2018-19 NYC High School Admissions Visual Arts Audition Guide

Everything you need to know about Visual Arts audition programs



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Section I — How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help students and families prepare for the audition process. Through this guide you will:

- Learn about visual arts. What do visual arts programs entail? What can you expect as a visual arts student? See the description below for more information.
- Understand the audition process. The overview on page two will let you know what to expect at a high school audition.
- Review the Common Audition Components. High schools that participate in common audition components share the same audition guidelines. This guide includes the common audition components for participating visual arts programs.
- **Prepare for the auditions.** Learn about audition components and tips for doing your best during an audition.
- Build a list of visual arts programs that interest you. Browse this guide for a complete list of New York City high schools that offer programs to cultivate artistic talent. Use Section 6 to list the programs that look like a good fit for you and start creating your fall audition schedule.
- Create your audition schedule. Review the audition information and schedules for each program to plan your own audition calendar. For each program, there is a list of what to prepare for the audition, and what you will do at the audition.

What is Visual Arts?

The visual arts are forms of creative expression leading to art works that are for visual observation and appreciation. Visual arts students receive training in various media and materials such as: painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, sculpture, two-dimensional applied design, and digital media. Some schools support commercial arts applications, such as illustration, architecture, animation, graphic design, fashion design, photography, or others. Students build an arts portfolio and may have exhibition opportunities over the four years of study.

Section 2 — High School Audition Process Overview

Some high schools host auditions

An audition is a type of admissions method. To gain admission to certain high school arts programs, students must exhibit artistic skills at an audition. Auditions are also a great opportunity for students to meet school staff and ask questions about programs.

Students are expected to prepare and perform at an audition

Audition expectations will vary by high school program. Students should review the audition criteria that is published by schools in the High School Directory. If a student is auditioning for multiple programs focusing on the same art form, many audition components will be similar across the auditions (see program details in this guide for audition information). Students should note that they may not get to present everything that they have prepared for the audition.

Auditions are run by high schools

Typically auditions are run by school administrators and teachers. Some high schools have their current students assist with welcoming auditioning students and their families.

Audition dates, arrival times and locations may vary

Auditions are usually held at high schools from October to January. See program details in this guide for audition schedules.

Audition lengths may vary

The audition process can take 2-3 hours or longer. Students are encouraged to bring a light snack and water to auditions. Families should not register for auditions at multiple schools on the same day.

Families can wait nearby

There is often a designated waiting area for parents/guardians, as they are not allowed in the audition areas. Parents/guardians may choose to leave and re-enter the school building at any time. Communication between the student and their families should be made prior to the beginning of the audition process.

Acceptance to audition programs

In order to be considered for audition programs, students must also list the programs on their High School Admissions Round I Application, which is due to on December 3, 2018. Students will receive the results of the Round I Application in March. Students interested in auditioning for Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School should speak with their school counselor about how to apply.

Questions about the audition process

This guide should answer most of your questions about the audition process. If you have specific questions about a school's audition, it is best to call or email the school directly for more information or visit the school website.

Audition accommodations

Students with individualized education programs (IEPs), approved 504 plans, and English Language Learners, may receive accommodations. Students should speak to their school counselor to arrange accommodations for auditions.

Section 3 — Audition Registration and Common Audition Components

Below is some vocabulary about the audition process that families will need to learn as they prepare for auditions. These terms will also be found throughout the table in section five of this guide.

Registration for Auditions

Students may be required to register for auditions through the DOE's enrollment system or through school websites. Registration details are listed in this guide and in the High School Directory on audition school pages. By registering, students let school administrators know that they are attending the audition, and what program they are auditioning for.

Programs with Common Audition Components

A select group of schools have programs that offer common audition components, which are indicated by the \bigstar icon next to the school name in section five of this document. These programs all share the same audition components so if students prepare for one they may be ready to audition at another participating program.

