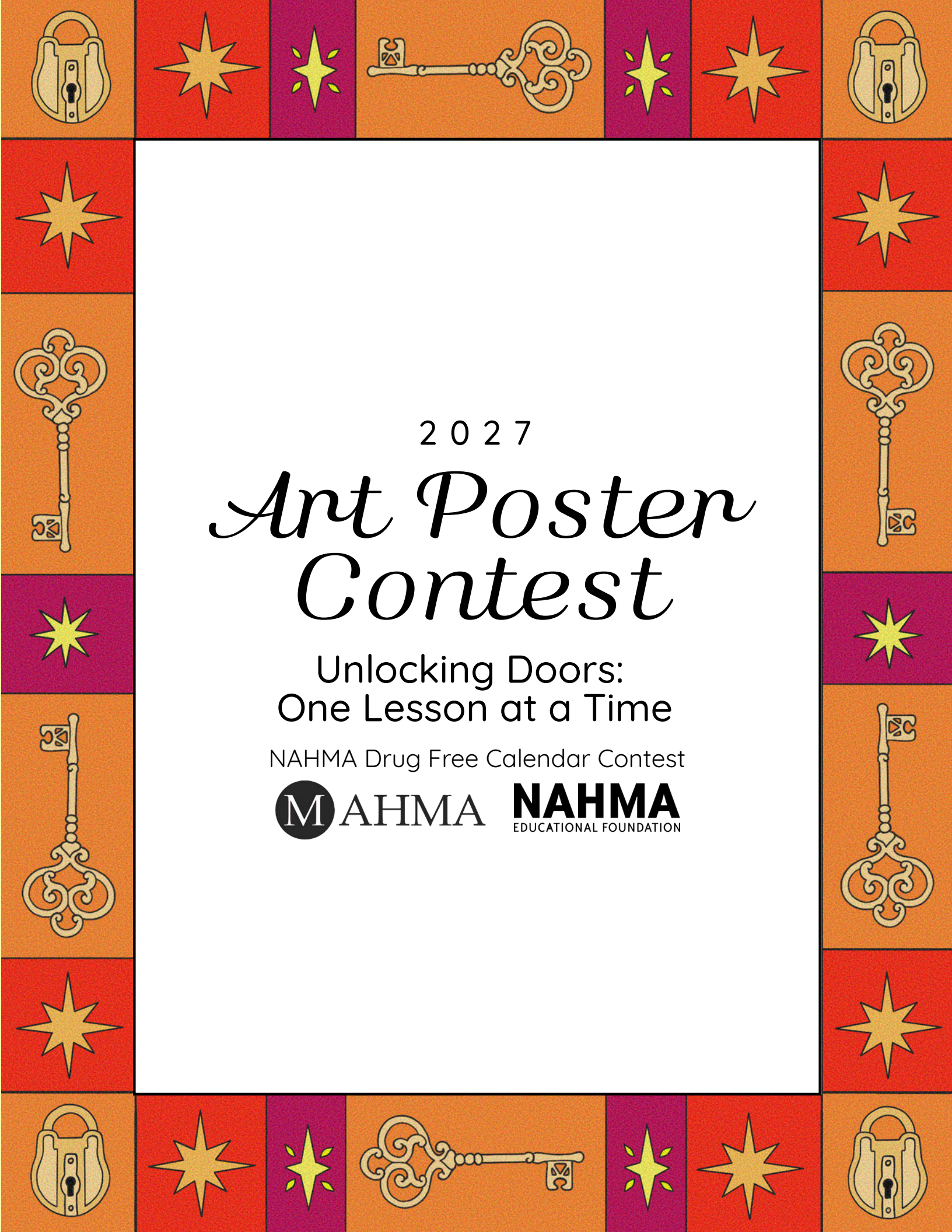




2027

Art Poster Contest

Unlocking Doors:
One Lesson at a Time

NAHMA Drug Free Calendar Contest



NAHMA
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The page is framed by a decorative border consisting of a grid of colored squares. The colors are red, orange, and purple. The squares contain stylized white icons: stars of various sizes and keys. The top and bottom rows feature a padlock icon at the far left and far right. The middle rows feature a large star, a smaller star, and a key icon in sequence.

About NAHMA

The National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) is proud to kick off the annual art/calendar contest. We anticipate that more than 5,000 children, elderly & residents with special needs nationwide will be participating in the calendar art contest this year.

We have added a subtheme to the drug-free message to reinforce a more positive use of time and to encourage a broader range of submissions. The underlying message for the contest will continue to have a drug-free theme but we also wanted to open the door for more avenues of expression. The subtheme for the 2027 contest is: Unlocking Doors: One Lesson at a Time

Below are contest rules and tips for various affordable housing management associations, property management companies and on-site property managers on how to hold an art contest. If you require additional information on NAHMA's national finalists contest, please contact Brenda Moser at the NAHMA office at 703-683-8630, ext. 114.

Please follow the rules outlined below to ensure that the poster qualifies for both MAHMA and NAHMA judging.

Eligibility

CHILDREN

Children who live in a family community of a NAHMA and/or a local MAHMA member company.

SENIORS

Residents who are 55 years or older who live in a community of a NAHMA and/or a local MAHMA member company.

RESIDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Residents who live in a permanent supportive housing community or Section 811 community of a NAHMA and/or a local MAHMA member company.

