



CARIBBEAN YOUTH VOICES ART FOR ACTION

Competition Information Pack

Theme

Nothing For Us Without Us

Youth Voices in Health Decision-Making

Why This Competition Matters

Young people across the Caribbean, as advocates, students, leaders, caregivers, and individuals living with health conditions, bring unique experiences, perspectives, and solutions to the challenges facing the region. Across the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), there is a growing recognition that youth should not simply be consulted in decision-making, but meaningfully engaged as partners in shaping the policies, programmes, and decisions that affect their health and well-being.

In advance of the launch of the Guidance on Meaningful Engagement of Youth, Including Young People Living with Non-Communicable Diseases in Health Decision-Making in CARICOM and its companion Youth Handbook, this competition invites young people to show us, through creative expression, what meaningful engagement looks like in practice.

About the Competition

The Caribbean Youth Voices: Art for Action Competition provides a platform for young people across CARICOM to share their experiences, aspirations, challenges, and solutions for creating a healthier and more inclusive Caribbean. Through creative expression, participants are invited to imagine, challenge, and inspire a future where youth voices influence decisions that affect health and well-being.

The competition forms part of broader efforts to amplify youth voices and strengthen conversations around meaningful engagement in health decision-making across the Caribbean.

Objectives

The competition seeks to:

- **Highlight Youth Perspectives:** Provide a platform for youth to express their experiences, ideas, and aspirations related to health and health decision-making through creative and artistic means.
- **Amplify Youth Voices:** Create opportunities for young people to share recommendations and solutions for strengthening youth engagement at the community, national, and regional levels.
- **Foster Awareness:** Raise awareness among participants and audiences about the importance of meaningful youth participation in health decision-making processes.
- **Inspire Action:** Showcase creative solutions, ideas, and approaches from youth that can influence health policies and practices at local, national, and regional levels.
- **Celebrate Creativity:** Recognize and celebrate the talent, innovation, and leadership potential of youth in shaping health and well-being in their communities.

Eligibility

Participants must:

- Be between 15 and 30 years old
- Reside in a CARICOM Member State or Associate Member
- Submit original work
- Submit entries before the deadline

Categories

Visual Art

Drawing, painting, digital art, illustration, textile art, photography, and short film.

Literary Art

Poetry and prose.

Performing Arts

Song, music video, movement video, and spoken word performances.

Submission Requirements

All submissions must include:

1. Completed entry form
2. Original artwork or creative submission
3. Artist statement (150–300 words) explaining:
 - The message behind the submission;
 - How it relates to youth engagement and health decision-making;
 - What experience, challenge, opportunity, or change inspired the work; and
 - What change you would like to see in your community, country, or the Caribbean region.

Accepted Formats

Video / audiovisual submissions:

- Maximum duration: 2 minutes
- Maximum file size: 100 MB •
- Accepted formats: MP4, MOV •
- Videos recorded in 4K may exceed the file size limit. If possible, record in HD (1080p)

Audio submissions

- Maximum file size: 20 MB
- Accepted formats: MP3, M4A

Image/Photo submissions

- Maximum file size: 10 MB
- Accepted formats: JPG, PNG (HEIC accepted)

Text submissions

- Maximum length: 300 words
- Text must be entered directly into the entry form

Judging Criteria

Criterion	Weight
Clarity of Message	25%
Creativity and Originality	25%
Relevance to Theme	20%
Potential to Inspire Action	15%
Technical Execution	15%

Awards

Voice of Change Award

Awarded to the submission that most powerfully communicates a vision, experience, or solution related to youth engagement in health decision-making.

Vision for the Future Award

Awarded to the submission that presents the most compelling vision for positive change and youth leadership in creating healthier Caribbean communities.

People's Choice Award

Awarded through public voting.

Timeline

Competition Launch: 1 July 2026

Guidance Note Launch Webinar: 21 July 2026

Submission Deadline: 31 July 2026

Judging Period: 1–10 August 2026

International Youth Day Webinar and Winners Announcement: 12 August 2026

Online Gallery Launch: 12 August 2026

Showcase and Recognition

Selected works may be featured in:

- International Youth Day activities;
- Guidance Note and Youth Handbook dissemination activities;
- Online galleries and social media promotion;
- Youth engagement initiatives;
- Future advocacy and awareness activities related to health and meaningful youth engagement.

Important: *Participants retain ownership of their work while granting organizers permission to use submissions for educational, advocacy, and promotional purposes with appropriate attribution.*

Terms and Conditions

By submitting an entry, participants confirm that:

- The work is original.
- They have permission to use all included content.
- The submission does not infringe on the rights of others.
- Organizers may feature selected works in exhibitions, publications, social media, webinars, and advocacy activities with appropriate attribution.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate?

Youth aged 15–30 years residing in CARICOM Member States and Associate Members.

Can I submit more than one entry?

Yes. Participants may submit one entry per category, for a maximum of three submissions.

Can groups participate?

Yes. Group submissions are permitted.

What languages are accepted?

English, French, Dutch, and Spanish.

How will submissions be judged?

Based on the published judging criteria.

Who owns the artwork?

Participants retain ownership of their work while granting organizers permission to use submissions for educational, advocacy, awareness-raising, and promotional purposes with appropriate attribution.