhibited in the Florida Center during the Florida State Fair, February 7-18, 2019, easily accessible to people from across Hillsborough County. In addition, the sculptures are photographed and displayed on our website, www.doodadoftampa.org, which also includes the detailed competition guidelines and timeline.

Jurors will determine first, second, and third place awards within each division of Elementary, Middle School and High School, which will be presented at our awards reception on February 6, 2019.

Participation in the competition, creating something from common items against a theme, helps develop the artists’ creativity, confidence and self-esteem, leading to a long term appreciation and love of art. As Dana Warner, former Supervisor, K-12 Art Education of Hillsborough County Public Schools, said, “Every sculpture shows a different solution to the puzzle”. Students work individually or in groups, reinforcing problem solving and collaboration skills. The need to work together in groups, problem solve, learn and research potential subjects engages students. The competition also develops and reinforces the 4 C's of 21st century skills (collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity).

The presenting sponsor for the exhibit is the law firm of Thomas & LoCicero. “We are pleased to serve as the presenting sponsor for the Seventh Annual Re-Purposed Doodad Sculpture Competition,” said Carol LoCicero, a founding shareholder of Thomas & LoCicero in Tampa. “Our law firm is passionate about children and the arts, so this is a nice fit for us. The program instills the importance of working together as a team, employing critical thinking and creative problem-solving – all significant skills for development and success.”

The Frank E. Duckwall Foundation will also continue as a Platinum Sponsor. Additional sponsors include BNY Mellon and Allegro. In addition, Competition organizer Tampa Regional Artists is working to obtain support to help provide materials for certain Title 1 schools, which would otherwise be unable to participate.