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## HOME ENVIRONMENT

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The purpose of Home Environment is to learn design principles and develop graphic design techniques. In addition, activities in this category encourage well-thought-out design plans and diverse artistic techniques. Be sure to take note of the rules section to develop a successful project.

### **Resources**

Design Decisions – Explore ways to make your house more green; Learn new painting techniques; Design or select furniture, fabric, and storage items for your room; Accessorize a room-design or select unique items such as wall art, wall arrangements, or lamps.

URL: [https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program\\_project/49](https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/49)

Design My Place – Apply color and design principles using different materials to make and display objects for your home; Develop original designs; Plan a comfortable, clean, attractive home; Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

URL: [https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program\\_project/48](https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/48)

Portfolio Pathways – Learn painting, printing, and graphic design techniques; Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

URL: [https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program\\_project/52](https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/52)

Preserving Heirlooms – Recognize factors that make antiques valuable; Refurbish and restore heirloom or heritage furnishings and accessories; Preserve family heirlooms.

URL: [https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program\\_project/50](https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/50)

Preserving Heirlooms – Publication by UNL Extension

URL: <https://unl.app.box.com/s/qjh9dorpkrvp4k8ijmfdommouqlttwm8>

Sketchbook Crossroads - Practice drawing, fiber arts, and sculpting; Develop artistic talents and skills; Understand the visual arts in relation to history and culture.

URL: [https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program\\_project/51](https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/51)

### **Rules:**

Home Environment Exhibits are evaluated by these criteria:

1. Items must be designed to be used for home decorating, home furnishing, or home management (no clothing, purses, note cards, scrapbooks/photo albums, etc.)
2. Accessories should be of high quality (as compared to quick, simple crafts), suitable for use in the home for several months throughout the year. Holiday-specific items are discouraged. Exhibits made from kits are also discouraged as kits limit decision-making in the design process.
3. Items should show creativity and originality, along with the application of design element and principles. Youth are required to include the design elements and principles they used along with simple directions for how they made their project with their exhibit. Information on the elements and principles of design may be found in the Design Decisions manual, as well as Portfolio Pathways and Sketchbook Crossroads.
4. Entered in correct class: What medium was changed or manipulated? What medium is the majority of your exhibit made from?

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5. **Items should be ready for display in the home**: pictures framed, wall hangings and pictures ready to hang, etc. No single mat board or artist canvas panels allowed. Wrapped canvas (if staples not visible on edge) is accepted without framing. Make sure hangers are strong enough to support the item. Command Strips are not adequate hangers. \*Items not ready for display will be dropped one ribbon placing, and not be eligible for State Fair.
6. All static exhibits must have received a purple ribbon at the county fair to advance to the state fair.
7. Items should not be made for beginning level or other projects (ex: simple (10 minute) table runners or woodworking). Exhibits from the beginning level projects, Design My Place, are county only and not state fair eligible.
8. **NUMBER OF ENTRIES PER INDIVIDUAL** - One entry per exhibitor per class. Limit of two entries in ALL home environment projects per exhibitor.  
*\*\*For example: Portfolio Pathways C261001 ORIGINAL ACRYLIC PAINTING can only have one entry. Only two entries allowed under Portfolio Pathways project area.*
9. **SIZE OF EXHIBITS** - Exhibits may be no taller than 7 feet and no wider than 6 feet. All exhibits must be easily lifted by two 4-H staff.
10. **ENTRY TAGS** - An entry tag which includes a clear description of the entry must be securely attached to each Home Environment exhibit. Use color, pattern or picture descriptions to aid in identification. No straight pins.
11. **IDENTIFICATION** - In addition to the entry tag, a label with the exhibitor's name and county should be attached to each separate piece of the exhibit.
12. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION** - Supporting information is required for all Home Environment exhibits. Information must include elements or principles of design used and steps taken to complete project. Tag templates can be found at <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dixon/Home%20Environment%20Tag.pdf>  
Exhibits without supporting information will be dropped a ribbon placing.

Supporting information is required for all State Fair (SF) eligible Home Environment exhibits. This includes Design Decisions, Sketchbook Crossroads, Portfolio Pathways and Heirloom Treasures.

County only exhibits (\*) do not require the supporting information but it is encouraged.

