



For Immediate Release

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HIV is Not a Crime V Announces 3rd Visual, Written & Spoken Word Art Contest

The HIV is Not a Crime V (HINAC5) Hospitality and Culture Work Group is now taking applications for the 3rd HINAC Visual, Written & Spoken Word Art Contest. HINAC5 and our partner organizations are inviting anyone living with HIV to submit work that “centers on the lives and art of people living with HIV. An application submission webinar is scheduled for all interested on August 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. ET. Please join [through this link](#), the recording and slides will be shared when available.

Past submissions maintained the [guiding principles](#) of challenging stigma, elevating the voices of people impacted by criminalization, being accurate and thinking beyond behavior. This year, there is a chance for three people to win a scholarship to HINAC; one winner from each category of Visual Art, Written Art and Spoken Word. Winners will also have their work transposed into a postcard to be sent out in educational campaigns for the public, including legislators.

In seeking to amplify the voices of people living with HIV, submissions will also be accepted globally; however due to the value of scholarship, winners can only be selected from within the United States. Kamaria Laffrey, HINAC5 Co-Coordinator and Hospitality and Culture Work Group Co-Chair states: “We hope to expand the conversation of the impact of HIV criminalization on various communities using art as advocacy.”

HIV is Not a Crime Training Academy is a biennial gathering of people living with HIV (PLHIV), HIV policy leaders and other stakeholders, primarily from the U.S., that educates and trains advocates and centers PLHIV leadership to end HIV criminalization, mass incarceration, racism

and social injustice. *Please note the conference organizers, venue hosts and host state COVID protocols are prioritized in our planning for the overall safety and wellness of attendees. Please keep this in mind before submitting your application.*

Committee chair and HINAC partner organization representative for THRIVE SS, Chauncey McGlathery, shares, "Every opportunity we have to turn our art into activism we should take it. Our communities are waiting to be inspired."

2021 HINAC Art Contest winner Stacey Jennings states, "I entered the contest because as my art brings out the best in me and is soothing to my spirit, I know my work is capable of doing the same for others. It reminds me constantly that I am/we are living gracefully everyday and that HIV Is Not A Crime; it's only a diagnosis."

Applicants can submit work via photos, uploading short videos or documents to show their expression of what it means to them when laws target people living with HIV for prosecution and excessive punishment in an effort to make them solely responsible for the sexual health decisions of others.

Winning submissions will be selected by experts in each art category, peers and members of the Hospitality & Culture Work Group. For community members living with HIV interested in submitting an art piece for consideration, please fill out this form: [HINAC V Visual, Written & Spoken Word Art Contest and Postcard Campaign](#). The deadline to complete the form is October 14, 2022. Winners will be notified December 19, 2022.

For more information on HIV is Not a Crime National Training Academy, visit www.seroproject.com/hiv-is-not-a-crime or, please contact Tami Haught, HINAC Director at tami.haught@seroproject.com.