

Erie County Arts in Public Places: 2025 Call for Art

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Questions received via email and at the Virtual Information Session held on June 26, 2025)

Question: For the short bio, is there a minimum or maximum word or character count?

Answer: There is no minimum or maximum word count or character count for the bio, as long the document can be uploaded (5MB maximum) you are set.

Question: Is nudity allowed?

Answer: In your selection of works to submit, while there are no specific guidelines around nudity in this call for art, the nature of the exhibition space (and overall program) is very public and if there are elements of nudity, that will be something the Committee will consider as they are choosing works for this public program.

Question: Will photography be accepted as a form of art for the collection?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What if the art you submitted sells prior to being chosen?

Answer: With a Call for Art, if you are going to be submitting something, that piece of artwork should be removed from your sales venue until the Call for Work has ended and you have been notified that your artwork has or has not been selected.

Question: Is there particular interest in terms of theming or is there anything around subject matter that is of interest to the committee?

Answer: We do not have any specific themes that we are looking for. We wanted to leave it open because of the vast creativity and artistic ability of everyone in Erie County. We wanted everyone to have an opportunity to submit what they were passionate about and what they enjoyed. So there's no theme at this time, maybe in future calls but not in this one.

Question: Is there a minimum size requirement?

Answer: No minimum. Obviously we want it to be visible on the wall. We will take into consideration all sizes. If we need to, we may display parlor style. We do want it to be engaging, so definitely not too small, or something that would not be recognized on a large wall like the ones in the Convention Center.

Question: Is printing in a different format considered a new piece?

Answer: Yes, for photography, we will accept a printed piece.

Question: For an assemblage piece, does it have to be under glass or can the pieces come at you without having to be sealed under glass?

Answer: As long as it is protected and as long as the pieces do not come out too far from the wall it should be fine but when you are framing it, just be mindful of how the work is being presented and the fact that it is in a public setting.

Question: Does the art need to be framed? I use a lot of stretch canvas which has a wooden frame concealed under the canvas.

Answer: Yes, that is considered a framed work technically, as long as it's ready to hang, so make sure you have your hanging mechanisms on the back so that it will be easy to adhere to the wall.

Question: We are submitting framed 2D, that is, works on paper. Is this allowable?

Answer: That's perfect. Something that is framed, something that is behind glass or plexiglass, if it's 2D and not 3D that would be definitely preferred. We want to be mindful of the type of glass that it is behind because there is highlighting in the convention center at all times, so we definitely want to be able to protect that piece. And again, for works on paper, they should be original works on paper and not printed works unless it is actually like a lithograph or block printing or something along those lines.

Question: Is there a preference for abstract or realistic art?

Answer: We don't have any thematic requirements. Your selection should be based on your artistic practice and what you would like to have reviewed by the Erie County Arts in Public Places Committee. If you have an abstract and a realistic, maybe you want to submit two applications. Again, completely up to you. We are looking for a lot of diversity. We want to be able to recognize all of the beautiful art and wonderful skill that we have in Erie County.

Question: Is there a limit on the time the art was completed?

Answer: As long as it is an original piece, it is ok.

Question: Can the art be shown before?

Answer: Yes, that is fine. Again, this is something that, if selected, it will be part of the Erie County collection.

Question: If two works from one artist's collection are selected, will they be hung together?

Answer: Maybe, maybe not. It is based on the Committee who will be curating and installing the work. There is no guarantee that they will be together and they will not be judged together. We will be looking at each application individually which is why it's important that every piece of artwork have its own separate application.

Question: What happens to the pieces after the show?

Answer: They go into the Erie County collection, we're basically building this collection so at some point we can rotate the artwork through different buildings and through different offices within Erie County, so on your resume, you'll be able to say that your artwork has been acquired by Erie County.

Question: How many pieces are you able to purchase?

Answer: It depends on the size and pricing of submissions, there are no set number of pieces.

Question: An artist could sell three works totaling \$6000?

Answer: Yes, you could. And please consider how much your artwork has sold for in the past. If you are just starting out and you've never sold anything and set your 5 x7 piece of artwork at \$2000, well we might do some research just to really understand if this a feasible value or not. So if your price is less than \$2000, it won't affect your chances. Absolutely not. Value your artwork the way that you have been valuing your artwork from zero to \$2000.

Question: Will artists be notified where the piece is going to be hanging in the show and or thereafter?

Answer: You will be notified that your artwork is selected. We will not necessarily be contacting you to say your artwork is on wall C, D, or E. However, when you come to the opening, you will be able to see that. And just to clarify, this is not a 2 or a 6 week show. The work will be hung in the Convention Center for some length of time, and then the county will move the work into the collection and it will be rotated throughout various Erie County facilities and offices periodically.

Question: Is it safe to say that if you judge two pieces the same, the one with the lower cost will be selected to preserve the budget money?

Answer: Not necessarily. The process that we've been setting up for the Erie County Art and Public Places Committee is to view the artwork first with no name, and with no value, just to see if it catches our eye, and the committee is made up of five very diverse people with very, very diverse tastes so if your artwork speaks for itself, then the budget really doesn't matter as long as you're within that \$2000.

Question: Can anyone attend the opening?

Answer: Absolutely. We want everyone to know about this opening. We want everyone to see the artwork that we're collecting and we want everyone to know about the Arts and Public Places Committee.

Please Note: Erie County has received number of submissions with two works of art included in one application. Please complete a *separate* application for each work of art.

Artists may submit up to three works for consideration (three separate applications). If an artist submits more than three, only the first three will be considered.