



# BE THE CHANGE

## 2026 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. YOUTH POETRY & ART CONTEST

**The Jackie Robinson Family YMCA would like to invite San Diego area students to participate in the 2026 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Poetry & Art Contest!**

**Theme: BUILDING THE DREAM:** How can Dr. King’s vision guide us to create a brighter future for all?

**Divisions:** Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12

**Criteria:** Originality, relevance to the theme and presentation/neatness. Submissions may be in the form of art, poetry, essay or spoken word.

**Awards for Each Division:** First place winners - \$100 gift card  
Second place winners - \$75 gift card

**Deadline:** Friday, December 12, 2025 | 8:00 pm  
Submit original entries by mail, e-mail or hand deliver to:  
Jackie Robinson Family YMCA “MLK Contest”  
151 YMCA Way, San Diego, CA 92102

**\*Winners will be notified Friday, December 26, 2025\***

**For more information, contact:** Esme Pena • cpena@ymcasd.org • 619-265-0144 ext. 1714

**PLEASE ATTACH ENTRY FORM TO EACH SUBMISSION.**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Submission:  Art     Poetry     Essay     Spoken Word

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_