



Art in the Arboretum

October 10-12, 2025

(Storm date: October 17-19, 2025)

New Hanover County Arboretum • 6206 Oleander Drive • Wilmington, NC

ARTIST PROSPECTUS

The fall splendor of the Arboretum gardens provides a perfect backdrop of breathtaking scenery for this beautiful arts festival in Wilmington, NC.

The Friends of the New Hanover County Arboretum present this

29th annual Art in the Arboretum.

Proceeds support the Arboretum's projects and programs of Cooperative Extension.

The Art in the Arboretum

Art in the Arboretum Festival will have several opportunities for artists to display their work this year.

From your traditional style 10' x 10' tent spaces throughout the gorgeous gardens to our non-tent spaces outside that are 5' x 10' under-awning, we are excited about all the possibilities these spaces create for the artists.

Our show will again be a three-day event, on October 10th opening from 5:30-7:30 pm for our "Sip, Savor, & Shop" event.

Then on Saturday, October 11th and Sunday, October 12th we will be open from 10 am -4 pm.

In the following Prospectus, please note the important calendar dates, show details, and guidelines.





Calendar of Important Dates

Monday, June 2 nd	Registration opens for new & returning artists - artinthearboretum.org
Monday, August 11 th	Deadline for artist registration and entry fee: \$35 per Application - midnight
Monday, August 25 th	Late entry Deadline for artists registration and entry fee: \$45 per Application (closes at Midnight)
Wednesday, August 27-29 th	Jury Process by Committee Panel
Monday, September 1 st	Jury results emailed to all artists
Sunday, September 14 th	Booth Fees Due – All Booths are \$195 – 10'x10' Tent required outside, 5' x 10" under-awning no tent
Friday, September 26 th	Booth Assignment packet emailed
Friday, October 10 th	9 am – 4 pm: Artists Set-up – Booths must be ready for "Sip, Savor, & Shop" Opening by 5:30 pm.
Friday, October 10 th	Art in the Arboretum Special Opening Night Showcase – "Sip, Savor, & Shop" from 5:30-7:30 pm.
Saturday, October 11 th Sunday, October 12 th	10 am – 4 pm – Show & Sale. 10 am - 4 pm – Show & Sale - No Breakdown of Festival Art Booths should occur before 4:00 pm (allow final checkout for customers) 4:15 pm Close of Show & breakdown of displays





About Art in the Arboretum and Wilmington, NC

Location	The Arboretum is located in beautiful Wilmington, NC at 6206 Oleander Drive just minutes from Wrightsville Beach and minutes from downtown. The Arboretum gives our county's residents easy access to the resources and expertise of NC State University and NC A&T State University through the NC Cooperative Extension and encompasses seven acres of gardens and plantings dedicated to demonstrating the best plant species for southeastern North Carolina landscapes, proper horticultural techniques, aesthetic design, environmental stewardship, and research.
Our Market	Wilmington, NC is consistently ranked as one of the top places to live and move to with its gorgeous beaches and vibrant downtown and abundance of arts and culture. Wilmington has a population of 115,000 and is the principal city of the Cape Fear-Wilmington metropolitan statistical area, which includes New Hanover and Pender Counties in southeastern North Carolina, which had a population of 301,284 at the 2020 census.
The Friends	The Friends of the New Hanover County Arboretum (The Friends) was created as a non-profit, 501c(3) fundraising organization in 1986. Since then, it has provided financial support to the New Hanover County Arboretum for the enhancement of the Arboretum gardens. Over the years, it has also supported special projects like the creation of the Contemplation Garden and the improvements to the Children's Garden. It also supports the educational programs of Cooperative Extension. Our major fundraiser each year is the Art in the Arboretum Show and Sale. We will be holding the 29th annual show in 2025. Come grow with us! Friends of the Arboretum will help assure the Arboretum's continuing development and preservation.
Art Show	The Art in the Arboretum is an annual art show entering its 29 th year as an established and successful show in the region. The show is held every fall, around October. Art in the Arboretum partners with our local businesses, non-profits, and art groups to bring this amazing show to the public each year, along with support of the community. We promote the show through various avenues including our growing community of Art Associations and NC Art Council, Friends of the Arboretum extensive database, along with billboard, radio, print, and digital advertising to bring out the best customers Wilmington has.





Registration Fees, Entry Terms, & Conditions

\$35 Entry fee – open registration on artinthearboretum.org between June 2, 2025 and August 11, 2025 Entry fees are non-refundable unless show is canceled by host. If the show is postponed, all artist registration fees will be applied to the new date unless the artist has a conflict and cannot be part of the show. A refund will be issued only upon request.

\$45 Late entry fee is between August 12, 2025 and August 25, 2025 Entry fees are non-refundable unless the Show is canceled by host. If the Show is postponed, all artist registration fees will be applied to the new date unless the artist has a conflict and cannot be part of the Show. A refund will be issued only upon request.

