

2015 Official Entry Guidelines

Competition Overview

Every year, the Department of Education (DOE) distributes thousands of school directories to students and their families throughout New York City. For over eight years, the covers of the DOE directories have been designed by students through the Cover Design Competition. Serving as an exploration of the design profession, this competition challenges high school students to reflect on their lives as public school students in New York City and express their ideas artistically in the form of a cover design. Finalists of the Cover Design Competition will have the opportunity to work with a real-world client (the DOE), develop their design with professional designers, and gain practical experience they can take with them after high school. The grand prize winner's design will be featured as the cover of the DOE's annual *Directory of New York City Public High Schools* and used for related materials – including signs, bags, and t-shirts – for the 2015-2016 school year.

Eligibility Requirements

Open to all students currently enrolled in a New York City public high school. Students may enter on their own or through their teachers. Each student may submit only one design. By participating, students understand and will comply with the guidelines established in this document. For more information about eligibility, please see "Additional Terms and Conditions" on page 4.

Key Dates

Competition Open for Submissions	January 12
All Submissions Due	February 2 by 11:59 p.m. EST
Workshop Winners Notified	February 12 – February 20
Workshops for Finalists (Required)	February 26; March 5; March 12; March 19
Public Vote	April 1 – April 6
Awards Ceremony	April 14

Design Specifications

- **Size:** 8.5 inches x 11 inches
- **Text:** Design must include the following text: *Directory of New York City Public High Schools*.
- **Format:** Designs may be created in any print media. However, designs must be submitted in one of the approved file formats.
- **Details:** Cover design must include both front and back covers.

How to Submit Your Design

Submissions are due on February 2, 2015. Participants may submit their cover design in one of two ways: online via email or by mail.

- Two consent forms are required in order to qualify for competition. See page 2 for more information.
- Only one design may be submitted per student.
- Design must be original work of student.
- Submissions will not be returned.

How to Submit by Email

- **Deadline:** February 2, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Entries received after this date and time will not qualify for this competition.
- **Format:** Files must be submitted as a PDF or JPEG only. Retain the final design file, but do not submit it. *Each finalist will be required to submit his or her design file.*
- **File Size:** File must be less than 2 MB.
- **Email Details:** Email submissions to coverdesign@schools.nyc.gov. Subject line must include "Cover Design Submission" and the first 4 digits of your birthday. For example, if your birthday is March 12th, your subject line should be "Cover Design Submission 0312." You must also attach your cover design file(s) and consent forms.
- **Confirmation:** Email submissions will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours. If you do not receive a confirmation email, the design was not received. If you have difficulty submitting your design, please call 212-374-5396 for assistance.

How to Submit by Mail

- **Deadline:** Mail-in entries must be *received* by February 2, 2015. Entries received after this date will not qualify for this competition.
- **Format:** Submission must be a full-color print-out copy of the cover design. Artwork will not be returned so keep your original design. *If you advance and become a finalist, you will be required to submit your design file.*
- **Package Details:** In addition to including your cover design submission and consent forms, mail-in entries require a signed and dated Mail-in Submission Form. Make sure to include all relevant contact information, including your email address, so that we can contact you if you are a finalist. This form will be posted on the Cover Design Competition website (www.nyc.gov/schools/coverdesign) during the submission period. If your teacher is mailing in your design as part of a class, you still have to include all of the aforementioned materials in your submission.
- **Mailing Address:** Mail your package to the address below:

NYC Department of Education
Office of Student Enrollment
52 Chambers Street, Room 415
New York, NY 10007
ATTN: Cover Design Competition

Required Consent Forms

In order to qualify for this competition, participants must submit **two** consent forms before the submission deadline – one from the DOE and one from the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.

DOE Consent Form

All students must complete this form. Students under the age of 18 are required to obtain their parent's or guardian's signature. Students 18 years of age or older are not required to have their parent/guardian sign the form.

Cooper Hewitt Consent Form

All students must complete this form.

Consent forms will be posted on the Cover Design Competition website (www.nyc.gov/schools/coverdesign) during the submission period. Applicants can submit their consent forms in one of two ways by the submission deadline:

- **Scan and Email** the forms as attachments with your design to coverdesign@schools.nyc.gov.
- **Mail** the forms to: Department of Education, Office of Student Enrollment, 52 Chambers Street, Room 415, New York, NY 10007, ATTN: Cover Design Competition Consent Forms.

Design Tips

As you're designing, consider some of the following tips and suggestions:

- **Inspiration:** We encourage you to draw inspiration from your perspective as a New York City student. While brainstorming, think about how you will integrate your unique experience to create a meaningful design. Why are you proud to be a New York City student? What makes your experience as a New York City student special and exciting? How has growing up in New York City had an impact on your life? What was your experience like when transitioning from middle school to high school? You may consider travel, geography, and other experiences unique to urban life.
- **Design Principles:** Demonstrate an application of the Principles of Design. To learn about high school performance indicators, see the *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Visual Arts* at www.nyc.gov/schools/offices/teachlearn/arts/blueprint.html.
- **Audience:** The target audience for this cover is students in grades 5-8 and their families. Therefore, the cover design should be appropriate for all ethnicities, ages, genders, and boroughs.
- **Suitability/Appropriateness:** Designers should keep in mind that they are designing for a client, the New York City DOE. The winning design will need to project appropriate messaging for a government-issued publication; designs will be judged in part on their suitability.
- **Adaptability:** Designs must be easily adaptable in different colors and sizes and with different text. In addition to the Directory cover, the winning design will be used for flyers, t-shirts, signs, bags, and other materials.

