



Overview

The Technology Council of Central PA (TCCP) is excited to bring back its annual AI Art Contest with **GENERATE 2026**. GENERATE 2026 is a unique competition that invites artists, designers, and AI enthusiasts to push creative boundaries by producing visually striking artwork using artificial intelligence tools. This contest will showcase the intersection of technology and creativity, spotlighting the imaginative ways AI is shaping artistic expression across Central Pennsylvania. Submitted works will be evaluated through a blend of public voting and assessment by a panel of TCCP judges.

Why TCCP is Hosting This Contest

As an organization committed to advancing technology and innovation in Central PA, TCCP recognizes the growing impact of artificial intelligence across industries, including the creative sector. By hosting this contest, we aim to:

- Celebrate the creative possibilities of AI-powered tools.
- Encourage engagement with emerging technologies in an accessible and artistic way.
- Foster collaboration and innovation within the local and broader tech and art communities.
- Provide a platform for artists to gain recognition for their work.
- Support digital literacy and responsible exploration of AI tools.

2026 Contest Theme: The Human Side of Technology

For GENERATE 2026, artists are invited to explore **The Human Side of Technology**. This theme encourages submissions that highlight the relationship between people and technology—how innovation supports creativity, connection, learning, and growth.

Artwork may interpret this theme in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to): the role of technology in everyday life, collaboration between humans and machines, the emotions and experiences shaped by digital tools, or the ways technology enhances human potential rather than replaces it.

Submissions should reflect a people-centered perspective, emphasizing imagination, expression, and the evolving partnership between human creativity and artificial intelligence.

Contest Guidelines

- **Eligibility:** The contest is open to artists, designers, and AI enthusiasts of all skill levels who reside within TCCP's 22-county geographic service area. Individuals will be required to identify which county they live in when submitting their artwork.
- **Entry Fees:** There are no fees associated with this contest.
- **Submission Requirements:**
 - All artwork must be created using AI tools (e.g., generative AI software, machine learning algorithms, AI-assisted design platforms).
 - **Theme Requirement:** All artwork must be focused on the theme: *"The Human Side of Technology."* Any artwork that does not relate to this theme will not be considered for judging.
 - Images only may be entered – no video submissions will be accepted.
 - Artists are required to complete a brief Artist Submission Questionnaire for all art submissions. The Artist Submission Questionnaire will require artists to disclose the platform, model, or algorithm that has been utilized to generate the artwork and provide brief description (250 words max) explaining the creative process. (See **GENERATE 2026 Artist Submission Questionnaire** for additional information)
 - Each entry must be an original work by the participant.
 - There is no limit to the number of images that a participant can submit.
 - High-resolution digital files (JPEG, PNG) must be submitted.
 - Any artistic style, technique or method is permissible as long as AI generative methods have been utilized in the creation process. Purely generative art guided by prompts, traditional art inspired by AI generative products or digital art combined with generative art are all permissible submissions.
 - Images generated using the "style of" other artists, even with explicit authorization and copyrights, will not be accepted.

Voting & Judging

- The final winners will be determined through a combination of public voting and judges' scores.
- **Public Voting**
 - The public will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite entries through an online platform.
 - Participants and public votes can give a thumbs-up to their favorite artworks. This feedback reflects the popularity and appeal of the artworks to a broader audience.
 - TCCP will conduct a broad promotional campaign via social media and direct email to raise awareness about the competition and encourage the public's participation in the voting process.
- **TCCP Panel Evaluation and Scoring**
 - To ensure a fair and thorough evaluation of all entries in GENERATE 2026, the following criteria will be used by the judging panel. Each criterion will be scored on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest. The total score for each entry will be the sum of the scores from each criterion.
 - A panel of TCCP judges will privately and internally evaluate submissions based on 6 categories: creativity, originality, craftsmanship, visual impact, engagement and use of AI. (See **GENERATE 2026 Scoring Rubric** for additional information)
 - Each judge will independently evaluate and score each entry based on the criteria above. The scores from all judges will be averaged to determine the final score for each entry.
 - Tie-breaking: In the event of a tie, the entry with the highest score in the Creativity and Originality category will be selected as the winner. If a tie persists, the judges will deliberate and make a final decision.
 - By using this detailed evaluation criteria, the judging panel can ensure a comprehensive and fair assessment of all entries, highlighting the artistic talents and creativity of each participant.

- **Awards & Recognition:**
 - At TCCP, a non-profit entity, we recognize and celebrate winners through TCCP’s platforms, including social media, newsletters, and events.
 - Selected works may be featured in a TCCP showcase or exhibition.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

The creation of AI-generated artwork raises important legal and ethical concerns, particularly regarding intellectual property rights and the use of publicly available data. Since global regulations on AI-generated content are still developing, TCCP will not accept submissions that mimic the distinctive style of other artists, even if permission or rights have been granted.

