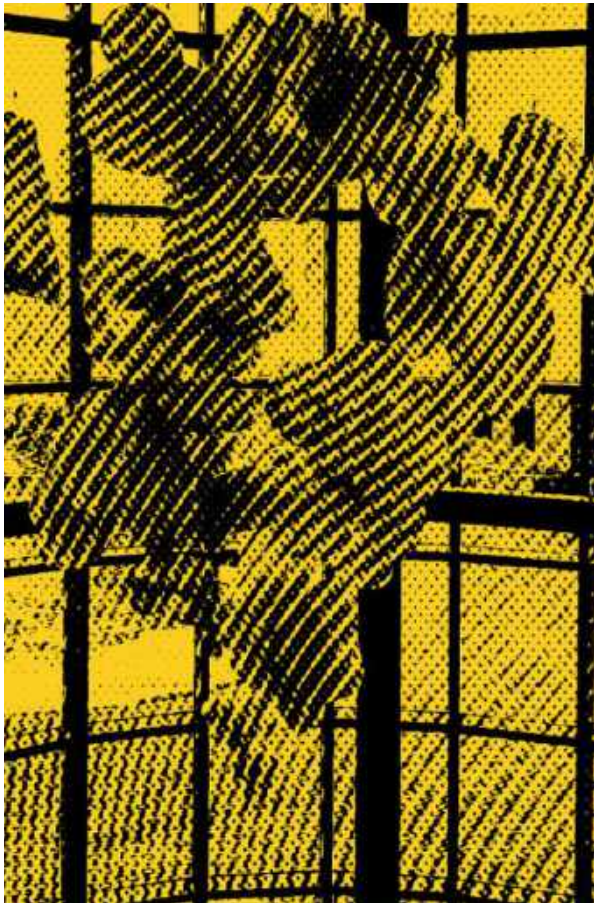


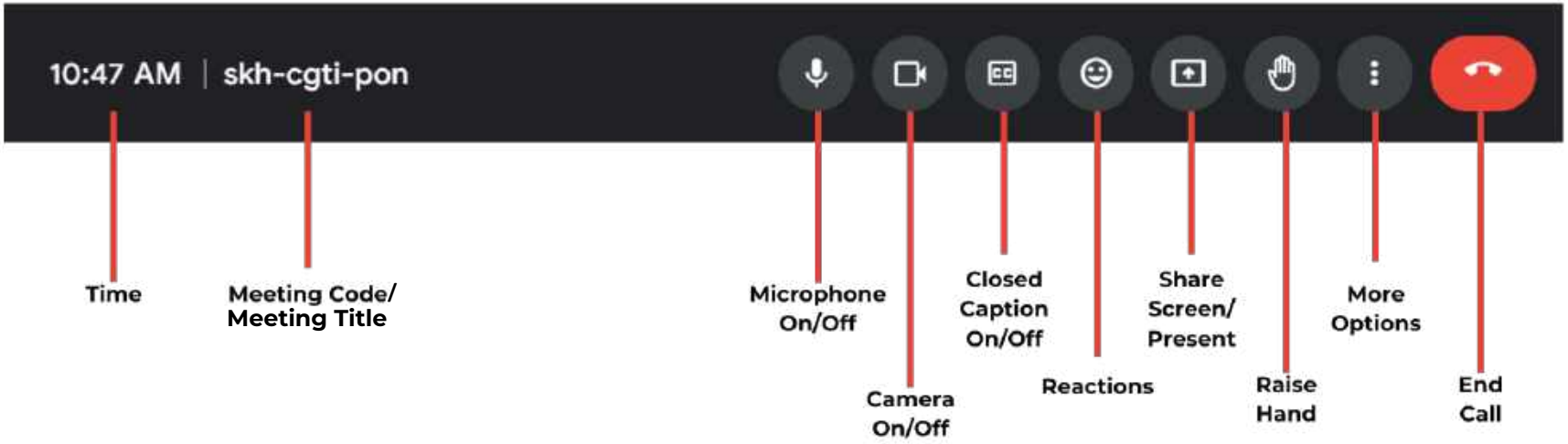
2026-2028

Maryland Public Artist Roster

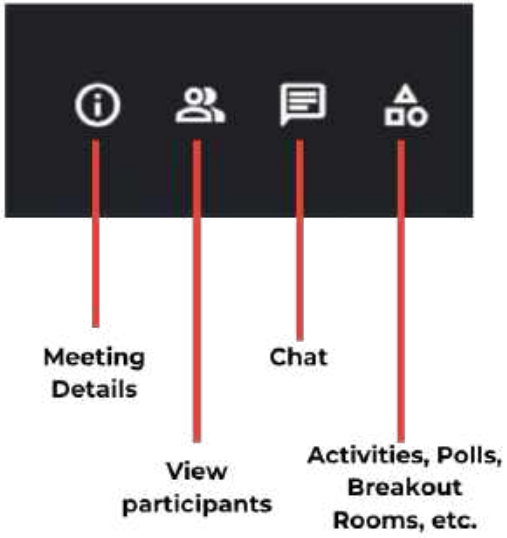
How to Apply

C. Ryan Patterson, Program Director, Public Art
Nora Howell, Public Art Project Manager

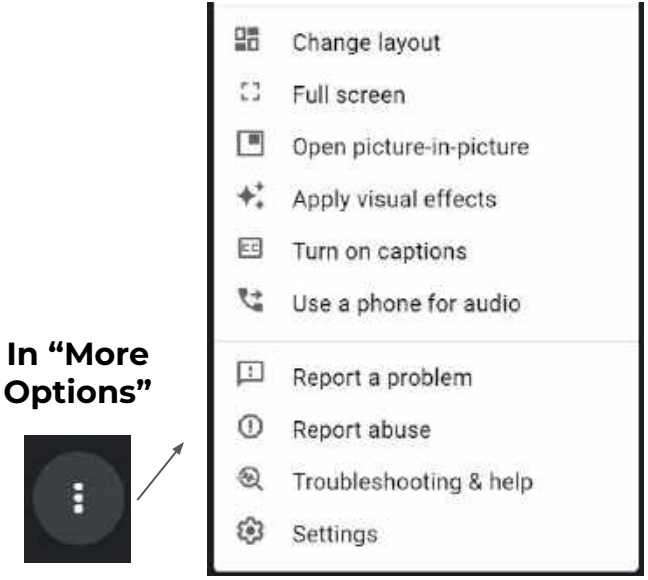
Reference Shot of Features (1 of 2)



Reference Shot of Features (2 of 2)



In "More Options"



Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the lands and waters now known as Maryland are the home of its first peoples: the Accohannock Indian Tribe, Assateague People's Tribe, Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians, Choptico Band of Indians, Lenape Tribe, Nanticoke Tribe, Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians, Piscataway Conoy Tribe, Piscataway Indian Nation, Pocomoke Indian Nation, Susquehannock Indians, Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee, and tribes in the Chesapeake watershed who have seemingly vanished since the coming of colonialism. We acknowledge that this land is now home to other tribal peoples living here in diaspora. We acknowledge the forced removal of many from the lands and waterways that nurtured them as kin. We acknowledge the degradation that continues to be wrought on the land and waters in pursuit of resources. We acknowledge the right of the land and waterways to heal so that they can continue to provide food and medicine for all. We acknowledge that it is our collective obligation to pursue policies and practices that respect the land and waters so that our reciprocal relationship with them can be fully restored.

Equity and Justice Statement

The arts celebrate our state's diversity, connect our shared humanity, and transform individuals and communities. The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is committed to advancing and modeling equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion in all aspects of our organization and across communities of our state.

MSAC and its grantees are committed to embracing equity and non-discrimination regardless of race, religious creed, color, age, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, class, language, and/or ability.

Vision

MSAC plays an essential role ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts.

Mission

MSAC advances the arts in our state by providing leadership that champions creative expression, diverse programming, equitable access, lifelong learning, and the arts as a celebrated contributor to the quality of life for all the people of Maryland.

Access

Bolster access to arts experiences and resources

Awareness

Amplify the stories of Maryland's arts sector and the value of public support

Connection

Foster networks within and beyond the arts sector

Equity

Cultivate a thriving arts ecosystem centered in equity

Leadership

Commit to a culture of care and innovation

Creative Meeting Actions

Celebrate being in the space with other creative people.
Engage with everyone's presence as a gift.
Acknowledge that together we know a lot.
Enter the conversation with curiosity and inquiry.
Share your idea and trust that it will be heard.
Use "I" statements.
Focus your language on the task at hand.
Hold one another accountable with care.
Honor all perspectives and build on shared ideas.
Balance speaking with listening.