Design Tips (continued)

- **Guidelines for Images:** With respect to the images in your design, the more creative and unique they are, the better. Here are some things to keep in mind:
 - a. **Copyrighted images:** We cannot use any previously-copyrighted images on our Directory covers. The use of previously copyrighted materials automatically disqualifies the applicant. Please review the Additional Terms and Conditions on page 4 for more information. Many New York City icons are already copyrighted; this includes most identifiable buildings in the Manhattan skyline, the major bridges, the Statue of Liberty, “I ♥ NY,” etc.
 - b. **Faces:** Designs that incorporate real human faces (as opposed to cartoon or representational figures), should include more than a single individual. Any group of faces should be diverse and age-appropriate for fifth through eighth graders.
- **Final Design Format:** Finalists will be asked to submit final designs to the DOE as **Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, or Adobe Photoshop** files. The Cooper Hewitt will provide support to all students who do not have access to Illustrator, InDesign, or Photoshop; finalists without access to these programs should inform workshop leaders at the first workshop.

Judging Criteria

All designs will be judged on the following four criteria:

1. Originality
2. Adaptability of the design to different media
3. Suitability/appropriateness of design for NYC DOE-issued publication
4. Application of the principles of design

How Winners are Selected

- **Finalists:** From the initial pool of submissions, 15 finalists will be selected by a panel of judges based on the criteria listed above. The panel will be comprised of members from the DOE and the Cooper Hewitt. The 15 finalists will then be required to attend four design workshops at the Cooper Hewitt; see below for more information.
- **Winners:** Winners will be determined by a combination of a public vote and the panel of judges. One grand prize winner and three runner-ups will be selected.

At the final workshop session on March 19, 2015, finalists will formally present their designs to the judging panel. From April 1 – April 6, the public will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite designs online. One winner will be selected online by the public (subject to the determination by the DOE that the design selected by the public is suitable for its intended use). The winner of the public vote will automatically advance to the final four in the Cover Design Competition. After the public voting period ends, the DOE and Cooper Hewitt will select the grand prize winner and runner-ups based on the April 2nd presentation, outcome of the public vote, and the judging criteria listed above.

Required Design Workshops for Finalists

Finalists will be expected to attend all four design workshops; finalists that do not attend at least three of the workshops, or are more than 30 minutes late for 2 or more sessions, will be disqualified. These workshops will be held at Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM on the following dates: February 26; March 5; March 12; and March 19. At the first three sessions, finalists will work with professional graphic designers to refine their designs. At the final session on March 19, 2015, finalists will present their designs to the panel of judges.

The Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum is located at 2 East 91st Street (between Madison and 5th Avenues). Before you submit your design, please consider how long it takes to travel from school to the Cooper Hewitt and whether you will be able to attend the sessions if you are chosen as a finalist. Remember, tardiness is not acceptable.

How Winners are Notified

The grand prize winner and runner-ups will be announced during the Awards Ceremony at the Cooper Hewitt on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

Prizes

The grand prize winner of the Cover Design Competition will have his or her design featured as the cover of the *2015-2016 Directory of New York City Public High Schools*. This design may also be used for other related materials (publications, signs, bags, t-shirts, etc.) for the 2015-2016 school year. The winner will also receive a prize package from the DOE and Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.

Runner-up designs may be used for other printed and electronic publications at the discretion of the DOE.

Earn Design Badges

Managed by the Cooper Hewitt, Design Badges are digital credentials that reward you for the design skills you possess and/or develop as a result of participating in Cooper Hewitt-sponsored design projects. Design Badges are digital icons that explain the skills you have learned and the accomplishments you have made. They are designed to be shared with prospective employers on your resume, via the web, and through social media. Earning Design Badges will have no bearing on your final placement in the competition.

Questions?

Email coverdesign@schools.nyc.gov or call 212-374-5396.

Additional Terms and Conditions

Disqualification: Applicants will be disqualified if they:

- Do not include both signed consent forms (DOE and Cooper Hewitt) with their submission by February 2, 2015.
- Do not adhere to all of the above entry guidelines.
- Use any derogatory language within their submission or during the process of this competition.
- Plagiarize or submit someone else's copyrighted material.
- Are chosen as finalists and cannot attend at least 3 out of the 5 workshops, including the final presentation.
- Are chosen as finalists and are more than 30 minutes late for 2 or more sessions.

Privacy: Information collected is subject to the DOE's Privacy Policy. Please visit: www.nyc.gov/schools/AboutThisSite.

Ineligibility: Only full-time DOE public high school students in New York City are eligible to participate in the competition.

Anonymity: During the vote to select the 15 finalists, the judges (representatives from the Cooper Hewitt and the DOE) will not know the names of the students nor their respective schools. Student names and schools will be kept completely anonymous for the first round of judging for the 15 finalists. However, during the public vote to determine one of the four top place winners, student names and schools *will* be shared with the Cooper Hewitt, DOE, and other members of the judging panel. The schools, names, and submissions of the grand prize winner and runner-ups will be formally and publicly announced at the end of the competition.

Other Conditions: There is no cost to enter this competition. Mail-in submissions will not be returned. Student shall retain ownership of his or her submission, subject to the DOE's right to use the submission as granted in the signed consent.