



## **LOS ANGELES (CA) LINKS, INCORPORATED**

### **YOUNG URBAN FILMMAKERS COMPETITION GUIDELINES**

#### **1. ELIGIBILITY**

The Los Angeles (CA) Links Incorporated (LA Links) Young Urban Filmmakers Competition (hereafter referred to as the “Competition”) is open to students grade 6 through 12<sup>th</sup> (ages 11 through 18), as per the appropriate entrant category. No fee is necessary to enter the competition.

All entrants must complete the “Entrant Oath and Permission Form and include with their film submission. The form may be mailed or scanned and returned electronically to the email listed on the form. The form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian for an entrant under the age of 18 where the legal guardian accepts responsibility and has read these official rules on behalf of the entrant.

#### **2. AGREEMENT**

Participation in the Competition constitutes entrants’ full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of the Rules and the decisions of the LA Links, which are final and binding. Winning a prize shall be contingent upon complying with the Rules and fulfilling Competition requirements of film submission. The LA Links reserves the right to disqualify any entrant who fails to comply with all official rules.

#### **3. ELIGIBLE GRADE LEVEL CATEGORIES**

To enter the competition, entrants must be in one of the following grade level categories at the time of submission. There will be one winner in each of the following grade level categories:

- Middle School (grades 6, 7,8)
- High School (grades 9, 10, 11)
- High School Senior

**Note: Students who completed grade 11 and submit an entry during the summer before grade 12 will be considered entrants for grade 12.**

Competition entries may be submitted by an individual, or by a group of any size (e.g., group of friends, an afterschool program, or an entire class). In the case of a group submission, one (1) prize will be awarded to the entire group as a whole.

#### 4. TOPIC CATEGORIES

Each film submission should choose one (1) or several of the following topics on which to focus the theme of the film:

- Social Justice
- Urban Lives Matter
- Los Angeles African American Culture & Life
- Racism – Past, Present & Future

Entrants will then be judged on their ability to address the topic(s) of choice by being engaging, inspiring and creative through their film. All submissions must show a strong understanding of the topics and related issues.

#### 5. FILM LENGTH

Entrants may submit a film of no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes. The LA Links will accept and consider short animated films. The minimum length for animated submissions is 3 minutes. Animations can present a solution or motivate viewers towards awareness of one of the four (4) topics.

#### 6. PRIZES

Winners of each category will receive the following prizes:

- **Screening** of their film at the Awards Reception
- **Posting** of their film on the LA Links website. Entrants grant LA Links the exclusive rights to the film and release ownership to the LA Links. LA Links reserves the right to utilize submitted films for any promotional materials and online media, at its sole discretion.
- **Cash prize or scholarship.** Each winner will receive a cash prize pertaining to the grade level category:
  - Middle School (grades 6,7,8): \$250 cash prize
  - High School (grades 9, 10, 11): \$350 cash prize
  - High School Senior (grade 12): \$500 cash prize

Note: A group of people may submit an entry together, however, only one prize will be awarded to the group as a whole.

#### 7. JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will check for adherence to these submission rules, including compliance with all terms (legality, conduct, etc.), film length, format, etc. Films will be judged by LA Links based on quality and content of the film and its ability to inspire and raise awareness of the film's chosen topic. ***Entrants who do not conform to policies and rules may be disqualified at the discretion of the LA Links.***

## **8. COMPETITION SUBMISSION PERIOD**

The Competition Submission Period is on a rolling basis. All submissions for the 2019 competition must be submitted and received by midnight January 22, 2019. Entries submitted after this time will not be considered.

## **9. HOW TO ENTER – SUBMISSION RULES/GUIDELINES**

There is a limit of one (1) entry per person or per group, regardless of method of entry. Any additional entries will be void. All film submissions must be made electronically. If you have a special circumstance and need to submit a hard copy DVD, contact: Suzette Banks at [lalurbanfilmmakers@gmail.com](mailto:lalurbanfilmmakers@gmail.com).

All entries become the property of the LA Links and will not be acknowledged or returned and entrants agree that winning entries can be used for future events held by LA Links and hosted on LA Links' website.

### ***9a. Steps to submit an electronic file:***

- Create and save your film in a high quality digital file. Acceptable formats include: imovie, Apple Quicktime Movie, .wmv Windows Media Video, MPEG/MPEG-4, and Flash Video. **The LA Links will not accept YouTube submissions.** Submissions must be via these listed methods only.
- Upload your film to your own Vimeo account. If you do not have an account, please refer to the Vimeo website on how to create one at: <https://vimeo.com/join> (<https://vimeo.com/join>).
- Verify that your link works.
- Send an email to [lalurbanfilmmakers@gmail.com](mailto:lalurbanfilmmakers@gmail.com) informing us of your film submission. In the email include the link to your film, your film title, and the completed oath and permission form. For group entries, each entrant must submit a completed permission form. Films submitted without the "Entrant Oath and Permission Form will not be considered for the competition. Print the linked form and oath, fill each out, then scan or photograph it and email it back to [lalurbanfilmmakers@gmail.com](mailto:lalurbanfilmmakers@gmail.com). Furthermore, should your film win, you may be asked to provide a hard copy DVD format of your film that the LA Links can use for screenings. Any costs incurred are the responsibility of the entrant.

