



ISC 2026 - Creative Submissions

The Alliance for Higher Education in Prison (“the Alliance”) is pleased to announce that the third annual **Incarcerated Scholars Conference** (ISC) will be held virtually October 28–29, 2026. This virtual event is free and open to everyone. The theme that will frame this year’s conference is ***Learning in Motion***.

Creative Submissions:

If you are currently incarcerated, we invite you to submit creative work to the conference. Creative submissions will not be presented live by the artist during the conference. Below are three ways to submit your work. Please choose the option that works best for you:

- **Online (preferred):** Complete the [Google Form](#) (preferred).
- **By email:** Send this completed PDF and your creative work as attachments to isc@higheredinprison.org.
- **By mail:** Print and complete this PDF, then mail it with the creative work to the address below. Materials must be postmarked by July 12, 2026, we will not accept late submissions.

Alliance for Higher Education in Prison
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Important dates to remember:

- The deadline for submission is **July 12, 2026**
- Notification of submission decision (accept/decline) will be sent the week of **August 10, 2026**
- The conference will take place **October 28-29, 2026**

Guidelines for Creative Submissions

Please read the following guidelines before you begin. We can only consider submissions that meet all listed requirements. **Please note that Creative Submissions will not be presented by the artist live at the conference.**

General Guidelines:

- You must be currently incarcerated to be eligible to submit.
- Only 1 creative submission per artist.
- Please do not send original artwork if you want it returned.
- Submitted artwork will be retained in conference archives.
- For paintings, drawings, and other visual pieces, a clear photo of the artwork in a well-lit setting is the best option.
- Performance-based works must be 3 minutes or less.
- Written submissions should be brief enough to be read aloud in under 3 minutes.
- Submissions must include 1 of the following:

Option 1: Submit the creative work with a written artist statement
You may submit your creative work along with a written artist statement. If selected, an Alliance staff member may read the artist statement aloud during the conference.

Option 2: Submit the creative work with a pre-recorded artist statement or performance. You may also submit a recording of yourself reading your artist statement and/or performing your work.

Artist Information

First name	
Last name	
Academic affiliation (if applicable)	
Current location (name of facility, city, state)	
Email address (if applicable)	
Pseudonym (only complete if the presenter prefers not to use their formal name)	

Recording and Media Use

Creative works selected for the conference may be shared during the virtual event and may also be used later by the Alliance for educational or archival purposes. This may include use in future conferences, educational materials, or recordings shared with correctional facilities and classrooms.

The Incarcerated Scholars Conference may record presentations, performances, and creative works shared during the conference.

By submitting work, you give the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison permission to present your work during the conference and to record, archive, and share the recording for educational and non-commercial purposes, such as conference materials, classrooms, and future educational programming. The Alliance may edit recordings for clarity or length.

Artists retain ownership of their creative work. This release grants permission for the Alliance to present and share the work as described above. Participation does not include financial compensation.

By checking the box below and submitting this form, you are providing electronic consent to this media release:

Creative submissions must be complete and must include the required media release acknowledgement by checking the box below. Creative works submitted without this checkbox completed will not be considered.

I confirm that the artist understands and agrees to this media release.

Proxy Contact Information (OPTIONAL)

If you are an artist who is self-submitting, please consider filling out this section with contact information for a proxy who can communicate on your behalf (if necessary). Or, if you are serving as a proxy for a currently incarcerated individual or group of individuals, include your information below.

First name	
Last name	
Professional affiliation	
Professional title	
Email address	
Phone number	

Corrections Permission: Approval from your facility is not required to submit creative work. However, artists who would like to be named during the conference should provide a corrections contact below so the Alliance can seek approval to share the artist's name at the conference. If no contact is provided, or if approval is not received, the work will be presented anonymously. **Corrections approval to share the artist's name must be received by September 1, 2026.**

Corrections Contact Information (OPTIONAL)

First name	
Last name	
Professional title	
Email address	
Phone number	

Submission Information

Title of creative work:

What kind of creative work are you submitting?

- Visual art (including 2D drawings or paintings, or 3D sculpture)
- Poetry
- Spoken word
- Music
- Dance
- Audio or video recordings
- Testimonial
- Other creative work(s): _____

Artist Statement

Please provide a brief statement about this creative work. Max 250 words.

Reminder: Your submission will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed if your creative work is not included with your application.