Common Audition Components - Visual Arts Programs

You can also find this information on Page 24 of the 2019 New York City High School Directory

Prepare and present a portfolio with 8-15 pieces of original artwork with a diversity of subject matter and use of media. Three-dimensional pieces may be photographed and included in the portfolio. Complete up to three drawing assignments at the audition. Drawing assignments may include: the human figure and drawing from observation or imagination. Check each school's website for examples.

Programs may have different tasks that they offer on-site, including an interview, or on-demand writing sample, which may impact your preparation. Please read each school's audition information in this document. Also, be sure to visit the school webpage, or contact the school directly, for the most up-to-date details.

Section 4 — How To Prepare for a Visual Arts Audition

When applying to a visual arts program, you may be asked to demonstrate your skill and commitment in up to four ways: through a portfolio of your work, a writing component such as an essay, completion of a new artwork upon request, and/or an interview.

I. The Portfolio

A portfolio is a collection of your art work and it is an important part of the visual arts audition. A well thoughtout portfolio shows your strengths and your potential for high school level work. It is an opportunity to display your best efforts. The following guidelines will help you assemble a competitive portfolio.

Presentation: You can protect your work and make a good impression by using a sturdy folder. A neat presentation shows that you have taken care of your work and that you are proud of it. Your work should be:

Clean, undamaged, and in good shape

Unframed or mounted on a matte border (check the audition guidelines on each school's website) Labeled on the reverse side with:

- Your name
- School name
- Title
- Date of work
- Either "Under Supervision" or "Without Supervision"

Content: As you put your portfolio together, carefully select the works that you feel represent your best efforts. ("Less is more" is an excellent guideline!) Consider the following:

- Select current artwork (work completed in 7th or 8th grade)
- Schools enjoy looking at sketchbooks
- Do not include work done in the style of a famous artist, copies of famous works, or work copied from photographs
- Most of the work should be done from observation but you may include some work done from imagination or memory
- Cartooning should be limited to a minimum

Preparing Your Audition/Arts Portfolio

The selections should demonstrate your understanding of composition and the principles of design:

- Unity: The feeling of harmony between all parts of the work of art, which creates a sense of completeness.
- Balance: The distribution of the visual weight of objects, colors, texture, and space.
- Repetition: The repetition of elements of design creates unity within the work of art.
- Variety: The use of several elements of design to hold the viewer's attention and to guide the viewer's eye through and around the work of art.
- Emphasis: The part of the design that catches the viewer's eye.
- Proportion: The feeling of unity created when all parts (sizes, amounts, or number) relate well with each other.

- Rhythm: The feeling of organized movement that is created when one or more elements of design are used repeatedly.
- Figure-Ground Relationship: Elements are perceived as either figures (distinct elements of focus) or ground (the background or landscape on which the figures rest).
- Scale: The size of one object in relation to the other objects in a design or artwork.

You may select works that are thematic to show an in-depth investigation of an idea OR you may include a variety of subjects to show a breadth of interests.

You may wish to prepare pieces using a variety of media (such as drawing, painting, printmaking, media technology, etc.) to demonstrate your skill with different tools, materials, and techniques.

2. The Writing Component

Some schools require students to write an essay or answer a series of questions about why they want to attend that particular school. You also may be asked to compare two works of art. Schools will be looking at the content of your writing as well as grammar and punctuation. The writing component of your audition should be:

- Well organized
- Demonstrate correct sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and paragraphing
- Address the questions

3. Completion of New Artwork upon Request

Many schools will ask you to complete one or two pieces of art "on the spot." The most common art activities are drawing a figure or inanimate object from observation, though you also may be asked to draw an object from memory. Work is usually done on 8.5" x 11" paper. **Bring a drawing pencil and eraser with you.** Examiners will be looking for creative approaches to the assignment.

