Dear Photography Artists,

As the **Municipality of Karşıyaka**, we are pleased to invite talented artists from 12 international and 19 national sister cities of Karşıyaka to participate in the **SISTER FRAMES International Photography Contest**. This competition is organized to celebrate the power of visual arts and to encourage original photography grounded in ethical values. Works addressing this principle will be evaluated across **three categories**.

1. Participation and Submission Details

- **Categories:**
    1. GREEN BREATH OF THE CITY (Photographs that best represent your city from your perspective, focusing on eco-friendly and sustainability themes)
    2. STORY OF A PLATE (Photographs showcasing culinary flavors unique to your city)
    3. CITY THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES (Cityscapes captured from the perspective of participants aged 7–12)

- **Application Deadline:** 08/02/2026, 23:59 (Local time, UTC+3)
- **Method of Participation:** Applications must be submitted only in digital format by e-mail to the official address below:
- **E-mail Address:** karsiyaka.global@gmail.com
- **Right of Participation:** Participants may submit **one (1) photograph per category**. All photographs must reflect scenes from the participant's **own city**.
- **Required Information:** Participants must indicate the **category** they are applying for in the **subject line** of e-mail and **Full Name, Age, City of Participation** information in the **body** of the e-mail. Attach the photograph as a file in accordance with the competition format.

The images below are provided for illustrative purposes only.

GREEN BREATH OF THE CITY

karsiyaka.global@gmail.com

GREEN BREATH OF THE CITY

Name, Surname:
Age:
City of Participation:

[Attached photograph]
JPEG (.JPG) format
Minimum 3000 pixels on the long edge
Print quality 300 dpi
File size Must not exceed 10 MB

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Gönder ▾ Aa 🔗 😊 ⚠ 🖼 🔒 ✎

STORY OF A PLATE

karsiyaka.global@gmail.com

STORY OF A PLATE

Name, Surname:
Age:
City of Participation:

[Attached photograph]
JPEG (.JPG) format
Minimum 3000 pixels on the long edge
Print quality 300 dpi
File size Must not exceed 10 MB

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CITY THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

karsiyaka.global@gmail.com

CITY THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Name, Surname:
Age:
City of Participation:

[Attached photograph]
JPEG (.JPG) format
Minimum 3000 pixels on the long edge
Print quality 300 dpi
File size Must not exceed 10 MB

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Photographs submitted to this competition must be specific to the city and/or district in which the participant resides and applies, and should reflect and highlight the identity, cultural fabric, and distinctive character of that location.

The primary objective of the competition is to visually present the cultural richness of the cities and districts listed below, share these values, and build a lasting cultural bridge between regions.

1) Kesmetepe, (Adıyaman) Türkiye
2) Pınarbaşı, (Adıyaman) Türkiye
3) Ardahan, Türkiye
4) Artvin, Türkiye
5) Bozcaada, (Çanakkale) Türkiye
6) Çan, (Çanakkale) Türkiye
7) Alpu, (Eskişehir) Türkiye
8) Tepebaşı, (Eskişehir) Türkiye
9) Uluborlu, (Isparta) Türkiye
10) Bakırköy, (İstanbul) Türkiye
11) Arpaçay, (Kars) Türkiye
12) Susuz, (Kars) Türkiye
13) Arapgir, (Malatya) Türkiye
14) Hekimhan, (Malatya) Türkiye
15) Manisa, Türkiye
16) Alaşehir, (Manisa) Türkiye
17) Turgutlu (Manisa) Türkiye
18) Rize, Türkiye
19) Zonguldak, Türkiye
20) Kyrenia – Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
21) Heidenheim – Germany
22) Kutaisi – Georgia
23) Loudoun County – USA
24) Novi Grad (Sarajevo) – Bosnia and Herzegovina
25) Stari Grad (Sarajevo) – Bosnia and Herzegovina
26) Zenica – Bosnia and Herzegovina
27) Piran – Slovenia
28) Cascais – Portugal
29) Prizren – Kosovo
30) Veles – North Macedonia
31) Wuxi – China

Competition Schedule

Announcement of the Contest	5 January 2026
Collection of Photographs	5 January – 8 February 2026 (35 days)
Submission Deadline	8 February 2026 - 23:59 (Local Time UTC+3)
Evaluation Period	9 – 23 February 2026 (14 days)
Announcement of Winners	27 February 2026
Photo Exhibition	9-16 March 2026

2. Technical and Ethical Conditions – Emphasis on Originality

Our competition is based on preserving the documentary and artistic integrity of photography. Accordingly, participants must **strictly** comply with the technical and ethical conditions outlined below.

A. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use and Manipulation Restrictions

- **Prohibition of Heavy Manipulation:** Any form of heavy manipulation that alters the original content, meaning, or context of the photograph (such as collage work or dramatic additions/removals) is strictly prohibited. Basic adjustments such as color correction, contrast, brightness, and cropping are considered acceptable.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ban:** The use of AI image generation tools (such as Midjourney, DALL·E, etc.) to create the main content or the entirety of the photograph through text prompts or similar methods is strictly prohibited.

