



YJAM ART COLLECTIVE

THIS YEAR'S THEME

Building a Future Where Youth Thrive

This October, BreakFree Education invites students in juvenile justice schools and facilities across the country to make their voices, ideas, and creativity visible as part of our 2026 YJAM Art Collective.

We want young people to help us imagine what a thriving future could look, sound, and feel like. Students can create in any medium they choose, and BreakFree will feature their work in a national digital gallery all month long.

WHO

Any student

In a juvenile justice school or facility. Teachers register and submit on their behalf.

WHAT

Any medium

Drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, 3D printing, or something entirely their own.

DUE

Friday, Oct. 2

Register now. The gallery opens to the public during October.

Register your class today

Student submissions are due **Friday, October 2**.

Register →

What students can create

Anything that gives their ideas form. Students choose the medium that best communicates what **Building a Future Where Youth Thrive** means to them.

- Drawing, painting, collage, or other visual art
- Sculpture or mixed-media work
- Photography
- 3D-printed designs or models
- Another creative format imagined by the student

Ideas to get students thinking

Encourage students to connect the theme to their own experiences, ideas, questions, and hopes. These prompts are here to spark thinking; students do not need to answer any of them directly.

- 1 What does a future where young people thrive look like?
- 2 What helps young people feel powerful, capable, and heard?
- 3 What gives young people hope?
- 4 What does it mean for young people to lead change?
- 5 What would you change, build, protect, or create for the next generation?
- 6 If you could send one message about the future of young people to the country, what would you want people to understand?

Submitting student work

- Teachers submit student work through the submission form linked below.
- For physical work, submit a clear, high-quality photograph of the finished piece. Multiple photographs are helpful for three-dimensional work.
- All student submissions are due **Friday, October 2**.

Please check before you submit: student work and photographs must not include personally identifying information.

The YJAM digital gallery

During October, submissions come together in a national digital gallery showcasing the creativity of young people in juvenile justice settings across the country. The gallery does more than display student work: it creates an authentic audience. We invite educators, advocates, and community members to explore it and leave thoughtful, encouraging feedback on each piece. That feedback is public so students can see that people well beyond their classroom engaged with their ideas.

See the 2025 BreakFree YJAM gallery at breakfree-ed.org/yjam.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED

1. Register your class →

form.jotform.com/262355145109151

2. Submit student work →

form.jotform.com/252504290446151

3. View the 2025 gallery →

breakfree-ed.org/yjam