4. The Interview

Schools may include interviews in their admissions process. Interview questions will vary from school to school. Try to remember these interview tips:

- Poise and appearance count.
- Attitude is important; smile and show respect to teachers and other students.
- Convey your interest in the visual arts.
- Listen closely and try to provide answers that directly address the questions you were asked. Possible questions:
 - O Why did you choose to audition for this school?
 - O How did you decide what to include in your portfolio?
 - O Which art museums or galleries have you visited lately?
 - o In the future, how do you plan to use the art education you receive here?

The interview will most likely be in the form of a conversation. You may be asked about your background, experience, knowledge, and interest in the visual arts. This will be a friendly conversation; interviewers want you to feel at ease.

Section 5 — High School Programs and Audition Information

Below is a list of New York City high schools that offer visual arts programs requiring an audition, including audition schedules and requirements. School names link to each school's website; program names link to each school's page in NYC School Finder (http://schoolfinder.nyc.gov).

Fordham High School for the Arts ★ 500 East Fordham Road 10458	BRONX	
Program: Fordham High School for the Arts Directory pg. 95	Code: X51A	
What to prepare for the audition:		
☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details), and also re	equests the following:	
What you will do at the audition:		
☐ Present your portfolio. Sketchbooks are welcomed as extra drawings.		
☐ The audition includes a writing prompt.		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration for auditions on our school's website)		
Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 9am		
 Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 9am 		
Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 9am		
Theater Arts Production Company School (TAPCo) ★ 2225 Webster Avenue 10457	BRONX	
Program: Visual Arts & Technology Directory pg. 145	Code: X20T	
What to prepare for the audition:		
☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details)		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is not required to audition)		
Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 1:00pm		
Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 1:00pm		
Saturday, November 3, 2018 at 1:00pm		
Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 1:00pm		

Abraham Lincoln High School 2800 Ocean Par	way 11235	BROOKLYN
Program: Professional Photography Directory	pg. 165	Code: K24L
What to prepare for the audition:		
A portfolio of the student's work. The portfolio should consist of ten pieces in which the student displays his or her visual sensibility (sense of humor, design, taste, etc.). The portfolio can be drawings, paintings, and/or photography.		
Submit the portfolio to Mr. Carlos Molina, Director of the Photography Program, via mail (to the school's address) or email (CMolina2@schools.nyc.gov) by early December.		
 All applicants must submit a portfolio; I during one of the audition dates to create 	nowever, if you do not have a portfolio for submate your portfolio.	nission, you may come
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration for auditions via email: CMolina2@schools.nyc.gov)		
 Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 4p 	n	
Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 9am		
 Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 4pm 		
 Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 9am 		

Brooklyn High School of the Arts ★ 345 Dean Street 11217	BROOKLYN	
Program: Visual Arts Directory pg. 197	Code: K47J	
What to prepare for the audition:		
☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details)		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is <u>not</u> required to audition)		
 Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 4pm 		
 Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 9am 		
 Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 4pm 		
Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 9 am		
Dr. Susan S. McKinney Secondary School of the Arts 101 Park Avenue 11205	BROOKLYN	
Program: Visual Arts Directory pg. 220	Code: K42A	
What to prepare for the audition:		
□ Develop a portfolio of 10-20 pieces of original work including still life, human figure, an	d imaginative drawing.	
What you will do at the audition:		
Students must be able to discuss their portfolio, artistic interests, and area of study. Stu	ıdents must take an in-	
person drawing test.		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is <u>not</u> required to audition)		
 Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 3:00pm 		
Friday, November 16, 2018 at 3:00pm		
Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 10am		
■ Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 3:00pm		
Friday, November 30, 2018 at 3:00pm		
Edward R. Murrow High School ★ 1600 Avenue L 11230	BROOKLYN	
Program: Fine and Visual Arts Directory pg. 227	Code: K57K	
What to prepare for the audition:		
☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details)		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Register for auditions through your school counselor)		
 Last Name A-F, Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 9am 		
 Last Name G-L, Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 1pm 		
 Last Name M-S, Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 9am 		
Last Name T-Z, Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 1pm		