\$195 Booth fee for accepted artists is due by September 14th, Cancellation refund policy: If canceled before September 26, 2025 the Art in the Arboretum will refund said booth fee minus 50% administration fee; if the artist cancels after September 27, 2025 no refund will be applied. If Show is postponed, all artist registration fees will be applied to the new date unless artist has a conflict and cannot be part of the Show. A refund will be issued only upon request.

Art Festival Booth SPECS	<p>There will be two different booth spaces available for the Art Festival Show; all booths \$195.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10'x5' space. This smaller footprint provides cover under the eaves of the building or in the Gatehouse. No tent is required. All booths are on concrete flooring • 10' x10' spaces in the gardens. Artists are required to provide a tent. Tents cannot be staked and must be secured by weights.
Art Festival Booth Display	Artists are responsible for providing their own supplies and items to build their booths, including tables, chairs, linens, etc. Artists are encouraged to creatively display their booths in a professional and appealing manner.
Art Festival Booth Artists Sales	Artists are responsible for their sales; Artists keep 100% of their sales and can accept whatever payment they choose.
Art Festival Booth Assignments	All Booth spaces are assigned in advance based on completed application and payment and location placement is at the sole discretion of the Art Committee. Please refer to the booth chart diagram at this link for reference.
Art Festival Booth Information	All artists' work must be contained within the assigned booth space. If partnering in a booth space with a 2nd artist, both artists must pay the full registration fee and indicate intent to share on the Booth Application. No more than 2 artists may partner in a booth. The Arboretum will NOT provide electricity, tents.



Registration Fees, Entry Terms, & Conditions *continued*

<p>Art Festival Booth Rules & Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be notified of your space assignment prior to the show by Sept. 26th. Space assignments will not be changed. • Our booth spaces are designed for one artist, however, we will allow up to two artists to work together in a single space if this request is made beforehand. Both artists will still need to apply individually. • Artists must be present during the entire event; in the case of two artists sharing a booth at least one artist must be present at all times. • All items for sale must be the original work of the applicant. No buy/sell, imports, kits, or commercial products. • Commercial reproduction of the artist's work must be marked clearly as a reproduction. • Artists may only exhibit work in the category in which they were juried. • Security – The Arboretum will be closed and locked and professional security will be provided overnight. However, The Arboretum shall not be liable or responsible for any items lost, stolen, or damaged. It is recommended that booth artists attach walls and enclose their booths each night and artists under the overhang cover or protect their art each night. • The Art Committee reserves the right to remove or reject art from the show that is deemed inappropriate. • All Juried reviews and judging are done anonymously. The judge's decisions are final • No erotic or offensive work will be accepted. • The Arboretum reserves the right to make the final interpretation of all rules. • All tents should be secured using sandbags or weights. (No tent stakes)
<p>Art Festival Booth Set-up Times</p>	<p>Artist Check-in and set up for booths will be on Friday, October 10, 2025 from 9 am – 4 pm Booths must be ready by 5 pm as we will close check-in at 4 pm to prepare the grounds and set up the Opening event, "Sip, Savor, Shop" from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.</p>
<p>Opening Night Showcase Sip, Savor & Shop</p>	<p>The Special Opening Night Showcase - Sip, Savor & Shop, will open on Friday, Oct. 10th from 5:30- 7:30 pm. This will be a special ticketed event catered with beer and wine and live music.</p>
<p>Art Festival Booth Breakdown - Sunday 4:15-6:00p</p>	<p>Once the festival ends on Sunday at 4 pm, we will start breaking down promptly at 4:15 pm. Your entire space must be packed and ready to transport to the parking lot before bringing your car to the Arboretum parking lot. Please make sure to not leave any trash in your area.</p>
<p>Upon entering the show and by submitting payment, the artist agrees to the terms and conditions as outlined in this Prospectus.</p>	





2 Dimensional

2-D Mixed Media: These are works that incorporate the use of two or more media such as ink & pastel, or painting and collage-type of materials, which are combined in a single original work. No components manufactured by others may be used. No catalog merchandise is permitted.

Digital (Computer) Art: Includes original work created by using computer programs to significantly manipulate or alter source material(s) such as scans or digital files. Work must be signed and be limited editions, using only archival quality materials. Digital photographers, i.e., those who use a digital camera or process images digitally to perform standard manipulations, (cropping, color/tone adjustment, sharpening, etc.) should apply in the Photography category. This includes photo collage and painting on photographs, which need to be in the Photography category. Digital Art prints must be made from the artist's original digital file under the artist's supervision. In all cases, works need to be produced by the exhibiting artist. Photography is not permitted in this medium.

Drawing and Pastels: Original compositions that are drawn by the artist's hand incorporating ink, chalk, wax, crayon, charcoal, pastel, pencil, etc. or from the fluid medium of inks and washes applied by pen or brush.

