



## Annual Outdoor Public Art Exhibition 2025 Application Information

The City of Lawrence and the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission (LCAC) are pleased to announce an open call for artists to participate in the **2025 temporary Annual Outdoor Public Art Exhibition**. Formerly known as the [Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition](#) (ODSE), this event has been a beacon for artists since its inception in 1988. The exhibition is sponsored by the City of Lawrence and overseen by the Cultural Arts Commission and City staff. With sensitivity to the evolving nature of public art, the event invites artists to explore sculptural works along with a broader spectrum of public art that celebrates the unmistakable identity of Lawrence.

### About the Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition or ODSE

The Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition (ODSE) was founded by local sculptor and executive director of the Kansas Sculptors Association Jim Patti in 1988 to provide an opportunity for area sculptors to showcase their work in various locations in downtown Lawrence. More than 178 local, regional and national artists have participated in the ODSE since 1988 and thousands of citizens and visitors have enjoyed their work. Additional information about the Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition can be found [here](#).

- **Awards:** Selected artists will receive a \$1,750 honorarium for each selected or commissioned work.
- **Panel:** Applications will be reviewed by a Cultural Arts Commission committee.
- **Entry Deadline:** The entry deadline is **11:00 p.m. Sunday, March 9, 2025.**

### Criteria and Specifications for Selection:

This call is seeking artists and/or creative teams wishing to be considered to develop work for this temporary, one-year long public art exhibition program. *Works that explore an expanded, ephemeral notion of art in the public realm are encouraged. This might include:*

- Natural/Sustainable artworks: Ephemeral works made from natural materials for display at Prairie Park.
- Interactive: Engage the audience with interactive art installations.
- Architectural: Explore the intersections of art and architecture.
- Socially Inspired: Address important societal issues through your art.
- Performance, Music, Spoken Word: Share your talents through live performances and spoken word.
- Video/Tech: Utilize multimedia to captivate the audience.
- Other Innovative Approaches: Challenge traditional boundaries and bring your unique vision to life.

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Existing works and/or concept proposals will be considered. All physical work must be engineered appropriately for installation and suitable for display for at least one-year. The originality, quality, and viability of the work will be considerations for selection, as will the public safety of the work. Since works may be installed and exhibited in high pedestrian traffic areas, the safety of the public, including children, must be taken into consideration. Physical work must be as vandal-proof as possible and cannot have sharp edges or be easily breakable or bendable. Sites are available for ground-mounted works. All physical works must be designed appropriately and capable of being properly secured in the public realm.

Artists may be asked to work collaboratively with city staff and project partners in determining sites.

• **Entry Deadline:** The entry deadline is **11:00 p.m. Sunday, March 9, 2025**. The online application form is [here](#).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Selected artists will be expected to have their works ready and installed by **Friday, May 16, 2025 prior to the opening reception on Friday, May 30, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.** Please consider this schedule before submitting your materials and adapt proposals accordingly.

### **Eligibility:**

Open to all artists 18 years of age or older. All entries must be original proposals or artwork and may not have been shown previously in this exhibition.

### **Entry/Procedure RFQ:**

Artists may enter written concept proposals with sketches and/or up to three (3) existing works for consideration. For those interested in proposing a new site-specific or ephemeral work, please include a written concept proposal and a related sketch or sketches for review. Please submit digital photographs of each existing work or prior work as reference. Entrants should also submit a biographical paragraph and brief statement about each work entered. Please enter by completing the digital form here: <https://lawrenceks.org/lprd/odse/>. For assistance, please contact Porter Arneill, [parneill@lawrenceks.org](mailto:parneill@lawrenceks.org) | 785-832-3449.

### **Delivery and Return of Artwork:**

Artists will be solely responsible for the delivery of artwork and coordinating installation with Parks, Recreation and Culture Department staff as well as return shipping arrangements. If applicable, artists will also be responsible for all shipping charges. Accepted works must be received and/or installed by no later than **Friday, May 16, 2025 by appointment coordinated with staff**. Artists will be required to reclaim their work by no later than **Friday, May 8, 2026**.

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### **Other Responsibilities:**

Selected artists must sign a loan agreement in which they agree to: 1) permit the City of Lawrence to install the artwork; 2) promise that the artwork will remain on display for the duration of the exhibition and 3) recognize that, in the interest of public safety and community priority, the City has the right to remove damaged sculpture and sculptures or artworks that pose a safety threat unless promptly and satisfactorily repaired by the artist.

### **Additional Information/Questions**

Porter Arneill, Assistant Parks, Recreation and Culture Director,  
[parneill@lawrenceks.org](mailto:parneill@lawrenceks.org) | 785-832-3449