



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

THE RECEIPT: What Violence Really Costs

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2026

A collaborative exhibition by East Yard and Families in Action

Artists | Students | Creatives | Advocates | Arima | Trinidad & Tobago

East Yard in collaboration with **Families in Action**, through its Gender Equality and Violence Prevention and Youth Departments, invite artists, students, emerging and established creatives of all ages to submit work for **THE RECEIPT: What Violence Really Costs**, an exhibition presented as part of the 2026 **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** campaign.

The exhibition invites artists to examine the often-invisible costs of violence and consider how its consequences extend beyond an individual incident to affect survivors, families, workplaces and communities.

Exhibition Dates:

Friday 27 November – Saturday 12 December 2026

Venue:

The Gallery

East Yard, 27 Prince Street, Arima

THE EXHIBITION

Every purchase comes with a receipt. But what if violence did too?

What would it reveal?

Lost income? Medical expenses? Fear? Isolation? Broken trust? Opportunities that may never return?

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Violence leaves a bill that extends far beyond what can be counted or measured. While an incident may end, its consequences can continue for years, affecting a person's sense of safety, relationships, livelihood, health, dignity and future.

For the 2026 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, Families in Action and East Yard present **THE RECEIPT: What Violence Really Costs** — an initiative challenging Trinidad and Tobago to recognise the often-overlooked consequences of violence and reflect on our collective responsibility to prevent harm.

The annual campaign takes place from 25 November to 10 December, beginning on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ending on Human Rights Day.

Under the campaign call to action, *UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, End Impunity*, the initiative seeks to spark public reflection and dialogue about the true costs of gender-based violence while reinforcing the importance of justice, survivor protection and accountability.

Through this exhibition, artists are invited to use their creative voices to explore the safety, social, economic, practical and long-term costs of violence. What happens to a person's life after violence? Who carries the burden? What does society overlook? And what would it take to prevent harm and create safer communities?

The bill is bigger than the receipt.

WHAT CAN ARTISTS EXPLORE?

We invite artists to consider the many ways violence affects individuals, families, workplaces and communities, including:

- **The emotional cost:** fear, anxiety, trauma, isolation, loss of confidence and the struggle to feel safe again.
- **The social cost:** broken trust, strained relationships, stigma, silence, victim-blaming and exclusion from community life.
- **The economic cost:** lost income, interrupted education, reduced opportunities, medical expenses, legal costs and financial dependence.
- **The practical cost:** finding safe accommodation, accessing support services, navigating legal systems and rebuilding everyday life.
- **The long-term cost:** lasting physical and psychological effects, disrupted opportunities, intergenerational consequences and the continuing impact of trauma.

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- **The cost to families and communities:** the burden carried by children, relatives, friends, colleagues and those who provide care and support.
- **The cost of inaction:** impunity, inadequate protection, barriers to justice, under-resourced support services and the consequences of failing to prevent violence.
- **The possibilities for change:** prevention, accountability, survivor protection, healing, solidarity and the collective work of building safer communities.

Artists may explore gender-based violence in its many forms, including domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual violence, harassment, exploitation, coercive control and violence against women and girls.

We also encourage work that questions the attitudes, behaviours, inequalities, institutions and systems that allow violence to persist.

Importantly, artists are invited to look beyond the immediate incident and consider the consequences that may be invisible to others: the opportunities lost, the relationships changed, the years spent recovering and the costs carried by people who are often left to navigate these realities alone.

THE RECEIPT AS A CREATIVE STARTING POINT

A receipt is a familiar record of what something costs. In this campaign, it becomes a way to make visible what is often ignored, minimised or left unspoken.

Artists may interpret this idea literally, using receipts, lists, numbers, itemised costs, statements or other familiar forms of accounting. Alternatively, they may approach the concept through portraiture, photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed media, textiles, poetry, writing, installation or other creative practices.

The receipt is a starting point, not a restriction. Artists are encouraged to interpret the concept in ways that are personal, local, Caribbean, global, documentary, symbolic, abstract or experimental.

We particularly welcome work that challenges audiences to reconsider what violence costs, whose responsibility it is to address those costs, and what meaningful prevention and accountability should look like.