How the Contest Works

For each grade category (for children) and up to three entries in the elderly and special needs levels, local MAHMAs select three winning posters, photographs*, websites*, computer art* or other media*, such as tile, macramé, needlework etc., which must be submitted as a photograph. *See detailed descriptions for format and size in another section of the contest rules.

The five grade categories for children are listed below.

- Kindergarten-first grade
- Second-third grade
- Fourth-sixth grade
- Seventh-ninth grade
- 10th-12th grade

All MAHMA winning submissions are forwarded to NAHMA where a distinguished panel of judges will select the 13 winning entries that will appear inside the pages of the 2027 calendar, including submissions from children, elderly and residents with special needs. Additionally, one special entry will be selected as the grand prizewinner, which will appear on the cover. Only children are eligible to become the grand prizewinners.

All art submitted to NAHMA becomes the property of NAHMA and NAHMA has the right to use the art for publicity, publications and advertisements.



Artwork Specifications

- Posters must be done on poster board (or heavy art paper) measuring 22 inches x 28 inches.
- Any media may be used for the posters, including paints, crayons, color pencils, chalk and collage, but contestants are advised to ensure that the media selected results in a flat surface, and can be adequately protected against damage.
- The poster must be marked clearly with the official entry form attached. • Photography can be in color or black and white and must measure at least 8 inches x 10 inches but not larger than 22 inches x 28 inches.
- Website design: webpages must be printed in color and measure 8.5 inches x 11 inches, and then mounted to poster board measuring 22 inches x 28 inches.
- Digital art must be printed and measure at least 8.5 inches x 11 inches but not larger than 22 inches x 28 inches.
- Other media such as tile, macramé, carving, quilting, needlework, etc., must be submitted as a photograph measuring at least 8 inches x 10 inches but not larger than 22 inches x 28 inches.

Deadline

The deadline for entries to be submitted to MAHMA is May 14, 2027.

How the Art is Judged

Entries are judged on the artist's ability to create a submission with the 'Shaping our Future: Building Stronger Communities Together' contest subtheme. The artwork must be original and cannot be a replica or reproduction of someone else's creation. Artwork that is not original will be disqualified. Specifically judges consider:

- Interpretation of 'Shaping our Future: Building Stronger Communities Together' subtheme.
- Originality of the submission.
- Quality: Is the art submission appealing to the eye?
- Overall artistic ability: Does the art submission show some degree of creativity and skill

for its age group? Will the submission be able to be reproduced with reasonable quality and clarity?

Honorable Mentions

Children, seniors, and residents with special needs in our communities from across the nation who participate in the annual art contests held by regional and state MAHMAs are eligible to be selected as regional MAHMA art contest Honorable Mentions and will have their artwork featured nationally in a special section of the NAHMA 2026 Drug-Free Kids Calendar. These participants are in addition to those that will be selected as national winners.

Prizes

The winners of each local category receive cash prizes from MAHMA. All winners of the national contest receive educational. Scholarships in the form of a NAHMA Educational Foundation check. All national winners will appear in the 2026 calendar with a short artist bio and photo.

The national contest's grand prizewinner, whose art will appear on the cover of the calendar, receives an educational scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C., where he or she will be honored at the NAHMA Fall Meeting in late October 2026.

NAHMA Prizes

- • Grand Prizewinner: \$2,500 check and trip to Washington, D.C.
- • National Winners: \$1,000 check
- • Honorable Mentions: \$100 check

There is a contest specific entry form for Senior/Residents with Special Needs and a separate entry form for Children. Please encourage the resident to fill out which applies to them.

Property Manager Instructions

Fully complete the Participant Entry Form for each contestant that submits artwork and attach the form to the back of the art. Incomplete forms will make submissions ineligible. Send all posters, no later than May 14, 2027, to

Midwest Affordable Housing Management Association (MAHMA), 1225 Dublin Road, Suite 120
Columbus, OH 43215

* Call the MAHMA office if you have any questions or concerns at 1-888-242-9472

How to Create a Successful Event

- Plan Ahead
- Give your participants plenty of time.
- Begin on-site activities early to allow enough time to mail entries to MAHMA by the May 14, 2027 deadline date.
- Advertise the Event

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Child Entry Form

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Age _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Grade Completed (in June 2026) _____

Grade Level (circle one): K-1 2-3 4-6 7-9 10-12

Name of School _____

Name of Development Where Child Lives _____

Child's Address _____

Child's Phone Number _____

Name of Child's Parent or Guardian _____

Name of Resident Manager _____

Resident Manager Phone Number _____

Resident Manager Email Address _____

Management Company for Development _____

Name of MAHMA _____

Please Fill Out This Form in Its Entirety

Mail completed form
attached to poster to:

MAHMA
1225 Dublin Rd. Ste. 120
Columbus, OH 43215

Art Poster Contest

Unlocking Doors: One Lesson at a Time

Elderly and Residents with Special Needs Entry Form

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Age _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Name of Development Where Resident Lives _____

Resident's Address _____

Resident's Phone Number _____

Name of Resident Manager _____

Resident Manager Phone Number _____

Resident Manager Email Address _____

Management Company for Development _____

Name of MAHMA _____

Please Fill Out This Form in Its Entirety.

Mail completed form
attached to poster to:

MAHMA
1225 Dublin Rd. Ste. 120
Columbus, OH 43215