

Amara

THROUGH THE FOSTER LENS Foster Care Photo Submissions FAQ

What is the purpose of this event and gathering photos from those with lived experience in the child welfare system?

These events are designed to create a space for anyone impacted by foster care to represent their experiences or hopes through photography, and to deepen our broader community's connection and commitment to our work through sharing these photos. This was inspired by the work of Amara's Youth Development Summer Camps last year, during which participants got to explore identity development through photography. This event will also serve as a fundraiser for Amara, as guests will be invited to make a donation to support our work.

Who can submit photos?

Photos may be submitted by anyone who is currently involved, or has been involved, in the child welfare/foster care system. This may include youth in or formerly in foster or kinship care, family members, parents, kinship caregivers, foster caregivers, and professionals who have supported any of these populations.

How will my photo submission be used?

Photos will be displayed at a happy hour fundraising event in Tacoma that Amara is hosting this fall, as well as during several smaller in-home events in the community. There will be 10-15 photos selected (by vote of a selection committee) to print and display around the event spaces. You will be notified by email before the fall event (Date TBA) if your photo is selected to be displayed. All other submissions will be shared on loop on a screen at the event.

What should my photo submission be of?

We are asking that your photo be representative of your foster care experience or your hope for children and families involved in foster care. This may be something that symbolizes foster care for you, what you wish your experience in foster care had been, or what you hope for those involved with the child welfare system currently or in the future.

Any identifiable adults or children in your photo must consent to being in your photo submission. Children who are currently in a dependency case, or children whose dependency status is unknown to you may not be included in your photo in an identifiable way.

Where/how do I submit photos?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/amaraphotosubmissions>

What is the deadline to submit photos?

All photos should be submitted via the form by 11:59pm on Sunday, August 4th, 2024.

What format should my photo be submitted in?

Photos should be submitted as .jpg files with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi, minimum 5400 x 7200 pixels and at least 40 MB.

How will photos be selected and displayed?

There will be a selection committee made up of Amara staff, Board members, Ambassador Board, program participants, including people with lived experience in child welfare. Everyone on the committee will review all submissions and vote for their top 10 submissions. The 10-15 photos with the most votes overall will be printed and displayed (individually) at the event. Additionally, all photo submissions will be shared on loop on a screen throughout the event.

Can people purchase my photos?

On the submission form, there is a place to select whether you would like guests at the events to be able to contact you regarding your photos. If you do, then we can either display your business card/website/contact info or we can have it available to give to anyone who is interested in purchasing your art. We will not be selling anything at the event, but you may do so after the fact should you choose.

Can I come see my photos displayed by Amara?

Of course! You are welcome to join us at our event. Stay tuned for a date, location and time!

Will there be a contest winner?

This is not a contest so there will not be a winner.

Can I submit more than one photo?

No, we will accept only one submission per person. However, there may be multiple submissions from within one family – one from a parent and another from a child, for example.

What will happen to my photo after the event?

If your photo is one of those selected for print, you will have the option to pick up the print after our event and keep it for yourself. We will coordinate with you directly to arrange for pickup at our Seattle or Tacoma office. If you choose not to pick up your photo, we may hold onto it in storage or recycle it. Your photo will not be used digitally for anything outside of this event, unless Amara contacts you directly.

Can I include a short description or statement with my photo?

Yes, you may include a brief description of your photo (max 50 words) that we can have accompany the image for the judges view only. Only the photo title, your name and the year will be displayed at the event. There is a place on the photo submission form to include this description.

Will I receive anything for participating in this project?

You will not receive anything for submitting a photo. However, the photographers whose photos are selected for display by the selection committee will each receive a \$25 gift card for sharing their work for print. They will also receive the print of their photo after the events are over, should they choose to pick it up.