Painting (Oil/Acrylics/Encaustic/Tempera/Watercolor):

These are original compositions that are created by the artist's hand. Painting over prints/giclees or pre-existing images (regardless of the substrate) is not considered an original. These are considered "altered reproductions" and must go in browse bins and labeled as outlined below.

Photography: Includes all photographic processes, which begin with a camera lens. Photographs made from the artist's original image, both from film and original digital files, are included in this category. Photo collage and painting on photographs, which are traditional photographic processes need to be in this category. Photographers are required to disclose both their creative and printing processes (including any digital alteration and or hand painting, over painting, etc). The process must be displayed with the photograph or indicated in the displayed artist's statement. Work must use only archival quality materials. In all cases, the work must be produced and printed by the exhibiting artist or under the artist's supervision.

Graphic and Printmaking: Prints are defined as multiple originals where the artist's hand has manipulated the plates, stone, blocks, composite reliefs, or screens and which are properly signed and numbered in limited editions. Photocopies, giclees, or offset reproductions, machine-produced images are not considered print originals. They are considered reproductions and must go in browse bins and labeled as such.

3 Dimensional

3-D Mixed Media: Three-dimensional works incorporating multiple materials. If recycled materials are used they must be altered or used in a way different from their original purpose.

Ceramics: Original functional and/or non-functional works created by the artist from clay, porcelain, stoneware, and/or earthenware. No factory-produced work, no RAM pressed work allowed. Clay work from commercial molds is prohibited. Painted commercial slip-cast work is prohibited.

Fiber: Works created from fibers and beads, including basketry, weaving, papermaking, leather, bead weaving and fabric. No mass or factory-produced work is allowed in the show, regardless of additional modification or enhancement by the artist. Beadweaving is not bead stringing, it is glass seed beads woven bead by bead into a fabric.

Glass: This is work that has been handcrafted by the artist by glass blowing, fusing, casting or kiln forming, or original designs in stained glass. No pre-manufactured items, regardless of additional modification or enhancement by artist, are permitted.

Jewelry: Hand-fabricated jewelry designed and made by the artist in metals, wire wrapping, precious metal clay, wood, fiber, gems, stones, flame-worked beads, and bead weaving is acceptable. Work that has been designed by the artist, but with no subsequent hands-on work by the artist is strictly prohibited (e.g., casting services). No commercial casts or molds are allowed. No more than 15% of a piece may consist of commercial findings.

Commercially purchased components (beads, glass, metal, other materials not made by the artist) that are strung or assembled and/or twisted on wire, with no substantial original work done by the artist are not acceptable. Precious metal clay jewelers must label their work as such.

Metal: These are original works that are created through the forging, twisting, and fabricating of various metals. The emphasis here is on functional, not sculptural work. *Sculpture and jewelry should not be put in this category.*

Sculpture: Three-dimensional works incorporating any materials that are carved, modeled, constructed or cast. If recycled materials are used they must be altered or used in a way that is different from their original purpose.

Wood: Original handcrafted work in wood (functional or non-functional) that is hand-tooled, machine-worked, turned or carved.



Education Center

New this year, we will have Dreams of Wilmington, Kids Making It, and 4-H in the Education Center. This new feature will be free to the public and showcase some of the area's young artists.

The New Hanover County 4-H Youth Development program will have a hands-on activity for youth.

4-H	4-H is the largest youth development organization in North Carolina, educating hundreds of thousands of young people each year. Extension's 4-H program is growing the next generation of leaders and equipping youth with the skills to succeed.
Dreams of Wilmington	The mission of DREAMS is to create a culture of confidence for youth and teens through equitable access to arts education supported by the values of respect, family, and community.
Kids Making It	Kids Making It is a 501c(3) non-profit youth woodworking program that teaches valuable vocational, entrepreneurial and life skills to at-risk, low-income, and disadvantaged youth. Our goal for every student we serve is for them to stay in school, stay out of trouble, and transition successfully into either the workplace or college.





How to Apply

Registration Links & Art in the Arboretum Information will also start on our website
artinthearboretum.org

All aspects of the artist's entry process will be managed through Jotform

This will include the registration process with entry fee and image submission, followed by accepted artists and booth fee payments.

- Artists will begin by registering and paying the entry fee (\$35 June 2nd - Aug. 11th) or (\$45 late registration Aug. 12th - Aug 25th) on Jotform
- Each application via Jotform must include (3) images to include: two (2) examples of Art and one (1) of your booth. **If you are a first-time booth applicant, please supply a photo of how you might display your art instead.*
- An Artist's Statement will also be required (200 characters). We recommend a statement that provides a balance between material/technique and inspiration.
- After the entry deadline of August 25th all applications will go into the panel jury review period from August 27th - 29th
- After this jury review, Artists will be emailed on September 1st on whether they are invited or not invited.
- Accepted Artists will be notified and given the instructions on the next step in the process & including paying booth fees, booth placement, and setup times. Please refer to the calendar of important dates page.
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Art in the Arboretum Contacts

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