MSAC Professional Development

Follow MSAC's Eventbrite page for updates about free professional development opportunities

- Technical Assistance
- Topic-specific sessions (Financial Management, Legal Advice, Marketing Strategies, Strategic Planning, Board Engagement, and more)
- Coffee with the Council
- Regional Office Hours
- Maryland Arts Summit (visit mdarts.org)

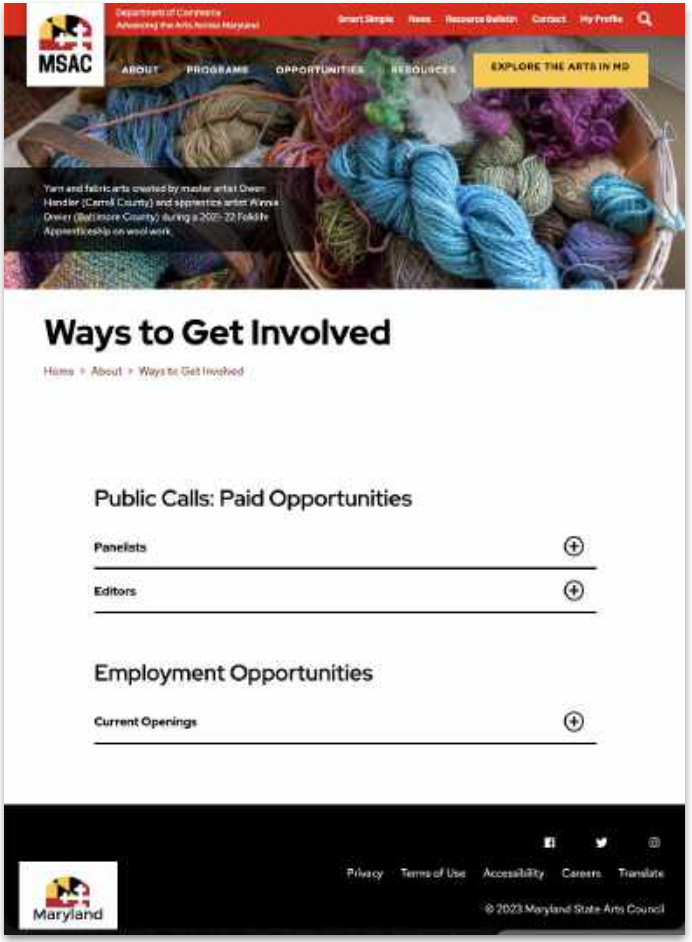
Propose a topic by emailing msac.commerce@maryland.gov

Sign up for our mailing list at tinyurl.com/MSACsMailingList

Ways to Get Involved

MSAC relies on a diverse array of constituents from across the state to give input in a variety of ways.

- Panelists review and score applications
- Editors give input on program policies
- Schedule of public calls and details at msac.org/about/ways-get-involved
- Apply in SmartSimple
- Training and support
- Compensation provided for service



Agenda

- The State of Maryland's Public Art Program
- Examples from the Maryland Public Art Initiative Collection
- What is a Public Artist Roster and how is it used?
- Who Should Apply?
- Preparing your Application
- Additional Resources
- Questions

The State of Maryland's **Public Art Program**

Support for Public Art in Maryland

MSAC's Public Art Program operates in two distinct areas:

Public Art Across Maryland Grants

- Annual grant supporting the planning and implementation of projects to create new or conserve existing public artwork within the state.
- Supports Community & Artist driven projects at the local level.
- Exclusively for Maryland based artists and organizations

Maryland Public Art Initiative (*Artwork Commissions*)

- The state's "Percent-for-Art" program.
- Acquires new artworks for public display in the State operated buildings and facilities
- Overseen by the Maryland Public Art Commission
- Works become part of the State of Maryland's Public Art Collection
- Open to Artists & Teams from across the U.S.

“Percent-for-Art”

For all eligible state capital projects (new construction or major renovations) **.05% of the construction costs are set aside to acquire public artwork** for that facility. This budget is sometimes referred to as the “Public Art Premium”

<u>Capital Project Eligibility:</u>

- > 15,000 Sq Feet of occupiable space.
- > 50% of Capital Project budget funded by the State.

