



**MetroMorphosis**  
Transforming Urban Communities from 1950s

# 2025 Black Futures KUUMBA! Contest

(koo-OOM-bah)

MetroMorphosis, a local non-profit, is seeking submissions for its first ever **Black Futures Kuumba Contest!**

**Black Futures** is a month-long celebration of the rich history, contributions, and culture of the African Diaspora. Guided by the Ghanaian principle of **Sankofa**, Black Futures Month learns from the past to build a thriving future.

**This year's theme is Kuumba! A Celebration of Black Creativity, Innovation, and Technology.** Kuumba (pronounced koo-OOM-bah) is the Swahili word for creativity and the 6th principle of Kwanzaa which emphasizes a commitment to using our skills and talents to make the community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it. Our contest, so named for this principle, reiterates our commitment to innovation and community.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

**We invite artists, writers, performers, and creatives of all kinds to submit an original work (see categories and guidelines below) that embodies our theme and imagines a future where creativity, innovation, and technology has produced a stronger, more beautiful community.**

**WHO:** Any creative **age 12-18** regardless of school enrollment status

**WHAT:** **Digital Art (2D or 3D), Written and Performance** pieces that *imagine a future where creativity, innovation, and technology has created a stronger, more beautiful community*. Works will be judged by a committee based on the guidelines provided for each category, its fit with the theme, and its creativity.

**WHEN:** The Creatives Contest **opens January 28, 2025. All entries must be received by 11pm on February 16, 2025.** Finalists will be notified via email on February 20, 2025. Grand prize winners will be announced on February 26, 2025.

**HOW:** Submit **one original piece in one of the categories** below by visiting [metromorphosis.net/blackfutures](https://metromorphosis.net/blackfutures)

Submissions in multiple categories are allowed provided guidelines are met. All submissions must adhere to the guidelines for the contest and for the category. **All finalists will be invited to the Black Futures Reception** where the winners will be announced. **One winner will be selected in each category by a committee** of professional artists, writers, and creatives and will be awarded the grand prize at the Reception.

**WHY:** **All finalists will be invited to attend a Reception with local creatives, investors, and community members.** Grand Prize winners will receive:

- \$500 in cash and prizes
- Visibility and Exposure through various outlets for the remainder of the year.



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## GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

Submissions will be accepted until 11pm CST on February 16, 2025 in the following categories:

- **Digital Art:** any 2D or 3D image created using computers, software, or other electronic devices. Original inventions can be submitted in this category provided they are showcased entirely through digital means. The use of AI is strictly prohibited in this category.
- **Writing:** any essay, poem, or fiction that is created by hand or with a word processor and does not contain images or sound. Voice to Text is permitted for creation purposes but must not be submitted as the final product. The use of AI is not permitted.
- **Performance:** any submission that combines words, images, sound, and physical movement. This includes spoken word pieces, dramatic readings, and any renderings that require physical touch to display. The use of AI is not permitted. Original inventions can be submitted here if they require an actual person to showcase them.

Submissions must adhere to the following guidelines to be accepted. Any submission that is in violation of these guidelines will be automatically disqualified. This is at the sole discretion of the selection committee.

### General Guidelines:

- Only one submission per category, per person will be accepted. For example: You may submit a digital art piece and a written piece but you cannot submit an essay and a fiction piece.
- All submissions must be submitted through digital means and include a completed submission form.
- Submissions should be original and not previously published. Previously submitted work is accepted provided it has not been published, copyrighted, or promised to any other outlet.
- The use of AI is not permitted.
- Submission should avoid the use of overly violent or explicit content. "Overly violent and explicit" will be at the sole discretion of the selection committee.

### Digital Art Guidelines

- Submission must be an original 2D or 3D image created through digital means (computers, software, or other electronic devices) and submitted as a .png, .jpg, jpeg, or vector file.
- Submission must be a high resolution file (minimum of 300 PPI and not exceed 10MB)
- Submission must include an artist statement that explains the merit of the piece.

### Writing Guidelines

- Submission must be an original piece of writing created by hand or using a word processor containing no images or sound.
- Submissions must be fewer than 2500 words, typed and submitted as .doc, .docx, or .pdf.
- Submissions may be creative or technical, fiction or nonfiction, poetry or prose



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## Performance Guidelines

- Submissions must be original pieces no longer than 10 minutes including any introductions or credits.
- Submissions must be recorded. Live submissions will not be accepted.
- Submissions in this category must be submitted in one of the following formats: .mp4, pdf, .mov, or .avi,

## Prizes

All finalists will be notified by email and invited to the Black Futures Reception to be held on Wednesday, February 26th at 6pm. One winner in each category will be selected by a committee of artists, writers, and creatives and will be awarded the **Grand Prize**:

- \$500 in cash and prizes
- Visibility and Exposure through various outlets for the remainder of the year.
  - Digital Arts Grand Prize- Piece featured in the [Eternal Celebration exhibition at the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge](#)
  - Writing Grand Prize- Piece published through the MetroMorphosis Channels and [Local Media Outlets](#)
  - Performance Grand Prize- Piece performed at the Black Futures Reception

For questions or more information, email [info@metromorphosis.net](mailto:info@metromorphosis.net).