

# Art In The Wild 2026 Application

Wildwood Park's Outdoor Environmental Art Exhibit

*March 29 – September 30, 2026*

**2026 Theme: Balance**

Application Deadline: January 23, 2026

Notification of Acceptance: early February 2026

Mandatory Pre-Installation Meeting: February 28, 2026

Installation Begins: February 28, 2026

Artists Reception: March 27, 2026



*2025 Exhibit "Our Thoughts Can Change the World" by Craig S. Bomberger*

## **EXHIBIT CONTACT AND LOCATION**

Richelle Curanzy, Environmental Educator

Wildwood Park

100 Wildwood Way

Harrisburg, PA. 17110

Phone: 717 221-0292, ext. 3

[rcuranzy@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:rcuranzy@dauphincounty.gov) [explorewildwoodpark.org](http://explorewildwoodpark.org)

# ART IN THE WILD APPLICATION CONTENTS

2.

<b>APPLICATION FORM</b>	3-4
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
Exhibit Mission	5
Eligibility	5
Information About Location	5
<b>SCHEDULE</b>	6
<b>SELECTION</b>	
Selection Process	7
<b>RULES</b>	
Nature of Artwork	7
Site Selection	7
Mandatory Pre-Installation Meeting	8
Materials	8
Construction/Removal	8
Maintenance	8
Maintenance Picnic	8
<b>INSTALLATION REVIEW/LIABILITY</b>	
Installation Review	9
Liability	9
<b>STIPENDS</b>	9
<b>SALES/PUBLICITY</b>	
Sales	9
Publicity	9
<b>PHOTO EXAMPLES</b>	10-13

## EXHIBIT SPONSORS

Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department,  
The Burg, [abc27](#), [CBS21](#) and [Visit Hershey Harrisburg](#)



## ART IN THE WILD 2026 APPLICATION FORM – PAGE 1 of 2

The following information and acknowledgement(s) are required for a complete application:

**This 2-page Application Form (signed and dated) must accompany the other required materials.**

- Applications and other required materials may be sent via snail mail or e-mail
- Incomplete applications may not be evaluated

**Artist(s) Name(s):**

Individual          Pair          Group

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (1):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email (1):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (2):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email (2):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (3):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email (3):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (4):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email (4):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Website (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR K-12 STUDENT APPLICANTS:**

**K-12 students submitting an application must also provide the below information:**

**Art Teacher's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Art Teacher's Day Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**Parent's/Guardian's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's/Guardian's Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Art Teacher or Parent/Guardian signature:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Art Teacher) or \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian), understand the above student is submitting an application for Art In The Wild 2026 and support their submittal. I further confirm that the student has a serious interest in following through with his/her submission for the exhibit and, if chosen to participate, will adhere to the program's rules, procedures and deadlines.

## ART IN THE WILD 2026 APPLICATION FORM – PAGE 2 of 2

For your application to be considered complete, please submit the following:

1. Pages 1 and 2 of the Application Form, filled out as required
2. Artist(s) resume or bio statement typed separately
3. One-page-statement describing the proposed installation, including how it addresses the 2026 Art In The Wild theme "Balance"
4. Submit graphics portraying the installation
5. Select three preferred site choices (walk the trail and choose your site). If the artist does not choose preferred sites, a site selection will be made by the Committee.  
**First Choice Site \_\_\_\_\_, Second Choice Site \_\_\_\_\_, Third Choice Site \_\_\_\_\_**
6. Examples of prior work (preferably outdoor, environmental art) by the artist(s) are encouraged.

**Please remember that small objects are easily overpowered by the large scale of the outdoors.** Plants and vines overtake delicate and small installations, especially on the ground, requiring more ongoing maintenance and resulting in poor visibility of the artwork.

To best describe your installation, please give the overall scale and dimensions of your work. An example: *“My installation will cover an area approximately 11’ x 15’ and includes six separate pieces each being approximately 2’ x 3’ made of branches 2” – 4” in diameter. The pieces will be suspended approximately 7’ above the ground, suspended from 4 different branches.”*

Application materials must be submitted to the Exhibit Contact via email, in-person or **POSTMARKED** no later than Friday, January 23, 2026.

**Richelle Curanzy, Environmental Educator**  
**Wildwood Park**  
**100 Wildwood Way**  
**Harrisburg, PA. 17110**  
[rcuranzy@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:rcuranzy@dauphincounty.gov)

7. Sign and Date:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), understand that my application for participation in the Art In The Wild 2026 project is voluntary and undertaken at my own risk. I agree to comply with all exhibit rules, procedures and deadlines. I further understand that all submitted application materials including, but not limited to photographs, drawings and written materials, may be used for publicity purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature and date)

### EXHIBIT MISSION:

- Present quality art using mostly natural materials
- Provide public educational opportunities
- Involve the community

### ELIGIBILITY:

The exhibit is open to any person or group wishing to submit an application, including professionals, non-professionals, schools, students, naturalists, artists, designers, etc. Employees of Dauphin County Parks and Recreation and members of the exhibit organizing and evaluation committees are not eligible to participate.