Early construction of the Education & Health Sciences Center at Frostburg State University (2021)

Maryland Public Art Commission

Implements Maryland's formal public art program through sculptures, murals and other works in an effort to enhance the cultural landscape of Maryland communities.

- Created in 2005
- Comprised of 11 members:
  - Four “Ex-Officio” Representatives: MHT, MSA, MSAC, Comptroller
  - Seven “Public” members appointed by the Governor for staggered three year terms

Maryland Public Art Commissioners and MSAC Staff at State Treasury Building June 2024

Recent Additions to Maryland's Public Art Collection

Nnamdi Okonkwo, *Community of Stars*, 2024, CSU

David Hess, *Allegany Survey,* 2024, FSU

Aurora Robson, *Lovers Spat,* 2025, SMCM

Ayokunle Odeleye, *The Family,* 2024, UMES

Wesley Clark, *A Land is Known,* 2024, Dist. Court of MD

Benjamin Ball, *Wellness Loop,* 2025, TU

Stacia Goodman, *Dig Deep,* 2024, FSU

17 Active Commissions Across the State…

Over **$5.5 Million** Dollars in Artist Contracts

What is a **Public Artist Roster?**

Methods of Artist Selection for Commissioned Work:

Single Project "Call for Artists"

- **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**
  Artists express interest and share examples of prior work; finalists interview for the contract.
- **RFQ + Proposal**
  Artists express interest and share examples of prior work; finalists present concept proposals to win contract
- Artists required to submit a unique application to every "Call".

Public Artist Roster Method

- **Artists** from a variety of backgrounds and working methods apply one time.
- **Independent panelists** review applications for "eligibility" (not the criteria of a specific project).
- **Staff** review application materials and pull groups of artists (60-100 per project) to be considered for specific opportunities.
- **Semi-Finalist Artists** (4-6 per opportunity) invited to dive deep into project and interview with the Selection Committee

Detail of *Lush Life: Seasons & Cycles in the Garden*, 2024 by Parran Collery for the Leonardtown Library, St. Mary's County

Timeline of Maryland's Public Artist Roster:

DEC 2022: MPAC approved use of Roster for two years (2023-2025)

SEP 2023: Initial Roster approved by MPAC

- 435 artists
- Artist Selection Method for 8 projects over two years

May 2025: NEW Roster opens for three year period. (2026-2028)

June 30: Application Deadline for new Roster

August: Panelist Review

September: MPAC Approval of new Roster

The 2026-2028 Public Artist Roster will be the **primary method of artist selection** for Artwork Commission projects with budgets from **$50,000 to $1,500,000,**

Artist's should be prepared to work on projects that:

