

CALL FOR ARTISTS: Rotary Pavilion Rotating Public Art Showcase

City of Gastonia Art Committee | Gastonia, North Carolina

The City of Gastonia Art Committee is seeking **12 local artists who currently reside in Gaston County** to participate in a rotating public art showcase at the Rotary Pavilion in downtown Gastonia. This project highlights local artists, adds visual interest to downtown, and brings original artwork into a highly visible public space. Selected artwork will be digitally reproduced and enlarged for display for 6 months in one of six permanent frames installed around the Rotary Pavilion. Original artwork will remain with the artist and will not be installed outdoors.

THE OPPORTUNITY

- **12 artists** will be selected
- 6 artists will be featured during each rotation, with artwork to be on display for 6 months
- Each selected artist will receive **\$200** for their participation
- Artists may submit **existing artwork or create a new piece**
- Artwork may be created in **any artistic medium**, as long as it can be digitally reproduced
- Artists retain their original artwork as selected artwork will be professionally reproduced for public display

ABOUT THE INSTALLATION

The Rotary Pavilion features six permanent artwork frames installed along the fence line—three on each side of the pavilion. Each frame is approximately 4 feet x 8 feet and is designed to display a large-scale reproduction of an artist's work. Artwork may be submitted in either horizontal or vertical orientation. City staff will work with selected artists to determine the best way to reproduce and fit the artwork within the available display space. Your original artwork will not be installed outdoors. A high-resolution digital reproduction will be created for the installation.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to artists who:

- Currently reside in **Gaston County, North Carolina**
 - Are at any experience level, including emerging, mid-career, and established artists
 - Work in any artistic medium that can be digitally reproduced
- Artists under 18 may apply but will need a parent or legal guardian to sign required documents on their behalf.

ARTWORK GUIDELINES

There is no specific artistic theme for this project. We are looking for artwork that is visually engaging, creative, and appropriate for display in a public downtown setting. Because the artwork will be displayed in a public location and visible to people of all ages, submitted artwork must be appropriate for a general audience. Artwork may be an existing piece or a newly created work.

Artwork may not include:

- Text or written messaging
- Political symbols or campaign-related imagery
- Religious symbols or imagery
- Flags
- Logos or branding
- Commercial advertising or promotional imagery
- Other content that could reasonably be interpreted as advertising or sponsorship

Artwork must also comply with applicable public-display requirements, including the North Carolina Outdoor Advertising Act. The City of Gastonia reserves the right to determine whether submitted artwork is appropriate for public display.

HOW TO APPLY

Submission Deadline: Friday, November 13, 2026 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

To make the review process easier for the Art Committee, please combine all application materials into a single PDF. Email your application as **ONE PDF DOCUMENT** to: juliann.lehman@gastonianc.gov

Your PDF should include:

1. Artist Information

- Full name
- Phone number
- Email address
- Home address: This is confirmation that you currently reside in Gaston County
- If under 18, please indicate that you are a minor

2. Proposed Artwork

Include a clear image(s) of the artwork you are proposing. You may submit up to 5 pieces of artwork for consideration, both horizontal and vertical.

IF YOUR ARTWORK IS SELECTED

Selected artists will be asked to provide either their original art piece to be professionally scanned OR high-resolution digital image of their artwork. Images should be at least 300 dpi whenever possible. The City will create a reproduction of the selected artwork for installation. Once scanned the original artwork will be returned to the artist and will not be installed outdoors.

Selected artists will:

- Receive a \$200 artist participation payment
- Sign a City of Gastonia participating and licensing agreement allowing the City to reproduce the selected artwork for this public art installation
- Submit a W-9 before payment can be issued
- Provide the original art piece to be professionally scanned OR send a high-resolution digital file of the selected artwork
- The physical reproduction created by the city for this installation will become part of the City of Gastonia Public Art Collection. The artists will retain their original artwork.

SELECTION PROCESS

All submissions will be reviewed by members of the **City of Gastonia Art Committee**. The committee will consider:

- Visual impact in a large-scale public setting
- Creativity and artistic quality
- Suitability for a downtown public environment
- Value of reproducing the artwork successfully at a large scale
- Overall variety of artwork represented in the rotation

QUESTIONS

Questions about the application process may be directed to: juliann.lehman@gastonianc.gov

