



## TLYM Fine Arts Festival 2021 - UPDATE

February 22, 2021

First, thank you for your patience and understanding as we all continue to navigate these uncharted, continually evolving times. As we have all been aware, in our community and cities, COVID-19 is still at large as we have entered 2021. The month of January was a record month for COVID cases here in Harris County, with many of our pastors, leaders, including my wife and I becoming positive for COVID-19. In addition, last week was an unprecedented winter storm that caused many in our state to be without power and water for several days. Here at Texas Louisiana Youth Ministries, we continue to pray and encourage each of our leaders and churches throughout this time.

With this in mind, after discussing it with our team and our Executive Leadership, we have decided to postpone the dates of our **Fine Arts Festival to April 16-17, 2021**. This would allow more time for preparation for our churches. In addition, our new registration deadline will be on **March 26** for all registrations. This will be our only registration deadline this year. The event will still take place at Vida City Church in Houston, Texas. Be advised, this will be our **only attempt** to postpone the event. If cases in Harris County begin to rise, we will either make the event entirely virtual or postpone it indefinitely.

In addition, the format of this year's Fine Arts Festival will change in order to enforce social distancing and a safe event for everyone. In order to give you and your church peace of mind, we have decided to implement the following:

- There will be no in-person Opening Service or Celebration Service in order to limit a mass gathering of people. The Celebration Service will be streamed online only on our TLYM Facebook Page at **2 PM on Saturday, April 17**. Unfortunately we will not post recordings of presentations due to licensing of music.
- For the safety of all involved, we ask that only the participants, their youth leader or pastor, and parents be allowed to come to the event. Churches and visitors who are not involved in the event are strongly discouraged from attending. We encourage you to record or stream your own presentation so that others in your church can view it.
- We will post our presentation schedule online on our website ([www.tlym.org](http://www.tlym.org)) no later than Tuesday, April 13. Please be aware of the time and room your presentation will take place. Once the schedule is posted, there will be no changes to your designated time.

- The event shall be considered a “come and go” event. Once you are done with your presentation, there will be no need to stick around as our celebration service will only be online. We will do our best to try to schedule as many presentations from the same church as close together as possible.
- Upon arrival, each individual will have their temperature checked upon check-in. You will receive a sticker designating that you have been screened. In addition, each individual will sign and fill out a waiver. To save time, you can pre-print this waiver from our website at [www.tlym.org/fine-arts](http://www.tlym.org/fine-arts).
- Each presentation room will only allow for 50% capacity at any given time and we ask for everyone to remain 6 feet apart. We ask that you kindly wear your mask at all times unless you are currently presenting your presentation. Additional time will be given between presentations to allow for wiping down of surfaces, microphones, etc.
- **Absentee Entries** - If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of the event, we advise you to please stay home. In the event that you are registered for the event and are unable to come due to COVID exposure or symptoms, we will allow for an absentee entry to happen. This will be the ONLY reason we would allow for an absentee entry. If you will not be able to come for this reason, we ask that you please email the TLYM Office at [info@tlym.org](mailto:info@tlym.org) no later than Friday, April 16 at 9 AM in order to be allowed an absentee entry. Please see additional guidelines listed below.
- All absentee entries will have until Monday, April 19 at 12 pm to submit their entry. There will be no exceptions.
- In the event that there are absentee entries in a given category, we will not announce the merit recipients in that category until Friday, April 23 via our website and our Facebook page.
- **Refunds:** we will only give a refund in the event that the festival is cancelled or if the student is unable to participate due to COVID-19 exposure or symptoms.

## Absentee Entries Guidelines:

The following guidelines will be in place in the event of an absentee entry:

- Each entry (individual or group) will submit a video of their presentation to be evaluated by the same panel of evaluators from the in-person festival. Because the festival strives to provide a level playing field for all participants (sound levels, space, etc.), it is imperative that everyone follow what is laid out below
- All recordings need to be done in good taste as if the individual/group were at the festival. Therefore:
  - Recordings shall not be done in a student’s bedroom, or in private.
    - Such recordings will not be accepted and immediately brought to the attention of your church leadership.
    - The presentation will be disqualified without refund for the festival and no further submissions of that specific presentation will be accepted
  - Recordings must be in the presence of at least one other person that is of adult age

- Individuals/Groups must be dressed as if you were at the festival

**All Entries Shall:**

- Record each presentation individually, not collectively
  - For example, a church has 12 different entries (individual and group)...that church will submit 12 separate videos, NOT one continual recording of all 12
- ONLY use a cell phone (as is, no added direct line microphones, etc) to record the video and audio of the presentation, at the same time.
- Have the cell phone on a tripod or non-mobile/moving stabilizing device
  - If you use a handheld stabilizing device, the person recording must stay in the same place, or a person holds the camera as stable as possible in one place.
- Position the cell phone in a way that allows the evaluators to see the participant or group's full body/bodies - we highly recommend the phone be centered as the evaluators are at the festival
- Record the presentation in landscape layout (phone flipped on side)
  - No portrait OR holding-the-phone selfie recordings will be accepted
- Use the honor system and capture the presentation in **one take, one time**
  - Video submissions may not be edited or spliced recordings
  - The honor system includes only recording each presentation once. On your honor, 2nd takes are not encouraged. This is because students do not get a retake at the festival.
- The student(s) presenting must Introduce their presentation for every category according to the rules in the National Fine Arts 2021 Rulebook.
- Adhere to their category setup and tear down times, in the video, according to each division/category rule.

Certain categories may have exceptions or have alternatives to these rules. We ask for your patience as we do our best to navigate through the intricacies of each category to ensure a safe and fair Fine Arts Festival.

If you made it to the end of this, once again, thank you for your cooperation. Fine Arts Festival is an event that is dear to my heart and I am grateful for every church, pastor, leader, parent, and student that makes this event possible. I am glad that even in these difficult times, we are still able to help students Discover, Develop, and Deploy their giftings. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me personally at [george@tlym.org](mailto:george@tlym.org).

Let's Dream Big,



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