

## CALL FOR ARTISTS: 2D SMALL-FORMAT ART DESIGNS FOR MINI-ART VENDING MACHINE – New Theme for July 2026!

City of Fairfax, Virginia

**Submittal Deadline: Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 4 pm**

**Selected Artist Notified: by Thursday, June 25, 2026, 4 pm**

### **THEME: “What America Means to Me”**

Please note: In honor of America’s semiquincentennial in July 2026, all mini-art machine pieces will feature the City of Fairfax’s 250th anniversary logo in the lower corner.

Perfect for collecting and sharing!

A new artist will be selected and featured in the mini-art vending machine approximately every 30 - 60 days.

**Stipend: \$150** for 9 small format artworks

**Artwork Dimension:** Each measuring **2.5” x 3.5”**



### **Overview**

The City of Fairfax Department of Parks and Recreation/Cultural Arts Department and the Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED) announce a rolling Call for Art for small-format artwork designs that will be placed in a tabletop Mini-Art Vending Machine (pictured). Artists’ designs will be printed on white card stock paper (or equivalent), individually cut, placed in protective cardboard sleeves and will sell for \$1 each (**see photo**). A sample of each available design, and the artist’s name, will be featured on the face of the vending machine. Approximately every one to two months, the mini-art vending machine will feature the artwork design of a new artist. Proceeds from this project benefit Fairfax City parks.

## **Project Goals**

- To promote the idea that ‘art is for everyone’
- To engage the community by providing Fairfax City residents and visitors of all ages an opportunity to collect affordable small format art prints
- Promoting artists by providing an accessible platform to showcase their talent and gain exposure
- To support Fairfax City parks.

## **Deadline**

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. For months with a theme, specific submission deadlines will be noted (see above.)

## **Eligibility**

This call is open to all artists, graphic designers and illustrators. Weighted preference may be given to local artists.

- Submitted designs must be your *original* artwork in any medium (except photography or AI-generated digital art) that can be represented in, and are submitted as, high-resolution digital images without loss of integrity or quality: **300 dpi/825 px x 1050 px**. Each individual design must be signed within the image or in the frame.

## **Selection Process**

A jury/selection panel will review all proposals. Panel may include the City of Fairfax Cultural Arts Manager, representatives of the City of Fairfax, and representatives from the Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED). Each selected artist will receive a stipend.

## **Selection Criteria**

The panel will use the following criteria:

- Artistic merit and graphic strength of the proposed designs
- Relevance to the project’s goals
- Completeness of the submission as outlined in this announcement

Art designs will be deemed inappropriate which portrays content which violates copyright or other known legal ownership interest; profanity, obscenity, indecency, violence, pornography; discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality; defamation or personal attacks.

## **Mini-Art Vending Machine Location**

The mini-art vending machine will travel between City of Fairfax sponsored events, City of Fairfax businesses, and City venues, thus making small, affordable artworks available to the public at a variety of locations.

## **Duration**

The mini-art vending machine will remain at a City of Fairfax sponsored event for its duration, and at each business, or City venue, for approximately one - two months. Duration may change at any time at the discretion of the City of Fairfax.

## **Stipend**

Each of the selected artists will be awarded a \$150 stipend for their 9 small format designs. In addition to printing and selling artwork as stated in the Overview, the artist gives permission to the City of Fairfax to use the design/artwork for promotional purposes, including social media and print, for the length of the Mini Art Vending Machine project.

## **Payment**

A W9 and an Invoice from the selected artist is required prior to payment of stipend. The City of Fairfax will not profit from the use or sale of this art.

## **Design Theme**

See above for July's art theme!

## **Design Guidelines and Criteria**

- Submit a *minimum* of 9 different mini-artwork designs, print-ready. Between 3 and 9 pieces will be selected for the mini-art vending machine. Designs may be used in marketing/promotions.
- Each mini-artwork design must be *no larger than 2.5" x 3.5"* in order to fit into a cardboard sleeve and it must include white empty space on all four sides, *unless the image presents on a white background originally*. Each individual design must conform to this specific size so as not to jam the mini-art vending machine.
- Each individual design must be signed.
- Artists are encouraged to provide a website address and/or social media handle to include with each print (no business cards due to thickness of paper.)
- Designs that incorporate commercial advertisement will not be considered, unless it is the name or logo of the business, building, or site portrayed in the design. Please inquire if in doubt.

## **Submission Requirements**

For the July call, respondents should submit the following materials by **4 pm on Wednesday, June 24, 2026**.

1. Artist Name, Mailing Address, Telephone Number, Email Address. Websites and Social Media handles are optional but encouraged so collectors can find you!
2. Brief Statement of Interest addressing the concept(s), design, and how you approached the project (one short paragraph, maximum)

3. Condensed résumé or curriculum vitae
4. Annotated List of Images: Include the artist's name as a heading, a one-sentence description of each image, title (optional), and original medium of artwork
5. Design Proposal. Artists must submit a minimum of 9 designs, from which 3 – 9 will be selected. The original artwork design can be in any medium (except photography or AI - generated digital art). It is preferred that all designs are in the same medium but not required. **Designs must be submitted as a high-quality, print-ready image file, 300 DPI, 825px x 1050px.**

Please email all application materials to Will Quinn at [will.quinn@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:will.quinn@fairfaxva.gov). Contact them with any questions.

### **Disclaimer**

The City of Fairfax reserves the right to delay, reschedule, cancel or reissue this Call for Artists for any reason it deems necessary.

Applicants will be advised in the event of a delay, cancellation, or a reissuance.

The City of Fairfax does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability or status as a U.S. veteran and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### **Direct all questions and comments to:**

Will Quinn, Cultural Arts Manager, City of Fairfax  
[will.quinn@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:will.quinn@fairfaxva.gov), 571-585-1771

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