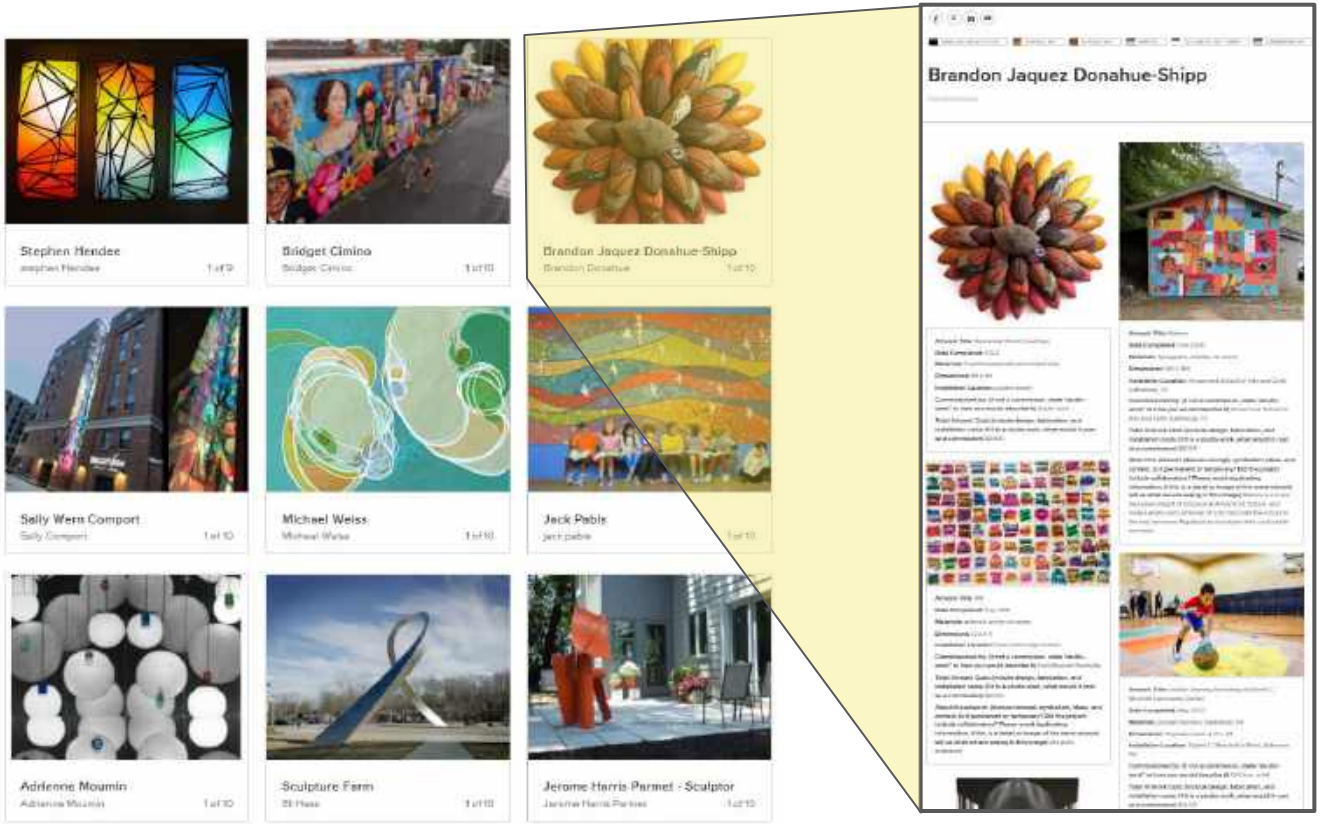
- **Are Site responsive:** All of our projects are site-responsive. Artists would work with the project public art committee to design, fabricate, and install a permanent artwork specific to the site and community.
- **Are Architecturally-integrated:** artists would work closely with the building's design team to combine artwork with the architecture or landscape to create a permanent site-responsive artwork.
- **Engage the "Community" or public audience:** artists should plan and incorporate ways to engage with the "community" or local stakeholders as part of your concept development and design process.

How does a Roster Benefit Artists?

- One-time application*
- Smaller pool of competition for commission opportunities
- Administrators empowered to advocate for artists best aligned for a project based on the preferences the applicant selected
- Recognition of being included on the Public Artist Roster, and visibility to other organizations who will refer to the Roster for local projects.

**Note MSAC's application mirrors what is used by other public art rosters nationally at the city, state, and federal levels. Do apply to other public art program rosters as well!*

Rosters as a Searchable Public Resource:



Artists have individual profiles within the Roster.

The public can search for artists based on materials, working methods or location.

Staff can refer organizations looking for artists, or artists looking for fabricators to the Roster to make connections for local projects.

Common Questions:

"Why is this open to artist's and teams from outside of Maryland?"

"I was included on the last Roster. Why do I have to reapply now?"

"I was on the last Roster and never heard from anyone at MSAC… Does it work? Was my application ever reviewed?

The FY23-FY25 Roster by the numbers:

- **435 artists** were included in the 2023-2025 Roster
- **259** artists (60%) of artists were reviewed by a committee at least once.
- Artists pulled for review, were considered on average for at least two opportunities.
- **36** artists (8.3%) were invited to interview as a Semi-Finalist.
- **8 artists** were selected for commission contracts.

Artist, Wesley Clark workin on the underpainting of his 40' long painting, *"A Land is Known"*, commissioned for the District Court of Maryland Catonsville Courthouse.

Who Should Apply?

The Roster is open to: I**ndependent Artists**, and **Artist-led teams**, studios, or collectives

Eligible applicants:

- Must reside in the United States or US Territory.
- Must produce or present unique and original artwork
- Must be the lead artist whose original work is included in the roster application.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- May submit only one application.
- Must **not** be directly affiliated with or a subsidiary of a larger arts organization, commercial company, or program that exists as part of a larger institution or entity.
- Must **not** be enrolled in any matriculated high school, undergraduate, or graduate degree program as of July 1, 2025

"I am an artist, but I have never made Public Art.

