



2026 Doodad Sculpture Competition Summary

Theme: *Yellow: The Sunshine State-What does Florida mean to you?*

<http://doodadoftampa.org/>

Visit the Doodad website to see images from all past competitions and to find the online contest platform link. Submission deadline: January 8, 2027

The 13th Annual Repurposed Doodad Sculpture Competition invites **Kindergarten through 12th grade students in Hillsborough County** to explore creativity, sustainability, and imagination through three-dimensional art.

Students enrolled in **public, charter, private, and home schools** are eligible to participate. This unique competition challenges young artists to **transform discarded materials into original sculptures**. By reusing unconventional objects, students learn how artistic thinking can also promote **environmental awareness and responsible reuse**.

Organized by the **Doodad Committee of Tampa Regional Artists**, the competition is made possible through collaboration with local partners and generous sponsors who support student creativity and environmental stewardship.

The competition includes **both online and in-person exhibition opportunities**.

- Sculptures submitted through the online entry form before the deadline will be included in the **virtual Doodad exhibition**.
- All accepted online entries are eligible for **People's Choice voting**.
- Based on available space and the number of submissions, jurors may select a **limited number of sculptures for display at in-person exhibitions**.



This year's theme—**Yellow: The Sunshine State. What does Florida mean to you?**—encourages students to reflect upon Florida's identity and future using **only yellow repurposed objects**, along with this year's required **Doodad material of yellow ribbon fabric**. Students are invited to explore questions such as:

- What makes Florida unique to them?
- How does sunshine shape our environment, culture, and imagination?
- What is an environmental message about protecting Florida's natural beauty?

The Doodad competition encourages students to **think like artists, inventors, and environmental stewards**. By turning discarded materials into imaginative sculptures, young creators discover how art can inspire new ways of thinking about our world and the future of Florida. We invite teachers, parents, and students to join this creative challenge and help transform **ordinary yellow objects into extraordinary works of art**.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Elementary (Grades K-2)	Elementary (Grades 3-5)	Middle School (Grades 6-8)	High School (Grades 9-12)	ESE Middle & High School
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Juror Awards—a panel of judges will select sculptures for **awards** in each grade category based on originality, unique use of the repurposed Doodad material, and adherence to theme and guidelines. The **monetary amount** for each award will be determined based on the number of entries and raised revenue.

People’s Choice Awards—the public votes online for their favorite sculptures. Sculptures that receive the most overall votes receive monetary awards.

TIMELINE

December 18, 2026	Last day to request yellow ribbon fabric that must be included in this year’s sculptures.
January 8, 2027	Deadline to upload sculpture images, entry information, and video artist statements using the link posted on the Doodad website. https://Doodadoftampa.org
January 15 2027	Online jurying begins.
January 29-30, 2027	Deliver Doodad sculptures to Florida State Fair.
February 5, 2026	Online exhibition opens on Doodad website. https://Doodadoftampa.org
TBA	Awards reception. Details TBA.
February 5-15, 2027	Juror-selected sculptures exhibited at Florida State Fair & Voting for People’s Choice Awards
February 16-18, 2027	Pick up non-award-winning exhibited sculptures from Florida State Fair.
TBA	Award-winning sculptures exhibited at the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts. Pick up sculptures either day.

GUIDELINES

ACCEPTED	NOT ACCEPTED
Only yellow repurposed objects and/or yellow paint are used, including the incorporation of this year’s yellow ribbon fabric. Other non-yellow materials may be used for stuffing or underlying support but will not be visible.	Non-yellow materials or paint are visible, and no yellow ribbon fabric is incorporated.
Any amount of the yellow ribbon fabric may be incorporated, and some part of the fabric must remain visible.	No yellow ribbon fabric was used and/or visible.
All repurposed objects used must be securely attached and entire sculpture must be stable and strong. Be aware that hot glue alone may not be sufficient to securely attach materials.	Repurposed objects are loose and/or falling off and sculpture is falling apart and/or falls over.
Sculptures must be freestanding on a table, the floor or be ready to hang. All sculptures must weigh no more than 20 pounds and be no larger than approximately 30 inches deep by 36 inches wide by 36 inches tall. Hanging sculptures must include some type of wire, rope, or chain from which to hang.	Sculptures that exceed size and/or weight guidelines, and/or hanging sculptures that provide no suitable material from which to hang.
Individual or group work may be submitted, and MAJORITY of design and construction must be completed by student(s). Groups may include up to 10 students, and a class may have multiple groups of students submitting different sculptures.	Majority of design and construction of sculpture completed by teacher or other adult(s). Group includes more than 10 students.

Sculpture must relate to the theme and respect the adopted Copyright & Plagiarism Policy.	Sculpture DOESN'T relate to theme and/or disrespects adopted Copyright & Plagiarism guidelines*.
Artist statement must answer 1) How does your sculpture represent your research about the theme? and/or 2) How has your thinking changed about the connection between creating with unconventional art materials and the environment?	Artist statement doesn't address either question, and/or only explains the process and procedures used to create the sculpture.
Entries and video artist statements must be uploaded using Doodad's online competition platform by the deadline.	Online entry form was NOT completed for a submitted sculpture by the deadline.

SPECIAL NOTES

- Teachers and parents may enter sculptures in the competition on behalf of their students and/or children who are enrolled in public, charter, private, and home schools located within Hillsborough County.
- Sculptures that meet accepted guidelines are eligible to be judged for monetary awards and exhibited.
- There is no limit to the number of sculptures an individual student or groups of students may enter.
- Groups of students may include up to 10 students, and a class may have multiple groups of students submitting different sculptures.