### INFORMATION ABOUT LOCATION:

Wildwood Park is located in northern Harrisburg. Owned and operated by Dauphin County, the Park attracts over 115,000 people annually. Its 229 acres include a Nature Center, 90-acre freshwater wetland and a popular 3-mile loop trail which encircles the Park. The Art In The Wild installations are located on sites along this trail.

## ART IN THE WILD 2026 SCHEDULE

6.

Project Announcement	October 2025
Identification of Available Sites	by early November 2025
Application Submittal Deadline (postmarked)	Friday, January 23, 2026
Notice of Accepted Applications	early February 2026
Mandatory Pre-Installation Meeting, 1-2:30 pm	Saturday, February 28, 2026
Artists may start installing art	Saturday, February 28, 2026
<b>ART IN THE WILD 2026</b> Art Installation Completion	Monday, March 23, 2026
Video filming by CASA	March 24-26, 2026
Review of art installations by Guest Evaluator	late March 2026
Artists' Reception	Friday, March 27, 2026
Opening Day/Meet the Artists, 1-3pm	Sunday, March 29, 2026
Exhibit runs from	March 29 - September 30, 2026
AITW Maintenance Picnic, 9am-12pm	Sunday, June 28, 2026
<b>Artwork Removal Deadline!</b>	Sunday, October 11, 2026

# SELECTION

7.

## SELECTION PROCESS:

A Review Committee will evaluate all applications and select those for installation based on:

1. The artist's stated compliance with all exhibit rules, requirements, procedures and scheduling;
2. Evidence in the artist's statement and graphic submittals that their artwork will address the project goals, theme; and
3. The durability of the artwork to withstand **6 months of outdoor exposure** at the Wildwood Park site. Driving rain, heavy winds and intense sunlight can all impact installations.

The review committee retains the right to reject any application or installation at any time during the Exhibit that is determined to have a negative impact on the Park and its use, or that is deemed unsuitable or unsafe.

## RULES

### NATURE OF ARTWORK:

Integration of the artwork within the landscape (site) will be a key factor in the success of the art installation.

The artwork must speak for itself. Instructions, explanations, titles or other descriptive signage may not be included as part of the installation. Any such signage that is installed will be removed. Small, numbered identification signs will be installed by the Committee prior to the opening.

The overall size of the installation may not exceed 50 feet x 50 feet.

Artwork that includes/suggests any offensive materials, attitudes or connotations in the opinion of the Committee is not acceptable, regardless of artist(s) intent. If such artwork is installed, it will be removed.

### SITE SELECTION:

Approximately 30 land sites will be identified for artwork installation along Wildwood Way Trail. Additionally, water sites are available on a case-by-case basis along the Towpath Trail. Rising and falling water levels make these sites especially challenging. The identified sites will be available for review by interested artists by early November 2025. Walk the trail and select your top three sites. It is helpful to include photos of selected sites in your application.

The sites will be marked with a small green numbered sign. A map identifying the site locations will be available at the Nature Center (the Center is open 10:00am – 4:00pm and closed on Mondays). This map will also be available online within the 'Art In The Wild' section of the Wildwood Park website. Questions should be e-mailed to the Exhibit Contact, Richelle Curanzy.

Honoring each artist's requested priority site to its best ability, the Committee will assign each artist(s) a specific site for their installation. Sites with multiple requests will be assigned on a first come first served basis. If sites are not identified in the artist(s) proposal, they will be assigned by the Committee.

**MANDATORY PRE-INSTALLATION MEETING:**

Selected artists who are new to participation in the Exhibit are required to attend a pre-installation meeting that will be held Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm, at Wildwood's Olewine Nature Center. Returning artists are strongly encouraged to attend as well. Final information concerning site assignments, installation procedures, waivers, scheduling, maintenance, and other details will be presented and discussed.

**MATERIALS:**

The artwork installations must consist of **predominantly natural materials** and bear in mind elements of design- line, texture, shape, contrast, color, pattern, movement etc. Artists are encouraged to incorporate live, existing trees, shrubs etc., that are already a part of their site into their design, however, this plant material may not be cut for use.

Park "debris pile" materials resulting from ongoing Wildwood Park site maintenance activities are available for use by participating artists on a first-come first-served basis. Such materials include logs, vines, branches, herbaceous materials, etc. The Exhibit Contact will provide directions to the debris pile.