Should I even bother to apply?"

Questions to ask yourself:

- Are you interested in making **site-responsive** work for a **public environment,** seen by a large audience?
- Are you willing to **work closely with a design team** to integrate your work into a buildings architecture or landscape?
- Are you interested in and willing to make artwork in **response to themes or concepts** derived from a committee of local stakeholders/representatives?
- Are you interested in **translating your work into to resilient or durable materials** that can hold up in a public environment?

Preparing your **Application**

[Submittable Screen Share]

Application Notes:

- The artwork you show in your images must be your own. You must give credit to any partners on projects.
- Acceptance to the Roster does not guarantee you will receive a project.
- You may submit one application. You cannot apply as both an individual artist and as a member of an artist team.

Panelist Review Criteria

The application review will be conducted by a team of independent panelists from across the U.S. The applications **are not scored** but rather **must meet 3 of the 4 eligibility criteria** to be recommended for inclusion on the Public Artist Roster:

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Artist communicates a unique vision or perspective.
2. Artist demonstrates an authentic relationship to the subject matter.
3. Artist shows ability to create site-responsive work engaging a site and/or community.
4. Artist demonstrates command of materials and/or skill in technique.

LIVE PORTFOLIO REVIEW

FOR ARTISTS APPLYING TO THE

2026-2028 PUBLIC ARTIST ROSTER

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 12:00-1:00 PM

June 3 and June 10, 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST

- Up to 10 people (5 minutes per person)
- Request for your application to be reviewed (link in chat)

Deadline to Apply
JUNE 30, 2025

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Questions

CONTACT:

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Public Art Project Manager
410-938-1695
Nora.Howell@Maryland.gov

C. Ryan Patterson
Program Director, Public Art
443-721-3085
Ryan.Patterson1@Maryland.gov

Send any additional reflections to
msac.commerce@maryland.gov

Thank You!

Join our mailing list!

tinyurl.com/MSACsMailingList

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Discussion

MSAC maryland state arts council

Reflections

How an artist becomes a commissioned artist!

See: Canva Video: here

Application Prompts:

- **Application prompt**
- **Contact information**
- **Residency**
  - Maryland Resident
  - Non-Maryland Resident

Application Prompts:

- **Write a one-sentence summary of** your application using this precise template:

  Example:
  [Artist/Studio Name] is an [artist, artist team/studio] based in [location of studio]. We primarily work in [medium or methodology: i.e., sculpture, community-based murals, glass, multidisciplinary public art…etc..]. Our typical budget range for commissioned projects is [insert the typical budget range of your most recent projects, e.g., $50,000-$100,000, or $200,000 - $350,000].

Application Prompts:

8 images and 2 videos =
10 artwork samples

- **10 Artwork Samples:** Still images and videos combined
  You can submit up to 10 work samples in total.

  Video files 1.5 min or less -

  - Note: Metadata (artwork information) is required for each artwork sample.
  - Applications that do not include complete metadata may be returned or eliminated from the review.

Application Prompts:

- **Biographical Statement (250-word limit).** Describe your experience working on public art or commissioned projects. Include your experience with multi-phased and/or community-based projects. Include any other information you would like to be considered. If no experience, enter None.

- **Describe Your Practice [Artist Statement] (250-word limit)**
  Share what you make and why you make it. Describe the focus of your art practice. You can share the materials you like to work with and the concepts, ideas, or experiences that inform your process in creating art. Please proofread your statement carefully. It may be read aloud and/or reviewed in assessing your work..

Application Prompts:

- **Minimum Budget:** Select the category that best matches your minimum budget requirement in US dollars. If you wish to be considered for any budget amount, please select “No minimum budget required

Application Prompts:

- **Community Engagement:** Describe your experience leading community engagement activities in past public art projects. How do you approach community engagement when developing a project? Please provide at least one specific example of activities or events you have facilitated. [Max 250 words]

Strengthening Your Application

THE MARYLAND PUBLIC ART COMMISSION'S

2026-2028 PUBLIC ARTIST ROSTER

Three Tips to Strengthen Your Application

- Fill in the “meta-data” for each image
- Artist Statement: What do you make and why?
- Show your artwork in space

MSAC
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE maryland state arts council

Community Engagement

How do you collaborate with or interact with the client when you make an artwork?

- Explain an example