



“Lights, Camera, Action!”

**“The Amistad Commission’s 2026 Virtual Video Tours
of
New Jersey’s African American Historical Landmarks Contest”**

The New Jersey Amistad Commission is showcasing a visual arts contest project for Middle School and High School students to display their academic skills in Social Studies, History and Digital Visual Media Communications. The contest project is designed for educators and students to create a 20–30-minute VIRTUAL TOUR of New Jersey’s African American Landmarks to highlight the hidden historical treasures in New Jersey. This Virtual Video Contest Project will allow future educators and students the opportunity to view virtual field trips without leaving the classroom.

To enter the **“Amistad Commission’s Virtual Video Tours of New Jersey’s African American Historical Landmarks Contest”** we are encouraging staff and students to:

- 1) Decide on a destination in your county and relate the project to the content of the location and the historical significance to New Jersey. Each project submission will have an African American theme/ location. Develop a plan that includes the logistics of the project, equipment needed, funding, and all the activities to complete the project.
- 2) Brainstorm the possibilities and explore all the information, resources, technologies, and individual interviews for the topic. Students should include interviews with local politicians (mayors, city council, assemblymen, etc.) Professors, and County Historical Society members as primary sources for their project location.
- 3) Research and create an itinerary/script for the project. The project should be a minimum of 20 minutes, maximum of 30 minutes.
- 4) Create a virtual environment and modify your script as students explore, narrate the journey and record the landmark key points. Combine your video and content/script to display the historical significance of your selected landmark.
- 5) Please submit your finished Virtual Landmark Video and an outline on how your school will use funding to implement the Amistad Commission’s Mandates to Andrea.Bair@doe.nj.gov by June 1, 2026.
- 6) Please add a Process Paper containing 300-500 words to describe your work and your process to create your video. ***All Projects must have student waivers completed***
- 7) The top 3 schools will be notified by **June 12, 2026**. Monetary prizes must be utilized to implement activities that support the **New Jersey Amistad Commission Mandate**.

All video contest submissions will be uploaded to The Amistad Commission’s website as an educational project/resource. Winning schools will receive:

1st Place - \$2,500
2nd Place - \$2,000
3rd Place - \$1,500

Travel around the state of New Jersey and tour African American Historical Landmarks without leaving the classroom. Winning projects from the Virtual Tours of New Jersey’s African American Historical Landmarks Contest will be presented at the Amistad Commission’s 2026 Summer Institute.

Respectfully

Trevor Kyle Melton, M. ED, M.A.

Associate Director, The New Jersey Amistad Commission