This is not simply an invitation to depict violence. It is an invitation to make its consequences visible.

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We welcome submissions from:

- Artists and creatives of all ages and experience levels.
- Students and emerging artists exploring social issues through creative practice.
- Visual artists, photographers, writers, poets and multidisciplinary creatives.
- Gender based violence prevention advocates
- Artists based in Arima, East Trinidad and communities across Trinidad and Tobago.

We encourage work that reflects lived experiences and local realities while contributing to wider conversations about gender-based violence, human rights, justice and social change.

INSPIRATION TAGS

Gender-Based Violence • Violence Against Women and Girls • The Hidden Costs of Violence • Survivors • Safety • Fear • Trauma • Emotional Distress • Mental Wellbeing • Physical Health • Medical Expenses • Lost Income • Financial Dependence • Economic Insecurity • Lost Opportunities • Interrupted Education • Isolation • Broken Trust • Family Impact • Children and Young People • Intergenerational Consequences • Unpaid Care • Housing and Shelter • Legal Costs • Access to Justice • Accountability • Impunity • Protection • Support Services • Silence • Stigma • Victim-Blaming • Power • Control • Inequality • Gender Norms • Consent • Dignity • Human Rights • Justice • Prevention • Responsibility • Community Impact • Social Cost • Economic Cost • The Cost of Inaction • Healing • Recovery • Resilience • Agency • Solidarity • Advocacy • Safe Spaces • Education • Cultural Change • Hope • A Safer Future • Freedom from Violence • What We Owe Survivors • The Bill Is Bigger Than the Receipt

These words and ideas are intended as **inspiration rather than restrictions**. Artists are encouraged to interpret the theme through personal experiences, local realities, social commentary, symbolism, abstraction or experimental approaches. The aim is not simply to depict violence, but to make visible its often-overlooked consequences and invite reflection on prevention, survivor protection, justice and change.

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ABOUT THE COLLABORATION

East Yard is partnering with Families in Action on this exhibition through its Gender Equality and Violence Prevention and Youth Departments as part of the 2026 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

East Yard, Arima's Creative & Cultural Campus, works at the intersection of creativity, community impact, cultural exchange and commerce. Through exhibitions and socially engaged arts programming, East Yard creates opportunities for artists and communities to engage with the issues shaping our lives.

Together, East Yard and Families in Action are using art as a platform for public reflection, dialogue and awareness — encouraging audiences to look beyond individual incidents of violence and recognise their wider consequences, while strengthening the call for prevention, survivor protection, justice and accountability.

Whether you are in primary school, secondary school, an art programme, or simply a retiree exploring your creativity, we want to see your work.

WHO CAN SUBMIT?

Submissions are welcome from across Trinidad and Tobago, with particular encouragement for artists from **Arima, East Trinidad and surrounding communities**.

You do **not** need to be a professional or established artist to participate.

WHAT CAN YOU SUBMIT?

We welcome original visual artwork in any medium, including **but not limited to**:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Printmaking
- Textile and fabric art

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- Collage
- Mixed media
- Digital art
- Illustration
- Fibre art
- Assemblage
- Installation
- Literary work
- Experimental and interdisciplinary visual practices

You may submit **up to two (2) works** for consideration.

Works do not have to have been created specifically for this exhibition, provided that they meaningfully engage with the exhibition theme.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit the following via email:

1. Artist Information

- Full name
- Date of Birth
- Phone number
- Email address
- Community / location

2. Artist Statement/Bio & Headshot

A brief statement about yourself and your work and a high resolution headshot that can be used in promotion.

Maximum: 300 words

For younger artists – teachers, parents or guardians may assist with preparing the statement.

3. Artwork Information

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For each submitted work, provide:

- **Title**
- **Medium**
- **Year created**
- **Dimensions**
- **Price, if the work is for sale**
- **Brief description of the work and its relationship to the theme**

Maximum: 150 words per artwork

4. Images

Please submit clear, high-resolution images of each artwork.