**State Fair: Special Exhibits will be selected for the Design Gallery at the Nebraska State Fair from the Home Environment area.**

Home Environment Supporting Information	
Name _____	County _____
Check elements and principles used in your exhibit	
<b>Elements of Design</b> - The building blocks of design.	
___ Color	___ Texture
___ Shape/Form	___ Line ___ Space
<b>Principles of Design</b> - How you used the elements to make your project.	
___ Rhythm/Repetition	___ Balance
___ Emphasis	___ Unity ___ Proportion
<b>Steps taken to complete this exhibit:</b> (Use back of card)	

**DESIGN MY SPACE (Ages 8-12)**  
**\*Not State Fair Eligible**

- \*C 251 901 **NEEDLEWORK ITEM** (made with yarn or floss)
- \*C 251 902 **SIMPLE FABRIC ACCESSORY** (pillow, laundry bag, pillowcase, table runner, etc.)
- \*C 251 903 **ACCESSORY** made with original batik or tie dye.
- \*C 251 904 **SIMPLE ACCESSORY** made by 4-H'er using wood
- \*C 251 905 **SIMPLE ACCESSORY** made by 4-H'er using plastic
- \*C 251 906 **SIMPLE ACCESSORY** made by 4-H'er using glass
- \*C 251 907 **SIMPLE ACCESSORY** made by 4-H'er using clay
- \*C 251 908 **SIMPLE ACCESSORY** made by 4-H'er using paper
- \*C 251 909 **METAL TOOLING** Or Metal Punch Accessory
- \*C 251 910 **STORAGE ITEM** Made or Recycled
- \*C 251 911 **BULLETIN OR MESSAGE BOARD**
- \*C 251 912 **PROBLEM SOLVED** Use creative method to show how you solved a problem (air quality, water, sound, temperature, lighting, fire escape plan, etc.)
- \*C 251 913 **VIDEO** showing how to make a bed or organize a room

**DESIGN DECISIONS (Ages 13-18)**

**Rules:**

1. Attach information to explain steps taken. Information must also include the element or principle of design used (p. 9-12). Review rules listed above.

**C 257 001 DESIGN BOARD FOR A ROOM** Include: color scheme, wall treatment, floor treatment, etc. OR floor plan for a room. Posters, 22 x 28, or multimedia presentation (on CD). Show what you learned with before and after pictures or diagrams, samples, story, cost comparisons, optional arrangements, etc.

**C 257 002 PROBLEM SOLVED, ENERGY SAVERS OR CAREER EXPLORATION** Identify a problem (as problem windows, storage needs, inconvenient room arrangement, cost comparison, energy conservation, waste management, etc.) OR, explore a career related to

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home environment. (what would it be, what education is needed, what would you do, etc.) Using poster, notebook, multimedia presentation (on CD) or other method, describe the problem and how it was solved OR your career exploration. (p. 74-93)

**C 257 003 SOLAR, WIND, OR OTHER ENERGY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE HOME** Can be models, either an original creation or an adaptation of kit. If kit, label and explain what was learned and how the item could be used in or on exterior of home. (p. 74-93)

**C 257 004 TECHNOLOGY IN DESIGN** Incorporate technology into a project related to home environment; for example, using conductive thread to create a circuit that enhances a wall hanging.

**C 257 006 WINDOW COVERING** May include curtains, draperies, shades, shutters, etc.

**C 257 007 FLOOR COVERING** May be woven, braided, painted floor cloth, etc.

**C 257 008 BEDCOVER** May include quilt, comforter, bedspread, dust ruffle, canopy, etc. For quilts, state who did the quilting. (No fleece-tied exhibits.) (p. 50-53)

**C 257 009 ACCESSORY ORIGINAL NEEDLEWORK/STITCHERY**

**C 257 010 ACCESSORY TEXTILE – 2D** (tablecloth or runner, dresser scarf, wall hanging, etc. No tied fleece blankets or beginning/10-minute table runners.)

**C 257 011 ACCESSORY TEXTILE – 3D** (pillows, pillow shams, fabric bowls, etc. No fleece tied exhibits)

**C 257 012 ACCESSORY 2D OTHER**

**C 257 013 ACCESSORY 3D** (string art, wreaths, etc.)

**C 257 014 ACCESSORY Original Floral Design**

**C 257 015 ACCESSORY Original made from Wood** – Burn, cut, shape or otherwise manipulate

**C 257 016 ACCESSORY Original made from Glass** – Etch, mosaic, stain, molten or otherwise manipulate

**C 257 017 ACCESSORY Original made from Metal** – Cut, shape, punch, sculpt, reassemble or otherwise manipulate.

**C 257 018 ACCESSORY Original made from Ceramic or Tile** Treatment to exhibit must go through a process that permanently alters the medium. Painting alone is not sufficient.