The use of artificial flora (flowers, leaves, etc.) is prohibited as is the use of pre-manufactured elements (toys, amulets, glass beads etc.). The use of water-soluble materials (plaster, unfired clay, etc.) - even if treated with sealers - is prohibited as these types of materials have shown not to hold up to outdoor exposure. Remember, the installations must be able to withstand six months of outdoor exposure.

**The use of any seeds, seed heads, or the transporting of live plants into the park, is prohibited unless approved by the Exhibit Contact, Richelle Curanzy. Invasive plant materials of any kind are strictly prohibited.**

**CONSTRUCTION/REMOVAL:**

The artist(s) are responsible for all artwork delivery, assembly, installation, maintenance, removal, shipping and site restoration and assumes the costs related thereto.

**MAINTENANCE:**

**It is the responsibility of the respective artist(s) to maintain their installation throughout the duration of the Exhibit so that the installation is clearly visible. This is imperative.** The Exhibit Contact will notify artists about any required maintenance. If artists fail to adequately maintain their installation, the artwork, at the discretion of the Exhibit Contact and Committee, may be removed from the Exhibit. Artists should maintain their sites to ensure their installations reflect their intended vision throughout the Exhibit.

**MAINTENANCE PICNIC:**

AITW 2026 artists are encouraged to participate in a pre-planned, voluntary maintenance day in which the AITW Committee provides a picnic lunch after the artist(s) perform site maintenance. Stipends will be delivered on this date. Please bring your own maintenance tools. More information will come later in the summer.

## INSTALLATION REVIEW/LIABILITY

9.

### INSTALLATION REVIEW:

The installations will be reviewed by a professional artist Guest Evaluator. The results of this review will be shared with all the artists at the Artist's Reception on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Identification of awards and honorable mention standings will be made at the discretion of the Guest Evaluator.

In addition, the People's Choice Awards provide the visiting public an opportunity to vote for their favorite installation throughout the 6-month duration of the exhibit. The results of the People's Choice voting will be announced on Dauphin County social media sites. People's Choice voting will **only** be available online.

### LIABILITY:

The artists are responsible for the funding, installation, insurance, maintenance and **timely removal of their respective art installations**. Neither Wildwood Park nor Dauphin County nor Friends of Wildwood provides for insurance or liability coverage. Artists submit their work and participate in Art In The Wild 2026 at their own risk.

## STIPENDS

All AITW 2026 artists will receive a monetary award (stipend) in appreciation for their participation. Checks for stipends will be (personally) handed out to artists at the Maintenance Picnic. Checks not distributed at that time will be held at the Front Desk of the Nature Center for artists to pick-up within a 30-day period following the Maintenance Picnic. Checks not picked up will be voided after 30 days. Artists not receiving (personally distributed) checks at the picnic will be notified of the 30-day hold/void period. If a check is received and then lost, any Stop Payment fee assessed by the financial institution will be posted as an administrative expense and will be deducted from the artist's stipend.

## SALES/PUBLICITY

### SALES:

Artists may sell their work during the exhibit period, but the work must remain on site for the duration of the Exhibit. Artists agree that in the event of the sale of their work during the Exhibit, a contribution in the amount of 20% of the sale price will be made to the Friends of Wildwood.

### PUBLICITY:

All official publicity for the Art In The Wild Exhibit including, but not limited to press releases, brochures, flyers etc., will be handled by the Exhibit Sponsors. Artists accepted into the Exhibit are encouraged to attend three promotional events during the year: Meet the Artists; Sunday, March 29, 2026, Wetlands Festival; Saturday, April 25, 2026, and Celebrate Wildwood; Saturday, September 26, 2026.

**EXAMPLES OF FORMER ART IN THE WILD INSTALLATIONS**



*2019 AITW First Place Winner "Recess"  
by Eve Gurbacki and Adiranne Zimmerman, Photo Shannon O'Shea*



*2018 AITW First Place Winner "Harmonic Convergence"  
by Eve Gurbacki and Adiranne Zimmerman, Photo Shannon O'Shea*



2016 First Place Winner "Tonic of Wilderness" by Beau MacGinnes, Photo Shannon O'Shea



2017 First Place Winner "Windows of Perception" by Beau MacGinnes, Photo Shannon O'Shea



*2015 First Place Winner "Pressure Points" by Sam White, Photo Shannon O'Shea*



*2014 First Place Winner "Gallery Over The Water" by Sam White, Photo Jim Caufield*



*2014 Third Place Winner "Roots at Play" by Christine Quimby & Paul Martz*



*2013 Third Place Winner "St. Stephen's School of Fish" by St. Stephen's School students, Photo Karen Carlson*