Images should be suitable for digital review and promotion of the exhibition.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- There is **no submission fee**.
- All work submitted must be **original and authentic** and created by the submitting artist.
- Artists are responsible for ensuring that their work is ready for exhibition.
- Selected works must be appropriately framed, mounted or prepared for display where applicable.
- Artists are responsible for the safe transportation and collection of their artwork.
- Artists are responsible for any insurance they wish to obtain for their work.
- East Yard reserves the right to determine which submitted works are included in the exhibition.
- Submission of an artwork does not guarantee selection.
- East Yard reserves the right to decline work that does not meet the theme, exhibition requirements or standards of the exhibition.
- Works containing gratuitous nudity, sexual content, graphic violence, hate speech or discriminatory material will not be considered.

ARTWORK SALES

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East Yard will not sell artwork on behalf of artists.

The exhibition is intended to create an opportunity for artists to showcase their work, connect with audiences and facilitate direct relationships with potential buyers.

Artwork may be made available for purchase during the exhibition.

Where a visitor expresses interest in purchasing a work, the transaction, negotiation, payment and fulfilment will take place directly between the artist and buyer.

East Yard will facilitate the opportunity for connection but will not act as the seller, agent or intermediary in the transaction.

Artists should therefore ensure that the **price and contact information submitted with their artwork are accurate and current.**

Student artwork may also be offered for sale where appropriate, with all sales arrangements involving a parent/guardian where required.

SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be reviewed by East Yard based on:

- Relevance to the exhibition theme
- Strength and originality of the artistic concept
- Quality of execution
- Diversity of perspectives and artistic approaches
- Contribution to the overall exhibition narrative
- Suitability for the exhibition space

We are particularly interested in work that **opens up conversation** and gives audiences new ways of thinking about gender based violence prevention.

Selection of work is at the discretion of East Yard and Families in Action.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Activity	Date
Call for Submissions Opens	Wednesday 28 October 2026
Submission Deadline	Wednesday 18 November 2026
Selection Notification	Friday 20 November 2026
Artwork Drop-off / Installation	Saturday 21 & Monday – Wednesday 25 November 2026
Exhibition Opens	Friday 27 November 2026
Exhibition Closes	Saturday 12 December 2026
Artwork Collection	Tuesday 15 – Saturday 19 December 2026

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please submit your artwork images and supporting information electronically to:

submissions.eastyard@gmail.com

Subject:

The Age of Longevity – [Artist/Student Name]

Please ensure that all attached files are clearly labelled:

ArtistName_ArtworkTitle

ArtistName_ArtistStatement

ArtistName_Bio

ArtistName_Headshot



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who can submit?

Artists, emerging creatives and students of all ages and educational levels living in Trinidad and Tobago are invited to submit.

Artists from Arima, East Trinidad and surrounding communities are particularly encouraged to participate.

2. Do I have to be a professional artist?

Absolutely not.

This exhibition is open to established artists, emerging creatives and students. We want to create an opportunity for people at different stages of their creative journey to contribute to the conversation.

3. How many works can I submit?

Artists and students may submit a maximum of **two (2) artworks**.

4. Does the artwork have to depict violence directly?

No.

The theme is intentionally broad. Your work may explore gender-based violence directly, or examine the often-invisible costs and consequences of violence on individuals, survivors, families, workplaces and communities. This may include fear, trauma, isolation, lost income, broken trust, interrupted opportunities, inequality, accountability, access to justice, healing, resilience, prevention or the long-term impact of violence.

You may also explore the systems, attitudes and behaviours that enable violence, the support survivors need, or your vision for a safer and more equitable society.

5. Does my artwork have to be new?

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No. Existing work may be submitted if it meaningfully connects with the exhibition theme.

6. Is there a submission fee?

No. There is **no submission fee**.

7. Can I sell my artwork?

Yes. Artists may make selected works available for purchase.

East Yard will provide the exhibition platform and facilitate connections with interested audiences. **All sales, negotiations, payments and arrangements for collection or delivery are the responsibility of the artist and buyer.**

8. Does East Yard take a commission?

No. East Yard will not take a commission from the sale of artwork. Transactions take place directly between the artist and buyer.

9. Will all submitted work be exhibited?

No. Submission does not guarantee selection. East Yard will curate the final exhibition based on the overall theme, quality, diversity and suitability of submitted work.

10. What happens if my work is selected?

Selected artists will receive confirmation with information about artwork delivery, installation requirements, exhibition labels and collection details following the exhibition.