TCCP acknowledges that the legal and ethical framework surrounding AI art is constantly evolving and may be subject to future changes. Participants are responsible for ensuring that their submissions adhere to current laws, ethical guidelines, and industry standards. They must also disclose the AI tools, models, or platforms used in their creative process.

Submissions should reflect meaningful human creative contribution, including aspects such as prompt design, iteration, curation, and post-processing, in order to highlight the partnership between human creativity and AI.

TCCP reserves the right to disqualify any submissions that violate ethical or legal standards and assumes no responsibility for any consequences arising from non-compliant entries.

Artists are encouraged to stay informed about legal and ethical discussions in the AI art space and to use AI responsibly in their creative work. TCCP remains committed to fostering ethical AI practices in the arts and will continue updating contest policies in alignment with emerging legal and ethical standards.

How to Enter

Interested participants can submit their artwork at <https://form.jotform.com/260224440862148> before the deadline of Friday, 10/30/2026 at 11:59pm. More details on submission instructions and voting timelines will be provided on TCCP’s official website.

Join us in exploring the future of creativity and technology—explore AI, express your vision, and celebrate **The Human Side of Technology!**

Timeline and Key Dates

6/2026	Identification and Outreach to Central PA art community stakeholders to develop buy-in
7/2026	Begin Teasers and Promotions
Monday, 8/24/2026	Contest OPENS for Submissions (Promotion via direct email, social media, word of mouth, etc.)
Friday, 10/30/2026 at 11:59pm	Contest CLOSES for Submissions
Monday, 11/2/2026 – Friday, 11/13/2026	Public Voting Period
Monday, 11/9/2026 – Friday, 11/20/2026	TCCP Panel Evaluation & Scoring Period
Monday, 11/23/2026 – Friday, 12/4/2026	Internal results prep, print artworks, prep winner announcement, etc.
Tuesday, 12/8/2026	Final Results Announcement (LIVE at 2026 TCCP Holiday Party at the Hershey Country Club)

GENERATE 2026 Artist Submission Questionnaire

General Information

1. Artist Name
2. Artist Email Address
3. Artist Phone Number
4. County of Residence (to confirm eligibility within TCCP's 22-county region)

Artwork Information

3. Title of the Artwork
4. Brief Artwork Description (250 words max):

Describe your piece and how it reflects the theme "The Human Side of Technology."

AI Tools & Creative Process

5. AI Tools, Models, or Platforms Used (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Midjourney
- ☐ DALL·E
- ☐ Adobe Firefly
- ☐ Google Gemini
- ☐ Stable Diffusion
- ☐ Leonardo.Ai
- ☐ NightCafe
- ☐ Procreate
- ☐ Canva
- ☐ Custom-trained model
- ☐ Other (please specify)

6. Human Creative Contribution (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Prompt design and iteration
- ☐ Image selection and curation
- ☐ Post-processing or editing
- ☐ Concept development
- ☐ Other (please describe)

Optional Reflection (NOT REQUIRED)

7. How do you see AI influencing the future of artistic expression?

Artist Certification & Usage Statement

By signing below, I certify that the artwork I am submitting is my original creation and was generated using AI tools in accordance with the contest guidelines. I confirm that I have disclosed all AI tools, models, and processes used in the creation of this artwork. I further certify that my submission does not infringe upon any copyrights, trademarks, or intellectual property rights of others. I confirm that this submission does not intentionally mimic the distinctive style of other artists and adheres to the contest's legal and ethical guidelines. I understand that any violation of these terms may result in disqualification from the contest.

Additionally, I grant the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania (TCCP) the non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use, reproduce, publish, and display my submitted artwork in future showcases, exhibitions, promotions, marketing materials, social media, or other promotional activities related to TCCP's mission. I acknowledge that TCCP will provide appropriate credit to the artist whenever possible, and that this permission does not transfer ownership of my artwork.

Artist Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

GENERATE 2026 Scoring Rubric

Submission ID	
Title of Artwork	

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	SCORE (1 – 10)
Creativity	- Does the artwork present a new or unique perspective? - Is it fresh and imaginative?	
Originality	- Is the artwork original and not derivative of existing works? - Does it stand out from other entries?	
Craftsmanship	- Is the artwork well-crafted and executed with attention to detail? - Does the image showcase high-quality composition and refinement?	
Visual Impact	- Is the artwork visually appealing and engaging? - Does it evoke an emotional or intellectual response?	
Engagement	- Does the artwork captivate and hold the viewer’s attention? - Is there depth or complexity that keeps the viewer intrigued?	
Use of AI	- Has the participant clearly communicated their creative process? - Have they disclosed which platform, model, or algorithm was utilized to generate the artwork?	

Total Score: _____ / 60

Judging Guidelines:

- Scores should reflect a balance between artistic skill and AI utilization.
- Ties: In the event of a tie, judges may deliberate on the Creativity and Originality scores to determine the winner.
- **Disqualification:** If an entry does not adhere to the contest guidelines (e.g., lacks AI use, violates originality rules, or is off-theme), judges may disqualify it.