

CALL TO ARTISTS GUIDELINES

BLACK-EYED SUSANS: FIFTY YEARS OF CREATIVITY IN BLOOM--A TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION

PROJECT OVERVIEW

We invite Maryland artists and artist teams to propose designs for a temporary public art installation celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Frederick Arts Council. This project will transform a public landscape through the repetition of individual Black-Eyed Susans, Maryland's state flower, as a symbol of growth and renewal. Using the Black-Eyed Susan as a shared form, this project envisions vibrant fields that celebrate blossoming ideas, deep roots, planted seeds, and a future shaped together. Through repetition, color, and scale, the installation will transform a public landscape into a place of brightness, imagination, and forward momentum. The Black-eyed Susan is a flower rich in symbolism, offering messages of hope, truth, resilience and healing.

Project Type: Temporary, large-scale public art installation

Project Duration: Temporary Installation through December 2026

Project Location: Outdoor locations throughout Frederick County

Deadline March 20th, 11:59p

ARTISTIC VISION

Artists are encouraged to interpret the individual Black-Eyed Susan broadly—literal, abstracted, symbolic, or experimental—while contributing to a cohesive visual experience that feels alive, expansive, and optimistic.

Proposed works should:

- Evoke themes of growth, emergence, and transformation
- Create a sense of collective energy through many individual elements
- Invite reflection on how small acts—like planting a flower—can lead to large-scale change
- Feel welcoming, accessible, and rooted in community

Innovation is encouraged. This is a space for joyful color, and new ways of imagining what public art can cultivate. Please submit a design of a flower of approximately 18 inches tall, with a design for fixing in the ground (the stem may be enough), in a material suitable for both indoor and outdoor use, and a plan for producing in batches.

MATERIALS AND FABRICATION

Artists may propose materials of their choosing, including but not limited to:

- Metal, wood, fiber, ceramics, glass, porcelain or mixed media
- Recycled, reclaimed, or biodegradable materials
- Light-responsive, kinetic, or interactive elements (site-appropriate)

Material choices should reflect:

- Durability for a temporary outdoor installation
- Environmental awareness
- Safety and accessibility
- Practicality of installation and removal

COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY

Collaborative proposals are welcome and encouraged. Artists may also propose ways the project could:

- Involve community members in fabrication or installation
- Create opportunities for shared making, learning, or dialogue
- Symbolize collective care, stewardship, and shared roots

ELIGIBILITY

- Open to professional artists and artist teams
- Local area artists encouraged to apply
- Experience with public art or large-scale installation preferred but not required

BUDGET

total project budget of \$12,000 inclusive of:

- Artist fee
- Materials and fabrication
- Installation and deinstallation
- Insurance and related project costs

The initiative will be designed so that individuals can pre-order individual flowers at a price of about \$80 each plus shipping and the flowers will be sent after deinstallation in December.

Total cost of the project is \$12,000 with additional funding possible depending on pre-sales.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit:

1. Statement of Interest describing your concept and approach (1-2 pages)
2. Preliminary visuals (sketches, renderings, reference images)
3. Materials statement outlining proposed materials and methods
4. Partner fabricator if applicable
5. Resume or CV (2-3 pages)
6. Work samples (up to 2 images)

TIMELINE

- Call opens: Feb. 20
- Submission deadline: March 20
- Artist selection: March 27
- Installation period: April 20 - May 20

APPLY

applications accepted via
SlideRoom by March 20,
11:59 p



SlideRoom link: <https://frederickartscouncil.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/88348/ws2YJ3ipnl>

Artists are encouraged to interpret the Black-Eyed Susan form expansively—literal, abstracted, symbolic, or conceptual—while maintaining a cohesive field-like visual experience from the individual flowers that reads powerfully from both a distance and up close. This project is inspired by the visual impact and emotional resonance of Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red by the artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper located in London

ABOUT THE FREDERICK ARTS COUNCIL

The Frederick Arts Council invests in a vibrant and cohesive arts community for the people of Frederick County. The organization fosters an environment where the arts flourish in the community through grants and scholarships, arts advocacy, and links to essential resources. FAC is responsible for large-scale programming such as the Frederick Festival of the Arts, Sky Stage, Frederick Public Art Initiative, Art in the Park, and Arts in Education grants.

VISION FOR PUBLIC ART INITIATIVE

Our vision is a Frederick where public art connects residents and visitors, expresses an authentic and unique sense of place, drives economic prosperity through creativity, and advances a culturally inclusive and empowered future.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed based on:

- Artistic vision and originality
- Alignment with themes of growth, innovation, and optimism
- Feasibility, thoughtful use of materials, and production plan
- Ability to create a strong collective visual impact
- Potential for collaboration and public engagement