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**C 257 019 ACCESSORY Recycled/Upcycled Item for the home** Reuse a common object or material in a creative way. Include description of what was done to recycle or reuse item in your attached information.

**C 257 020 FURNITURE Recycled/Remade** Made or finished by using a common object or material in a creative way. Include description of what was done to recycle or reuse item in your attached information.

**C 257 021 FURNITURE Wood Opaque finish such as paint or enamel**

**C 257 022 FURNITURE Wood Clear finish showing wood grain**

**C 257 023 FURNITURE Fabric Covered** May include stool, chair seat, slip-covers, headboard, etc.

**C 257 024 FURNITURE Outdoor Living** Furniture made/refurbished suitable for outdoor use. (NOTE: May be displayed outside). Include description of what was done to recycle or reuse item in your attached information.

**C 257 025 ACCESSORY Outdoor Living** Accessory made/refurbished by 4-H member suitable for outdoor use. (NOTE: May be displayed outside.) Include description of what was done to recycle or reuse item in your attached information.

PREMIUMS: PURPLE \$2.00; BLUE \$1.25; RED \$1.00; WHITE \$0.75

**HEIRLOOM TREASURES & FAMILY KEEPSAKES**

**Rules:**

1. This project area is for items with historic, sentimental, or antique value that are restored, repurposed or refinished to keep their original look and value. It is not for "recycled" items. For example, a bench would be considered an heirloom if the original finish is restored, but if decorated by painting it would be considered recycled. Entering highly valuable items (especially small ones) is discouraged, as exhibits are not displayed in closed cases.
2. NOTE: Resources to support this project area are available on the 4-H website. Attach information including:
  - 1) List of steps taken to complete your project. Before and after pictures are encouraged.
  - 2) Keepsakes documentation: how you acquired the item and the history of the item may be written, pictures, audio or video tape of interview with family member, etc.

**C 256 001 TRUNKS** Including doll-sized trunks or wardrobes.

**C 256 002 AN ARTICLE** Either a repurposed "treasure" (accessory) from an old item or an old "treasure" (accessory) refinished or renovated. May include a display of a collection or collectibles, being careful not to destroy value of the collection.



**C 256 003 FURNITURE** Either a repurposed "treasure" from an old item or an old "treasure" refinished or renovated. May include doll-sized furniture.

**C 256 004 CLEANED AND RESTORED HEIRLOOM ACCESSORY OR FURNITURE**

A reconditioned and cleaned old piece of furniture or accessory that is functional for use or display. Item might be cleaned and waxed, and simple repairs made. Item would not be refinished or repainted but reconditioned to restore it to its original look or to prevent it from further damage as a valuable heirloom.

Consult extension publication Care and Conservation of Heirloom Textiles for information on textiles. This publication can be found in the Digital Commons at: <https://go.unl.edu/gcnh> (Refinished items go in classes 2 – 3.) This class is for situations where it may be best to do very little to the item to maintain its antique value. Item or article should be of complexity suited to an advanced project.

PREMIUMS: PURPLE \$2.00; BLUE \$1.25; RED \$1.00; WHITE \$0.75

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**VISUAL ARTS**

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The purpose of the Visual Arts projects is to learn design principles and develop design techniques. In addition, youth should work to communicate a personal voice, with intention, through their work. Be sure to take note of the rules section to develop a successful project. By completing supporting documentation, youth will examine their choices and demonstrate an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design.

**Rules:**

1. Original Work - Items must be the original work of the 4-H member and should show creativity and originality. No copyrighted images or master studies.
2. Framed and Ready for Display - All 2-dimensional pieces must be ready to hang using a sawtooth or wire hanger. Stretched canvases do not need frames as long as staples are not visible on the edges. All other 2-dimensional pieces must be framed.
3. Entries per Exhibitor: 4-H members may enter one exhibit per class.
4. Entry Descriptions: Entry tags should include a visual description of the exhibit, including size, dominant color, and subject to aid in identification.
5. Supporting Information: Supporting information is required for all Visual Arts exhibits. Information must include responses to all questions and steps taken to complete the project. Supporting Information tag templates can be found at <https://go.unl.edu/ne4hvisualarts>. Exhibits without supporting information will be dropped a ribbon placing.

