

OPEN CALL FOR LOCAL ARTISTS' TENT
ARTS IN THE MIDDLE FINE ARTS FESTIVAL
JUNE 6-7, 2026
HEWITT PLANTATION, URBANNA, VA

Dear Local Artists!

Applications are now open for Arts in the Middle's Local Artist Tent for 2026.

Arts in the Middle Fine Arts Festival, held just outside Urbanna, is consistently rated one of the best art shows in eastern Virginia, and a universal favorite among vendors. Every year local artists are invited to exhibit in a shared tent where their work is highlighted.

The Local Artist Tent is a large pavilion directly adjacent to the entrance, a prime location for visibility and sales. We are continuing to work on increasing visibility and access to visitors in the design of the tent layout.

NOTE: Due to financial restrictions and the increased cost of the tents, we will only be able to accommodate 10 local artists this year. We encourage those of you who are selected to participate on both days of the festival to provide greater visibility of your art, to encourage sales to patrons who return on Sunday in order to purchase items that they did not buy on Saturday, and to accommodate inclement weather on either day. We do recognize, though, that there may be extenuating circumstances that would prevent you from being in the tent both days. Therefore, this year, we are testing the opportunity for up to 4 artists to share 2 of the 10 spaces. This means that 2 artists would be in the designated spaces in the tent on Saturday, and 2 different artists would be in the spaces on Sunday. If this were to occur, eight artists would have to commit to attending both days of the festival.

Each local two-dimensional artist receives up to 2 racks of wall space and may put out a browse bin for prints. Three-dimensional artists such as potters and jewelers will each have access to a 6-foot table. A fee paid by each local artist helps defray the cost of the tent. There is an award for Best Local Artist presented at a reception on Saturday night.

For artists living in the Middle Peninsula or Northern Neck, it's a great opportunity to sell work at a high-profile show. It's also a chance to connect with a thriving network of other local artists. And for artists who haven't done an outdoor show before, the local tent is an ideal way to test the waters.

Applications are open until March 31st. Applicants are juried, the results of which will be made known by April 15th.

We hope to see you at Arts in the Middle! If you have any questions, please contact Beth Bader at babader@vcu.edu or (804) 615-0352.

ARTS IN THE MIDDLE SPRING 2026 FINE ARTS FESTIVAL LOCAL ARTIST POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Attach an initialed copy of this page to application. Retain 2nd copy for your files.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2026

LOCAL GALLERY TENT JURY DECISIONS: APRIL 15, 2026

TENT SPACE FEE DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2026

SHOW DATES: JUNE 6-7, 2026

A tent fee of \$50 is payable upon acceptance to the show and must be paid by May 1st to AIM, PO Box 982, Urbanna, VA 23175. For artists accepted for a single day, the tent fee is \$35. Artists retain all proceeds of their sales and must cover their own state sales tax (for more information visit www.tax.virginia.gov).

Selected artists with 2-dimensional artwork will be provided with up to 2 flats on which they may hang original pieces of fine art and/or three-dimensional art. Those artists with 3-dimensional artwork (e.g., pottery, jewelry, fabrics, woodwork), will be provided with 1 six-foot table. You will be given a designated spot in the gallery for your work. (Additional inventory will be allowed in bins, and replacements are allowed for sold items.)

Artists will hang/put out and take down their work during the allotted time before and after the festival hours. They must also be present (or work collaboratively with other showing artists) during the show to discuss their work and make their own sales. It is acceptable to arrange with friends/family members to provide coverage of your space for short periods to allow artists to take breaks.

Work must be original and made by the applicant. No kits, pre-made items, mass produced, re-sale or commercial pieces will be allowed.

In order for our jurors to review your work, images must be included with application of work which represent the style of your work and is similar to that you wish to include in the Local Artist tent. Photos will be accepted for the jury process and may be submitted with your application by email to artsinthemiddlefestival@gmail.com or by mail.

Event Hours:

Friday, June 5	2 pm-5 pm	Early Artist Set-up
Saturday, June 6	8 am - 9:30 am	Artist Set-up
	10 am – 5 pm	Festival Hours
	5:30 pm – 7 pm	Artist Reception & Awards
Sunday, June 7	10 am – 3 pm	Festival Hours

Initial & attach this page to your application indicating you have read the info.

Applicant Initial _____ Date: _____

**ARTS IN THE MIDDLE 2026 FINE ARTS FESTIVAL
LOCAL ARTIST APPLICATION**

Mail completed application to:

Arts in the Middle, Inc, P.O. Box 982, Urbanna, VA 23175
OR submit electronically to artsinthemiddlefestival@gmail.com

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2026

JURY DECISION: April 15, 2026

TENT SPACE FEE DEADLINE: Upon acceptance no later than MAY 1, 2026

Applicant Name: (Must be 16 or older): _____

Local Address: _____

Mailing Address, if different: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

___ Application for Full Two Day Event (\$50 tent fee)

___ Application for Single Day - Saturday (\$35 tent fee)

___ Application for Single Day – Sunday (\$35 tent fee)

Medium:

Describe medium, materials and technique of each of the 4 items submitted with application:

Image 1: _____

Image 2: _____

Image 3: _____

Image 4: _____

Images of examples of work you wish to show must accompany application. Photos are acceptable and may be submitted by mail or email.

If you require special physical supports or accommodations, please describe:

I grant permission for images of my artwork to be used by **Arts in the Middle** on its website and in printed materials to promote the May event and future **Arts in the Middle** events.

Yes ___ No ___

General Release: In signing this application, Applicant releases and forever discharges Arts in the Middle, Inc and Hewick Plantation from any responsibility, personal liability, loss and/or damage in connection with this show; and agrees to abide by all Policies and Guidelines accompanying this application. Failure to honor Festival Policies and Guidelines can result in immediate dismissal from the show.

I have read the complete show prospectus and agree to all terms as stated.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date: _____

Before mailing make sure you have included:

___ Initialed Policies and Guidelines Page ___ Images of Submitted Artwork

Arts in the Middle 2026 Fine Arts Festival Acceptable Media

Paintings & Drawings: Oils, acrylics, watercolor, chalk, charcoal, pastels, pencil, wax crayon, & the fluid media of inks & washes applied by pen or brush.

Jewelry: Jewelry of any material. No commercial casts, kits, molds or production studio work, commercially made beads, commercially available pendants and brooches, loose stones, or catalogue merchandise.

Ceramics: Original clay and porcelain work other than jewelry.

Photography: Photographic prints made from the artist's original image, processed and printed by that artist, or under his or her direct supervision, with archival media on acid-free papers. Signed copies of 200 or fewer. Photographers may be asked to disclose their creative and printing processes.

Digital Art: Original work for which the base image, or the manipulation of other source material, was executed by the artist using computer software. Work must be in limited editions of 200 or less inclusive of size or format, and signed and numbered on acid-free materials. Traditional photographs taken through a digital camera are in the photography category.

Graphics/Printmaking: Printed works for which the artist's hand manipulated the plates, stones, or screens and which have been properly signed and numbered as a limited edition. Printmakers are required to disclose both their creative and printmaking process.

Sculpture: Clay, Wood, Metal, Fiber

Mixed Media: Non-sculpturing work incorporating more than one type of physical material or process in its production, e.g, books with Artist's original illustrations, a painted etching or collage combining handmade paper and photography.

Other Media: Leather, Weaving, Quilting, Leaded Glass and all fine crafts and art works considered to be in the Fine Arts category are acceptable.

Reproductions: Reproductions must be from the Artist's original work and signed.

For more information, contact:

Beth Bader – babader@vcu.edu – 804-615-0352