

Teacher FAQs

How do I schedule a classroom visit?

To kickstart your Spotlight project, schedule a classroom visit from a McNay educator by emailing education@mcnayart.org. Be sure to include the date and time of the visit you are requesting, grade level(s) you teach, and how many students will be present.

How do I schedule a Free Student Tour?

A museum visit is the best way to prepare for Spotlight. On a free student tour, students closely examine the Spotlight selection in person and consider how and why it was made with the help of a museum docent. Visit our [Tours](#) page to schedule a student tour.

Who is Ian Dawson?

Learn more about the artist by visiting our [Ian Dawson Spotlight Resource](#) page to conduct your own research about the artist and the work of art online.

What is Spotlight Saturday?

This is an [Educator Workshop](#), on Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 1030am – 130pm, that invites educators to study and discuss this year's selection, [Ian Dawson's Henri and Henrietta](#), and explore it further with a hands-on workshop. Then hear from past participants and brainstorm your own project. Student responses to the artwork will be featured at the Spotlight Celebrations in May 2024. Teachers can receive three hours of continuing professional education credit. Space is limited and registration is required. Fee (includes museum admission): McNay members \$25; nonmembers \$35. For more information, email education@mcnayart.org.

How can I incorporate my idea into my curriculum?

Spotlight projects can take on many forms and are not limited to art making, with past submissions including painting and sculpture, but also poetry and digital media. The goal is to respond to the work of art in a creative way. That could be a science experiment, a choreographed dance, or a video game. See a brainstorming sheet [HERE](#).

Does the artwork have to be about the Spotlight object?

The Spotlight artwork is intended to inspire students and be a gateway to new ideas. They can take inspiration from the artist, the process, the artwork, and other artworks by the artist. We encourage creativity and hope that student responses are unique and bold. Spotlight also encourages experimentation. Students learn problem solving skills as they experiment, evaluate the results, and adapt their approach.

How do I confirm my participation in the Spotlight program?

Once you have developed your Spotlight concept, you can confirm your participation in the Spotlight program and Celebration by completing the Spotlight Form by the submission deadline [HERE](#).

Are there any restrictions to consider when submitting art?

This year, we ask that projects submitted are no larger than 4'x4'x4'. The gallery space is shared, and we hope to show as many student projects as possible. Small, individual, or collaborative projects are preferred. If you submit a large body of individual artworks, then a select portion of the objects will be chosen to represent the whole. We cannot accept any artworks with organic materials such as but not limited to dried flowers, sticks, sand, or scented materials. For more information on this program, email education@mcnayart.org.

When and how can I drop off my students' artwork?

Teachers can deliver Student artwork to the McNay by appointment only by the specified deadline: Monday, April 24, 2024. Artworks will not be accepted after this date.

What is the Spotlight Celebration?

The culmination of this year-long focus is the Spotlight Celebration in May 2024, where students have a forum to showcase their finished projects and talk about their creative process. This is a free event and registration is required to attend.

Who can attend the Spotlight Celebration?

Parents, teachers, administrators, and friends are invited to this celebration. This is a free event and registration is required to attend.

How do I register to attend the Spotlight Celebration?

If your artist is an Elementary student, then you can register **HERE (coming soon)**.

If your artist is a Middle or High school student, then you can register **HERE (coming soon)**.

This is a free event and registration is required to attend.

When and where can I view my student's artwork?

Due to the high volume of artworks submitted each year, the Spotlight Exhibition is broken into three rotations. All artwork submitted by teachers and students will be on display in the Patio Gallery or the Valero Learning Centers from Sunday, May 18, 2024 - Sunday, May 26, 2024, to allow everyone attending the Celebration days to view their student artwork.

All artworks in the Patio Gallery will remain on view until the next scheduled rotation date. All artworks in the Valero Learning Centers will be stored until their scheduled rotation. You can view the rotation schedule **HERE (coming soon)**. Rotation dates are subject to change.

Important Spotlight Dates 2023 – 2024

Submission Deadline

Reserve your participation at Spotlight by Friday, March 8, 2024

Artwork Delivery

By Monday, April 22, 2024 by appointment (Participants will be sent a list of drop-off windows)

Spotlight Exhibition Opens

Saturday, May 18, 2024

McNay Contact Information

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Spotlight Celebration Dates

Middle and High School Recognition

Sunday, May 19, 2024

12 – 5 PM, exact school presentation times TBD

Elementary School Recognition

Sunday, May 26, 2024

12 – 5 PM, exact school presentation times TBD