### **9b. Intellectual Property**

By entering this competition, all entrants agree that their submission is their own original work, does not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of others, and is in compliance with all copyright laws.

When using sources and works that are not your own, entrants agree that those works are part of the public domain, that they have obtained permission to use the work, or that the use of the work does not constitute a substantial portion of the film so as to comply with fair use of laws USC Title 17 Section 107.

Where an entrant has obtained permission to use a substantial portion of another's intellectual property, entrant agrees to submit proof of permission with the film entry. We urge entrants in their creativity to use their own artistic works or those in the public domain. As to research, please give credit to the owners and authors of academic, cultural, political, etc. works such as through the credits of the film or when the source is used in the film.

For help finding images that are in the public domain and do not constitute any type of infringement. Entrants may use sources such as the Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures> (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures>). For free or royalty-free sound recordings and music, an artist typically places their work into the public domain. Entrants should do a search for royalty-free music, and many songs are available for a free and legal download to accompany your film. While the LA Links does not endorse or promote any specific website, you may find some of these free resources helpful in the creation of your film: [http://socialtimes.com/royalty-free-music\\_b37470](http://socialtimes.com/royalty-free-music_b37470) ([http://socialtimes.com/royalty-free-music\\_b37470](http://socialtimes.com/royalty-free-music_b37470)).

Entrants agree to not hold Los Angeles Links, Incorporated liable for any intellectual property disputes and to comply with these rules and all copyright laws.

## **10. WINNER SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION**

During the week of February 3, 2020, the LA Links will announce the potential winners after judgment of all eligible entries.

After winners are selected, LA Links will attempt to notify the winners via telephone or email during the week of February 10, 2020. If the winner cannot be contacted within seven (7) days after the date of the first attempt to contact, the LA Links may choose to award the next runner-up in place of the originally selected winner.

Potential winners will be notified by phone and followed up by email. If the potential winner cannot be contacted or if the prize is undeliverable, potential winner forfeits the prize.

It is the duty of the winners to supply a mailing address and email address to LA Links at the time of entry. If the entrant's address should change it is the duty of the entrant to inform LA Links of the updated address. For winning entrants who are minors, LA Links reserves the right to award the prize in the name of the parent/legal guardian. Potential winners must continue to comply with all terms and conditions of the Rules and winning is contingent upon fulfilling all of the requirements. If a potential winner is disqualified for any reason. LA Links may award the applicable prize to the next runner-up in the category.

## **11. GENERAL CONDITIONS**

In the event that the operation or administration of the Competition is impaired for any reason such as, but not limited to, fraud, legality, technicality, or in the event that the Competition is unable to run as planned for any reason, LA Links may suspend the Competition temporarily or indefinitely. LA Links may address the issue and resume the Competition or terminate the Competition. Suspension or termination of the Competition is under the sole discretion of LA Links, and entrants agree not to hold LA Links liable in these circumstances.

LA Links reserves the right to disqualify any entrant that it finds to not be in compliance or in violation with the Competition Rules or any entrant who acts in an unprofessional or disruptive manner. Competition entries reflect upon LA Links, and all entrants have freely and voluntarily entered Competition, so it is the sole discretion of Sponsor to disqualify any entrants who do not comply or act accordingly.

In submitting a film and signing the application form, all entrants agree to these terms and conditions of the competition and that LA Links is not liable for any unauthorized or inappropriate sharing of films. Note that violence, profanity, or direct attacks on individuals or organizations will not be accepted. All films must adhere to copyright laws. Any film utilizing copyrighted material that is not the creation or property of the entrant will not be considered unless clear evidence of the legal right to use the copyrighted material is provided with the submission by the applicable deadline (permission by the owner of the intellectual property).

## **12. RELEASE AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY**

By voluntarily participating in the Competition, entrants agree to release and hold harmless the LA Links from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of the entrant's participation in the Competition including but not limited to intellectual property disputes (where entrant agrees that entrant's submission is their own intellectual property, is of fair

use, from the public domain, or that entrant has obtained permission for use from the owner of the intellectual property, cancellation of the Competition, or injury, death, or losses of any kind from entrant freely participating in Competition. Entrant waives any right to claim any damages whatsoever, including but not limited to consequential, punitive, direct, or indirect damages.

**13. DISPUTES**

Except when prohibited by law, entrants agree that any and all disputes will be handled individually. In the case of any dispute, entrants agree to attempt resolution with LA Links. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of the Rules, entrants’ rights and obligations, or the rights and obligations of the LA Links in connection to the Competition, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of California, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules, which would cause the laws of any jurisdiction other than California. Any legal fees incurred by LA Links in the event of a dispute form an entrant is the responsibility of the entrant.

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby acknowledge receipt and  
(Student Name)  
agreement to the rules of the Los Angeles Links Urban Filmmakers Competition.

**If you are under eighteen your parent is required to sign this agreement.**

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_