Art and Design High School ★ 231-249 East 56th Street 10019	MANHATTAN	
Program: Architectural Design Directory pg. 333	Code: M60N	
What to prepare for the audition:		
☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details), and reque		
$\ \square$ Portfolio with 8 – 12 pieces of original artwork created from observation and the students	ent's own imagination with	
a diversity of subject matter and use of media.		
□ Include examples of line drawings as well as value studies of geometric shapes and form		
You should also include a drawing of your neighborhood and a plan of your bedroom of dimensional pieces can be photographed.	or your apartment. Three-	
What you will do at the audition:		
You will be required to draw from observation and memory.		
Tou will be required to draw from observation and memory.		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is not required to audition)		
■ Last Name A-L, Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 9am		
 Make-up, Last Name A-L, Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 9am 		
 Last Name M-Z, Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 9am 		
 Make-up, Last Name M-Z, Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 9am 		
Program: Commercial Art and Design Directory pg. 333	Code: M60P	
What to prepare for the audition:		
☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details)		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is <u>not</u> required to audition) See audition dates listed above for the Architectural Design program.		
Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts * 100 Amsterdam	MANHATTAN	
Avenue 10023	TIANTATIAN	
Program: Fine Art Directory pg. 353	NO CODE	
What to prepare for the audition:		
This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details), and also requests the following:		
What you will do at the audition:		
$\ \square$ Applicants will be given three drawing assignments, including drawing the human figure		
a still life from memory, and creating a drawing in color, based on imagination. All drawing materials for auditions		
will be supplied by the school at the audition.		
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Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts is a Specialized High School. Reg		
Gramercy Arts High School ★ 40 Irving Place 10003	MANHATTAN Code: M66A	
Program: Fine & Visual Arts Directory pg. 363 What to prepare for the audition:	Code. 1 100A	
• •		
This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details)		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is not required to audition)		
 Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 3:30pm 		
 Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 3:30pm 		
 Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 3:30pm 		

The Hig	h School of Fashion Industries ★ 225 West 24th Street 10011	MANHATTAN
Progran	n: Art Illustration and Graphic Design Directory pg. 383	Code: M68J
What	you will do at the audition:	
	This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details), and reques	ts the following:
	All students applying to the High School of Fashion Industries are required to audition for	_
	www.fashionhighschool.net or in person.	
	Submit your portfolio either online on the school's website (www.fashionhighschool.net	c) or in person at one of
	the audition dates listed.	7
	Complete an admissions examination.	
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2010.2	019 Audition Dates: (Posistration is not required to audition)	
2010-2	019 Audition Dates: (Registration is <u>not</u> required to audition) Friday, December 7, 2018 at 4pm	
	Friday, December 14, 2018 at 4pm	
•	Friday, January 4, 2019 at 4pm	
-	riday, january 4, 2017 at 4pm	
For audi	tion requirements or questions please visit <u>www.fashionhighschool.net</u> or contact 212-255-1235.	
		Code: M68L
	n: Fashion Design and Related Fields Directory pg. 383	Code: I*168L
	to prepare for the audition:	
	Prepare a portfolio of five original fashion illustrations.	
	91. 1	
	you will do at the audition:	
	All students applying to the High School of Fashion Industries are required to audition for	or the school online at
	www.fashionhighschool.net or in person.	
	,	
	the audition dates listed.	
	Complete an admissions examination.	
2018-2	019 Audition Dates: (Registration is <u>not</u> required to audition)	
•	See audition dates listed above for the Art Illustration and Graphic Design program.	
For audi	tion requirements or questions please visit <u>www.fashionhighschool.net</u> or contact 212-255-1235.	
Progran	n: Business Marketing and Visual Merchandising Directory pg. 383	Code: M68M
What 1	to prepare for the audition:	
	Prepare a 200-word essay describing your favorite place to shop and a visual advertisem	ent for this store.
What	you will do at the audition:	
	All students applying to the High School of Fashion Industries are required to audition for	or the school online at
	www.fashionhighschool.net or in person.	
	Submit your portfolio either online on the school's website (www.fashionhighschool.net) or in person at one of
	the audition dates listed.	7
	Complete an admissions examination.	
·		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is <u>not</u> required to audition)		
 See audition dates listed above for the Art Illustration and Graphic Design program. 		
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For audition requirements or questions please visit <u>www.fashionhighschool.net</u> or contact 212-255-1235.		

Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing & Visual Arts ★ 215 West 114th St. 10026	MANHATTAN	
Program: Visual Arts Directory pg. 456	Code: M26J	
What to prepare for the audition:		
☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details), and also r	equests the following:	
What you will do at the audition:		
\Box Present a portfolio of 5 – 8 pieces of original artwork, including at least two sketches.		
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is <u>not</u> required to audition) Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 4:30pm		
Saturday, November 10, 2018 at 11:30am		
Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 4:30pm		
Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 11:30am		
Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 4:30pm		
Friday, November 30, 2018 at 4:30pm		
Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 11:30am		

Bayside High School 32-24 Corporal Kennedy Street, Bayside 11361	QUEENS
Program: Digital Art & Design Directory pg. 479	Code: Q12A
What to prepare for the audition:	
Prepare a portfolio to bring to the audition.	
What you will do at the audition:	
☐ All students will be interviewed.	
☐ Students will complete a still drawing and design exercise.	
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is not required to audition)	
Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 9am	
 Saturday, January5, 2019 at 9am 	
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School 35-12 35th Avenue, Astoria 11106	QUEENS
Program: Fine Arts Directory pg. 504	Code: Q40J
What to prepare for the audition:	•
\Box A portfolio with $10-15$ pieces of original work created from observation and from st	udent's own imagination,
with a diversity of subject matter and use of media, including examples of line, value, as	nd color. Student work
should be unframed and need not be matted. Three-dimensional work can be shown in	n photographs.
What you will do at the audition:	
Present your portfolio.	
☐ Draw from observation and memory, using pencil.	
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is <u>not</u> required to audition)	
Queens; Last Name A-M, Saturday, November 3, 2018 at 7:30am	
Queens; Last Name N-Z, Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 7:30am	
 Citywide; Last Name A-M, Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 7:30am 	
Citywide; Last Name N-Z, Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 7:30am	
 Make-Up, Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 7:30am 	
 Make-Up, Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 7:30am 	

Newtown High School 48-01 90th Street, Elmhurst 11373	QUEENS
Program: Major Art Directory pg. 542	Code: Q34K
What to prepare for the audition:	
□ Prepare a portfolio of 8 − 10 pieces of original work (no cartoons).	
What you will do at the audition:	
$\ \square$ There will be a test that includes drawing from still life and six drawings from in	magination.
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Registration is not required to audition)	
Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 9am	
 Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 2pm 	
 Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 2pm 	
Friday, November 9, 2018 at 2pm	
Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 2pm	
Queens Technical High School 37-02 47th Avenue, Long Island City 11101	QUEENS
Program: Graphic Arts Directory pg. 557	Code: Q68B
What to prepare for the audition:	
 Contact the school for additional information, and read the program admissions 	s rubric on our website for a full
description of the audition.	
What you will do at the audition:	
☐ Students will complete a still life drawing and advertisement design exercise.	
☐ All students will be interviewed and portfolios are optional but strongly recomm	mended.
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Register for auditions through our school's website) Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 9am	

Susan E. Wagner High School 1200 Manor Road, 10314	STATEN ISLAND
Program: Visual Arts Directory pg. 601	Code: R17H
What you will do at the audition:	
 Art students must present a current portfolio including requiremen www.wagnerhigh.net. 	nts which can be found on the Wagner website:
2018-2019 Audition Dates: (Register for auditions through your school couns	selor)
Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 2:45pm	
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 2:45pm	
 Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 2:45pm 	

Section 6 — Your Personal Audition Schedule

Create your personal audition schedule by listing the high school programs that you are interested in, noting the audition date/time, and checking if registration is required.

My Audition Program/ School:	Audition Date/Time:	Registration Required?
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