B. Technical Specifications

- **Format:** JPEG (.JPG)
- **Resolution:** Minimum 3000 pixels on the long edge
- **Print Quality:** 300 dpi
- **File Size:** Must not exceed 10 MB
- **File Naming Format:** [CITY NAME]_[FULL NAME]_[PHOTO NUMBER]_[PHOTO TITLE].JPG
- **Required Metadata:** EXIF data (shooting date, camera model, etc.) should be preserved as much as possible. This information may be requested to verify the originality of the photograph.

3. Legal and Ethical Obligations

Participants hereby declare and warrant that the submitted work belongs to them and complies with all applicable laws.

- **Copyright:** All copyright and related rights of the submitted work must belong exclusively to the participant.
- **Permissions and Releases:** It is the participant's responsibility to obtain all necessary legal permissions, including Model Release forms from identifiable individuals appearing in the photograph and Property Release forms for private properties, where applicable. As the competition has no commercial purpose or output, any legal issues arising from the absence of such permissions shall be the sole responsibility of the participant.
- **Legal Violations:** Works that violate personal privacy, personality rights, or international law shall be disqualified. Any legal liability arising from such violations shall rest entirely with the participant.
- **Use of Works in Exhibitions, Media, and Social Media:** The organizing institution undertakes that it will not generate any financial gain from the submitted works. However, for non-commercial purposes, including cultural services and promotional activities, the works may be used in digital media, social media, digital or printed exhibitions, catalogs, newspapers, and similar printed media. The photographer's name will be clearly credited in all such uses.

3.1. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- **Prohibited:** The creation of an entire photograph or any significant part of it through text prompts using Artificial Intelligence (AI) image generation tools (such as Midjourney, DALL·E, Stable Diffusion, etc.) is **strictly** prohibited.

- **Acceptable (Minimal Use):** AI-assisted tools embedded in traditional photo-editing software (such as Adobe Photoshop or Lightroom) may be used only for standard editing functions that do not alter the original texture or content of the photograph (e.g., noise reduction, sharpening, lens corrections).

3.2. Manipulation and Post-Production Guidelines

- **Basic Adjustments (Acceptable):**

  - Brightness, contrast, color saturation, and tonal adjustments.
  - Cropping and rotation.
  - Removal of dust spots and minor imperfections.
  - Conversion to black-and-white or sepia tones.

- **Heavy Manipulation (Prohibited):**

  - Adding or removing objects, people, or significant elements that were **not** present at the time of capture (extensive copy/paste or content-aware alterations)
  - HDR (High Dynamic Range) and Focus Stacking techniques are acceptable only if applied at a level that preserves natural appearance
  - Extensive image compositing (montage/collage), meaning the dramatic combination of multiple different photographs, is prohibited
  - Excessive digital painting, filtering, or texture overlay that fundamentally alters the original meaning or context of the photograph

3.3. Request for Original Files

- The Jury Panel reserves the right to request the **RAW or original JPEG/DNG file** of any photograph if there is doubt regarding its authenticity. Works for which the original file cannot be provided, or which are found to violate manipulation rules, will be disqualified.
- **Compliance with Laws:** The process or content of the photograph must not violate the laws of the country where it was taken or **international regulations** (e.g., privacy rights, public safety, child abuse/exploitation, illegal activities).
- **Disqualification:** Any work found to contain ethical or legal violations will be **immediately disqualified at any stage of the competition**, and the participant accepts full legal and criminal responsibility arising from such violations.

4. Evaluation and Awards

The Jury Panel will evaluate submissions based on originality, technical proficiency, compositional quality, and effectiveness in expressing the competition theme.

- **Jury Composition:**

5–7 jury members in total:

  - 2 representatives from the Municipality

  - 3–4 academic members

  - 1–2 professional artists

- **Awards:**

First Prize Awards	Second Prize Awards	Third Prize Awards
Plaque	Catalog featuring selected photographs	Catalog featuring selected photographs
Catalog featuring selected photographs	Participation certificate signed by the Mayor	Participation certificate signed by the Mayor
Participation certificate signed by the Mayor	Karşıyaka commemorative statuette	Tree planting in the winner's name
Karşıyaka commemorative statuette	Tree planting in the winner's name	
Tree planting in the winner's name		
Student support provided by **EÇEV** in the winner's name		

- **Announcement of Results:** The results will be announced on [27/02/2026] via https://www.karsiyaka.bel.tr/.

Note: Any works found to violate the technical or ethical conditions will be disqualified at any stage of the competition. By applying, all participants are deemed to have read and accepted these terms and conditions.

We wish you success.

Republic of Türkiye
Karşıyaka Municipality
Directorate of Strategy Development (strateji@karsiyaka.bel.tr)