EAST YARD

Arima's Creative & Cultural Campus

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives

Artists | Students | Creatives | Trinidad & Tobago

East Yard invites **artists, students and emerging creatives of all ages** to submit work for ***The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives***, an exhibition presented in commemoration of the **United Nations International Day of Older Persons**.

Exhibition Dates:
Friday 16 October – Saturday 21 November 2026

Venue:
East Yard, 27 Prince Street, Arima

THE EXHIBITION

Humanity is living longer than ever.

But what does it mean to live a longer life—and what needs to change to ensure that those additional years are lived with **health, dignity, purpose, autonomy, opportunity and connection**?

The 2026 United Nations International Day of Older Persons invites us to consider longevity not simply as a demographic reality, but as a challenge and opportunity to rethink the systems that shape our lives.

Longer lives affect far more than healthcare. They intersect with **work, family, housing, education, social protection, community, technology, the economy, culture and human rights**.

This exhibition invites artists and students to explore these questions through their own perspectives and experiences.

The exhibition therefore encourages artists and students to consider:

- How Caribbean families care for and support older persons.
- The changing role of grandparents and extended families.
- The knowledge and cultural memory carried by older generations.
- How aging affects work, income and retirement.
- Whether our communities and public spaces are designed for people of different ages and abilities.
- How technology is changing relationships between generations.
- The experiences of people who age alone.
- The relationship between longevity and inequality.
- What we can learn from people who have lived through significant social and cultural change.
- How we imagine our own later years.
- What kind of society we want to grow old in.

Artists may also consider the relationship between **individual longevity and the longevity of communities, traditions, institutions and cultural practices.**

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS

You don't have to be a professional artist to participate.

East Yard particularly encourages **students of all ages and levels** to respond to the theme.

Whether you are in **primary school, secondary school, tertiary education, an art programme, technical or vocational training, or simply a retiree exploring your creativity**, we want to see how you think about the future.

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INSPIRATIONAL TAGS

Artists and students may use the following words and ideas as starting points for developing their work:

Longevity • Ageing • Older Persons • Dignity • Healthy Ageing • Intergenerational Relationships • Family • Care • Community • Belonging • Memory • Legacy • Identity • Work • Retirement • Second Careers • Contribution • Independence • Autonomy • Accessibility • Inclusion • Social Protection • Healthcare • Housing • Retraining • Digital Inclusion • Poverty • Inequality • Human Rights • Gender • Family Structures • Caregiving • Social Isolation • Mental Well-being • Mobility • Public Spaces • Community Design• Life Transitions • Mortality • Time • Memory • Wisdom • Heritage • Storytelling • Generational Change • Caribbean Ageing • The Future •

These are intended as **inspiration rather than restrictions**.

Artists and students are welcome to interpret the theme in ways that are personal, local, Caribbean, global, literal or abstract.

WHO CAN SUBMIT?

Submissions are welcome from across **Trinidad and Tobago**, with particular encouragement for artists and students 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

- Collage
- Mixed media
- Digital art
- Illustration
- Fibre art
- Assemblage
- Installation
- 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:

1. Artist Information

- Full name
- Age
- School / institution, if applicable
- Phone number
- Email address
- Community / location
- Short artist biography or student profile

2. Artist / Student Statement

A brief statement about yourself and how your work relates to the exhibition theme.

Maximum: 300 words

For younger students, 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/student.
- 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.

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ARTWORK SALES

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 or school 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 longevity, ageing and the systems that shape our lives.

Selection of work is at the discretion of East Yard.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Activity	Date
Call for Submissions Opens	Sunday 4 October 2026
Submission Deadline	Friday 16 October 2026
Selection Notification	Monday 19 October 2026
Artwork Drop-off / Installation	Tuesday 20 – Thursday 22 October 2026
Exhibition Opens	Friday 23 October 2026
Exhibition Closes	Saturday 21 November 2026
Artwork Collection	Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 November 2026

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please submit your artwork images and supporting information electronically to:

info.eastyard@gmail.com

Subject:
The Age of Longevity – [Artist/Student Name]

Please ensure that all files are clearly labelled:

ArtistName_ArtworkTitle_2026

ArtistName_ArtistStatement_2026

ArtistName_Bio_2026

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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 and students 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 **three (3) artworks**.

4. Does the artwork have to be about older people?

No.

The theme is intentionally broad. Your work may explore ageing and older persons directly, or examine broader questions around **longevity, time, family, work, care, community, health, inequality, technology, identity, memory, legacy or the future**.

5. Does my artwork have to be new?

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