



Seeing Heat

PHOTO COMPETITION

Competition Rules

HOST

Island City Lab is a Kingston-based urban planning think-tank dedicated to producing home-grown research on Caribbean cities and democratizing the processes that inform how our cities are growing and developing.

BACKGROUND

Kingston, Jamaica is currently the second city in the world to reach climate departure—the point at which the city’s average temperatures will consistently exceed historical extremes—placing the city on the frontlines of extreme heat. Over the past five years, Kingston has endured record-breaking heatwaves, with temperatures far exceeding seasonal averages. Unlike dramatic storms that leave visible destruction, rising temperatures exact a slow, insidious toll—quietly overwhelming hospitals, straining energy grids, and claiming lives one heatstroke at a time

ABOUT

‘Seeing Heat’ is a photography competition and exhibition that aims to visualize the invisible impacts of ever-increasing temperatures on towns & cities in Jamaica. It invites amateur and professional photographers to ‘see heat’, document its impacts on the population and the environment, and provide important narratives from their unique perspectives.

OBJECTIVES

This project seeks to engage the broader population in a conversation around the shared experience of increasing temperatures, in order to:



Awareness

Highlight the uneven impacts of extreme heat.



Action

Demand equitable public health measures, disaster preparedness and retrofits for the built environment



Climate Advocacy

Advocate for climate action and amplify local voices through visual

TERMS

The Seeing Heat Photo Competition 2025 (the "Competition" or "Contest") runs from July to September. Information on how to enter and prizes form part of these official rules ("Official Rules"). By submitting an entry, each Entrant ("Contest Entrant" or "Entrant") agrees to the Official Rules and warrants that his or her entry complies with all requirements set out in the Official Rules.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The photos must visualize and personalize the impact of extreme heat within the Jamaican context. Photos must be accompanied by a narrative that gives context and or perspective to the image. Both the photos and narratives will be judged by a panel and awards will be given to photographers at a public exhibition. Each entry must comply with the following requirements

- Photographs must be in digital format. The photograph need not be taken with a professional digital camera.
- All digital files must be in JPEG or JPG format, and must be of high quality, that is the size is to be at a minimum of 1,600 pixels wide (if a horizontal image) or 1,600 pixels tall (if a vertical image) or 1MB or larger in size.
- Photographs must have been taken no earlier than a year before the date of entry and may not have been previously submitted or awarded in any competitions prior to this one.
- The photograph, in its entirety, must be a single work of original material taken by the Contest Entrant. By entering the Contest, Entrant represents, acknowledges, and warrants that the submitted photograph is an original work created solely by the Entrant, that the photograph does not infringe on the copyrights, trademarks, moral rights, rights of privacy/publicity or intellectual property rights of any person or entity, and that no other party has any right, title, claim, or interest in the photograph.
- The caption must be complete and accurate, sufficient to convey the circumstances in which the photograph was taken. Disguising or misrepresenting the origin of your content is cause for disqualification.
- Watermarks are not acceptable.
- Island City Lab reserves the right to examine the original photograph/ source material in order to confirm compliance with these rules.

WHO MAY ENTER

The contest is open only to individuals who are residents, or otherwise are able to take pictures in Jamaica

HOW TO ENTER

Each entry consists of a mandatory registration form and a portal where a single image and a related narrative will be submitted. Each person may only submit one entry. There is no entry fee to enter this competition. All applicants must complete the mandatory registration form before being given access to the submission portal. Registration runs from July 8 – September 8.

RELEASES

If the photograph contains any material or elements that are not owned by the Contest Entrant and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, and/or if any persons appear in the photograph, the Entrant is responsible for obtaining, prior to submission of the photograph, any and all releases and consents necessary to permit the exhibition and use of the photograph in the manner set forth in these Official Rules without additional compensation. If any person appearing in any photograph is under the age of 18 years, the signature of a parent or legal guardian is required on each release.

CONTEST PRIZES

The First Place winner will receive USD\$2,000 by direct bank deposit and their winning photograph will be published on social media and displayed at an Island City Lab exhibition on a date to be confirmed. The First Place Prize is nontransferable.

The Second Place winner will receive USD\$1000 and his/her winning photograph will be published on social media and displayed at an Island City Lab exhibition on a date to be confirmed. The Second Place Prize is non-transferable.

The Third Place winner will receive USD\$500 and his/her winning photograph will be published on social media and displayed at an Island City Lab exhibition on a date to be confirmed. The Third Place Prize is non-transferable. No prize transfer, assignment, or substitution by winners is permitted.

EDITING POLICY

Submitted images must remain a truthful representation of the original scene and shall not be excessively altered through post-processing. The use of compositing techniques; defined as the combination of multiple images or elements into a single frame is generally not allowed, the use of AI tools is strictly prohibited. In instances where compositing techniques have been employed to generate or enhance any aspect of the image, participants are required to clearly disclose such use and provide a justification outlining the necessity and intent behind its application.

JUDGING

The top three (3) winners and any honorable mentions will be notified in October 2025.

DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY

Personal Data will be used by Sponsor and its Authorized Parties exclusively for the purposes stated herein and destroyed within sixty (60) days following the end of the Contest, unless lawfully and legitimately required to be retained for such longer periods, in accordance with the Data Protection Act, subsidiary regulations and best practice.

COPYRIGHT & LICENSE

By entering the contest, you retain your full copyright. All contest entrants grant an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide, non-exclusive license to Island City Lab, to reproduce, distribute, display and create derivative works of the entries (along with a name credit) in connection with this contest. This includes but is not limited to:

- Display at an exhibition of winners;
- Publication of a magazine featuring select entries in the Contest;
- Publication on Island City Lab's social media.

Display or publication of any entry on an Authorized Party's website does not indicate the Entrant will be selected as a winner. Authorized Parties will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such use. Additionally, by entering, each Entrant grants to Authorized Parties the unrestricted right to use all statements made in connection with the Contest, and pictures or likenesses of Contest Entrants, or choose not to do so, at their sole discretion. Authorized Parties will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such use.