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<p><b>Visual Art Supporting Information</b> (updated 2023)</p> <p>Name _____ Age _____ County _____</p> <p>Class _____ Artwork Title _____</p> <p><b>Reflection</b></p> <p>1. Discuss your use of the elements and principles in this piece. Which specific elements and/or principles do you focus on while planning and creating this piece? Why?</p> <p>2. Where or how did you find the inspiration or references for your artwork, such as other artwork, reference photos, ideas? What did you do to make this unique and original, rather than copying other's ideas or creations?</p> <p><b>Process</b> – Outline your creative process and the steps you took to complete this piece. Include special or unique materials, tools, or techniques used.</p>
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**SKETCHBOOK CROSSROADS**

**Rules:**

1. Exhibitors in Sketchbook Crossroads should be utilizing the mediums, skills, and techniques they have developed in their visual arts project, especially topics covered in the Sketchbook Crossroads manual.
2. Classes 001-002, are to be framed and ready to hang. Those not following this will be dropped one ribbon placing, and not be eligible for State Fair.

**C 260 001 ORIGINAL PENCIL OR CHALK DRAWING** – Scratch art accepted here.  
(Sketchbook Crossroads, p. 10-21)

**C 260 002 ORIGINAL INK DRAWING** (Sketchbook Crossroads, p. 22-28)

**C 260 003 ORIGINAL FIBER ART** (Sketchbook Crossroads, p. 29)

**C 260 004 ORIGINAL FELTED WOOL ART** (Sketchbook Crossroads, p.29-33)

**C 260 005 ORIGINAL COTTON LINTER ART** (Sketchbook Crossroads, p. 34-36)

**C 260 006 ORIGINAL BATIK ART** (Sketchbook Crossroads, p. 37-39)

**C 260 007 ORIGINAL WEAVED ART** (Sketchbook Crossroads, p. 40-47)

**C 260 008 ORIGINAL DYED FABRIC ART** (Sketchbook Crossroads, p. 48- 50)



**C 260 009 ORIGINAL SCULPTURE OR POTTERY** (no purchased items) (Sketchbook Crossroads, p. 53-62)

**C 260 010 NEBRASKA LIFE EXHIBIT** An art exhibit using one of the techniques in the above classes to show how art can define a sense of place, or life in Nebraska. For example - a pencil or ink drawing depicting life in Nebraska, using natural resources such as native grasses to make a weaving, using natural fibers for felting, or using roots, nuts, plants or flowers to dye fabric. Include the required information listed above and how this project represents life in Nebraska.

**\*C 260 901 ANY HOME ACCESSORY** that does not fit the SKETCHBOOK CROSSROADS classes but consistent with the project. \*Not State Fair eligible

PREMIUMS: PURPLE \$2.00; BLUE \$1.25; RED \$1.00; WHITE \$0.75

### **PORTFOLIO PATHWAYS**

#### **Rules**

1. Exhibitors in Portfolio Pathways should be utilizing the mediums, skills, and techniques they have developed in their visual arts project, especially topics covered in the Portfolio Pathways manual.
2. Classes 001-006, are to be framed and ready to hang. Those not following this will be dropped one ribbon placing, and not be eligible for State Fair.

**C 261 001 ORIGINAL ACRYLIC PAINTING** - (Portfolio Pathways, p. 12-13)

**C 261 002 ORIGINAL OIL PAINTING** - (Portfolio Pathways p. 26-33)

**C 261 003 ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR PAINTING** - (Portfolio Pathways p. 14-17)

**C 261 004 ORIGINAL SAND PAINTING** - (Portfolio Pathways p. 20-21)

**C 261 005 ORIGINAL ENCAUSTIC PAINTING** - (Portfolio Pathways p. 34-35)

**C 261 006 ORIGINAL PRINT** - (Portfolio Pathways p. 36-56)

**C 261 007 ORIGINAL MIXED MEDIA ART** - An art exhibit using a combination of two or more different media or materials.



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**C 261 008 NEBRASKA LIFE EXHIBIT** - An art exhibit using one of the techniques in the above classes to show how art can define a sense of place or life in Nebraska. For example – solar printing; making prints using shed snakeskin or plant; an acrylic, oil; watercolor painting of scenes of your community or the surrounding area; or using objects from nature to make the painting. Include the required information listed above and how this project represents Nebraska life.

**\*C 261 901 ANY HOME ACCESSORY** that does not fit the PORTFOLIO PATHWAYS classes but consistent with the project. \*Not State Fair eligible

PREMIUMS: PURPLE \$2.00; BLUE \$1.25; RED \$1.00; WHITE \$0.75