EXPRESSIONS FROM THE HEART creative writing competition is sponsored by the Community Artists’ Collective (CAC) and Mary Holt Ashley Initiative (AI). The focus of this initiative is to provide Houston area youth, ages 10-12 years and 13-15 years, the opportunity to engage in the creative process, thus creating art through the written word.

The competition is designed to encourage individual expression of love and kindness, to expand the imagination, sharpen writing skills, and to enjoy the artistic process of developing a visual picture which becomes an ART form.
Contestants Ages 10 – 12 years

1st Place Winner
- $200.00
- Art class sponsored by the CAC
- Featured on the CAC website
- Framed Certificate of Excellence (gold seal)
- Virtual Awards Ceremony
- Reading of essay during Virtual Awards Ceremony

2nd Place Winner
- $150.00
- Featured on the CAC website
- Framed Certificate of Excellence (silver seal)
- Virtual Awards Ceremony

3rd Place Winner
- $100.00
- Featured on the CAC website
- Framed Certificate of Excellence (bronze seal)
- Virtual Awards Ceremony

All Other Participants
- Featured on the CAC website
- Certificate of Participation
- Virtual Awards Ceremony

Contestants Ages 13 – 15 years

1st Place Winner
- $300.00
- Art piece donated by the CAC
- Featured on the CAC website
- Framed Certificate of Excellence (gold seal)
- Virtual Awards Ceremony
- Reading of essay during Virtual Awards Ceremony

2nd Place Winner
- $150.00
- Featured on the CAC website
- Framed Certificate of Excellence (silver seal)
- Virtual Awards Ceremony

3rd Place Winner
- $100.00
- Featured on the CAC website
- Framed Certificate of Excellence (bronze seal)
- Virtual Awards Ceremony

All Other Participant
- Featured on the CAC website
- Certificate of Participation
- Virtual Awards Ceremony
Instructions

Choose your essay title from topics provided:
Love of Art
Love of Dance
Love of Music
Love of Sports
True Meaning of Love
Love of the written word
( i.e., modern literature, poetry, biblical or ancient literature)

Document and remember important dates and deadlines

Required Submission Dates:
March 21, 2022 – Contest registration and fee deadline
April 25, 2022 - Essay submission

Important Announcement Dates:
May 06, 2022 - Winners announced
May 13, 2022 - Virtual Awards Ceremony

Essay Requirements

Must contain the following:

Introduction – Begin the essay with a memorable scene or phrase
Body – support the essay with content specific to the topic with well-chosen details which demonstrate a thoughtful and thorough understanding of the theme
Conclusion – Finish the essay with a summary paragraph that covers all main topic points

Must use correct spelling, sentence structure, punctuation, and word choices

The theme of the essay must transition and connect from paragraph to paragraph
The summary paragraph must cover all main topic points
Application and Fees

Application Form
Print and complete Expressions from the Heart application form (see slide 6)
Scan or take picture with cell phone of completed application
Email to ainitiative.2020@gmail.com by 11:59, March 21, 2022. You will receive confirmation within 24 hours

Fee and Payment
Application processing fee of $25.00 (non-refundable) must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. March 21, 2022
Payment made via check, money order:
Payee: Community Artists’ Collective
Mailing Address: 4101 San Jacinto, Suite 116, Houston, TX 77004
Memo: Expressions from the Heart Contest
Payment made by Credit card or PayPal:
https://www.thecollective.org/donate

Essay Submission

Please email your essay to ainitiative.2020@gmail.com
You will receive confirmation within 24 hours.

Expressions of the Heart essays must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. April 25, 2022.
Expressions from the Heart Competition Application

Name: ____________________________________  Birthday: _______________ Age: ________
School: ____________________________________________________ Grade: _____________
Telephone: ____________________ (Mobile) ____________________(Home)
Email: ________________________________________________________________________

Choose one: ___ Group 1 (age 10 to 12 years  ___ Group 2 (age 13 to 15 years)

Note: Applicant must be at stated age by May 13, 2022

***Required Information

Applicant’s Name: _______________________________________________________________
Applicant’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________

Parent/Guardian’s Name: _______________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________

☐ Yes, I hereby give authorization to the CAC and AI to use contestant’s name and photo in promotional activities, i.e., CAC website and awards ceremony program
☐ No, I hereby do not give authorization to the CAC and AI to use contestant’s name and photo in promotional activities, i.e., CAC website and awards ceremony program

Methods of Payment indicated below. This form and payment of $25.00 must be received by 11:59 p.m. March 21, 2022.

Payment by: Check ____ Money Order _____
Payee: Community Artists’ Collective
Mailing Address: 4101 San Jacinto, Suite 116, Houston, TX 77004

Payment by: Credit Card ____ PayPal ____
https://www.thecollective.org/donate