Muslim Youth on Identity, Diversity and the Expressive Arts (MY-IDEA)

MY-IDEA is a component of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) Building Bridges: Arts, Culture and Identity grant program, aimed at building knowledge and changing perceptions about Muslim societies through direct experiences with artists and their work.

This competition provides opportunities for Muslims aged 18-29 to express their thoughts and feelings about living as Muslim-Americans with a focus on how arts and cultural events have influenced the way they think about identity and diversity.

$250 will be awarded to winners and $100 to runners-up. Winning submissions will be posted online and may also be included in an article for APAP’s Inside Arts magazine or other APAP partner media outlets. Additional notable submissions may be posted online.

Each entry must be submitted as a digitally publishable creative format and will be reviewed by a team of professionals from the arts, education, and communications fields. Entrants are invited to submit entries at any time over the duration of the MY-IDEA competition. Up to two entries from the same individual can be submitted within each of the following time periods:

- November 14 – December 15, 2017
- February 1 – March 15, 2018
- March 16 – June 15, 2018
- June 16 – September 15, 2018
- September 16 – December 15, 2018

Guidelines for Submission:

Content
Each entry should be a reflection on a personal experience(s) with a performing arts or cultural event that:

- Relays a story or anecdote that influenced the way in which you think about Muslim identity.
- Uses a creative format to share specific and vivid details of your story or anecdote.
- Demonstrates deep reflection and critical thinking about your experience of Muslim identity.
- Is presented in a manner relevant to both Muslim and non-Muslim peers and others.

Format
Submissions should conform to one of the following formats and parameters.

- Writing: Submit as a PDF document. Essay and short story submissions must be 750-2,000 words. Poetry should be at least 9 lines and not more than 750 words. Include the title of your entry in the header of each page and your initials, page number, and date of submission in the footer of each page.
• **Photo Essay/Montage**: Submit as a PDF document. Must include 6-12 photographs and no more than 750 words. Entry may be either a series of photographs with captions or a text essay illustrated with photographs.

• **Collage, Graphic, Comic, or other Artwork**: Submit as a PDF document. Submission may include a collage of photographic images and/or artwork, with or without text or other additions, intended to be viewed as a complete mixed-media piece.

• **Video, Animation, or Audio**: Submit a link to your video. Videos must be 1-3 minutes in length and include introductory text of no more than 250 words. Submission may be presented as a documentary of one or more events, video essay, or testimonial.

**Review Criteria**

Submissions will be reviewed by APAP staff for eligibility and then sent to a review panel for award consideration. The panel will consist of experienced educators, editors, and artists who are dedicated to advancing the role of arts and culture to effectively build knowledge and understanding about Muslim societies. The competition does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, color, gender, or disability.

The following criteria will be considered by the panel:

• **Focus**: Purposefully reflects original insight and ideas about the experiences of young adult Muslims living in America.

• **Creativity**: Conveys insights/and helps build awareness and understanding in a compelling and shareable way.

• **Organization and Format**: Organizes ideas to build a logical and coherent message.

• **Language and Conventions**: Effectively uses language and/or images to enhance meaning, express imagination, and share passion.

**Eligibility and Intellectual Property and Assignment**

Entrants must be legal residents of the United States between the ages of 18-29. Submissions must be written in English, be the author’s original and unaided work, and must not infringe on any copyright or contain defamatory or unlawful matter. All photos and texts submitted must be entrant’s legal property and all rights must be obtained for recording individuals/events; entrant will be liable for any copyright infringements. Additionally, entrants will retain full copyrights for submitted work.

Upon submission, each entrant will be required to confirm the following:

I represent and warrant that all materials included or provided by me in my submission to the MY-IDEA competition were originally created and produced by me for the competition, and not by or for third parties. I will retain the copyright for my work with or without the award of an honorarium for the submission, and grant APAP the right to publish my submission online and/or in print in full or in part. APAP shall not be liable for any person or entity, for special, indirect, incidental, punitive, exemplary or consequential damages, arising from the content or ideas expressed within my work presented in my submission.

Please visit [MYIDEA.apap365.org](http://MYIDEA.apap365.org) to submit your application.

For more information on Building Bridges, visit [buildingbridges.apap365.org](http://buildingbridges.apap365.org).