



Director's Creativity Showcase

Presented by

Missouri
Mental Health
Foundation



The Director's Creativity Showcase is an annual art contest for individuals receiving mental health services to display their creative talents statewide. The Foundation curates artwork in categories like mental illness, substance use, developmental disability, crafts, and photography. A panel of judges reviews and awards the featured pieces, making the Showcase an inspiring event for all involved.

ART FROM THE HEART

The Showcase artwork often serves as a therapeutic outlet, allowing artists to express emotions they may not convey verbally. It has inspired many to explore and discover their creative talents in ways they never imagined.

HOW TO ENTER

The competition is open to any individual eligible to receive services in the categories of Mental Illness, Developmental Disabilities and/or Substance Use Disorders. For information on eligibility guidelines, artwork categories, rules, required forms, Showcase timeline and more, visit: WWW.MISSOURIMHF.ORG/DIRECTORS-CREATIVITY-SHOWCASE

MMHF MISSION

Raise awareness, shatter stigma, and champion care for those living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. We're committed to fostering understanding, dignity, and inclusion for every individual.

We ask that artwork be put in a clear protective sleeve to avoid damages.

2026 KEY DATES

October 31

Submissions Open

January 30

Entry Deadline

March 4

Art Judging

March

Virtual Gallery on
missourimhf.org

May 7

Showcase on Display
at Mental Health
Champions' Banquet

July-November

Director's Pick

MMHF@MISSOURIMHF.ORG 573-635-9201 MISSOURIMHF.ORG



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ATTACHMENT A **GUIDELINES FOR ILLUSTRATIVE** **ART AND CRAFTS**

The annual Director's Creativity Showcase is sponsored by the Missouri Mental Health Foundation (MMHF) and the Missouri Department of Mental Health. This annual event displays the talents of people served by the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) and serves as an inspiration to all who participate and experience these artistic creations.

This packet includes the eligibility guidelines, artwork categories, rules, required forms, a timeline of activities and a list of facilities and offices that have volunteered to serve as collection sites for artwork submissions in their area.

WHO CAN ENTER THE COMPETITION?

This competition is open to any individual eligible to receive services in the categories of Mental Illness, Developmental Disabilities and/or

Substance Use Disorders.

Entries may be entered in **ONE** of the following categories:

Substance Use Disorders

Mental Illness

Developmental Disabilities

Photography

Crafts

QUESTIONS?

Point of Contact:
Hannah Malzner

Phone:
(573) 635-9201
(573) 680-9266

E-Mail:
mmhf@missourimhf.org
hannah.malzner@missourimhf.org

Learn More:
missourimhf.org/dcs

SHOWCASE RULES

1. Entries are limited to **ONE** per person, although a person may help with a group project and still enter an individual project.
2. All entries **must have an entry form attached to the artwork and a signed release form.** (See “How to Submit an Entry” below)
3. Artwork entered in the Substance Use Disorders, Mental Illness, Developmental Disabilities categories can be paintings and sketches. **Artwork may NOT be computer generated.**
4. Crafts entered in this category can be sculptures, needlework, clay design, creative art projects., etc.
5. The Contest entrant must be the artist/photographer him or herself. The entry must be original work. By entering the Contest, entrant represents, acknowledges, and warrants that the submitted artwork/photograph are original works created by the entrant and that no other party has any right, title, claim or interest in the entry.
6. All entries in the “Photography” category shall abide by the following guidelines:
 - a. Photographs taken with a digital camera or conventional films are eligible
 - b. Minor burning, dodging and/or color correction is acceptable. Cropping is acceptable, as are fish-eye lenses. Any changes to the original photograph not itemized here are unacceptable and will make the photograph ineligible for the contest.
 - c. Mounted or framed photographs are acceptable but must **not have glass** in the frame. (Plexiglas is acceptable)
 - d. No photograph of an identifiable person may be submitted without a signed model release.
7. Obscene, provocative, or otherwise objectionable content will not be considered, and such determination is solely at the discretion of the Missouri Mental Health Foundation.
8. Pieces that are framed, matted and/or covered with acetate are acceptable. Artwork in a frame **MUST NOT** have glass. Please use Plexiglas, a plastic cover, or no covering at all in the frame.
9. **LIMIT the SIZE** of your artwork and crafts to no larger than 2' x 2' Larger pieces are difficult to store and return to the artist.
10. **Do not send items that are fragile** if the artist is concerned about breakage. If fragile items are submitted the Missouri Mental Health Foundation will **not** be responsible. **Paper Artwork should be either laminated or in a protective sleeve if worried about damage. Oil Pastels MUST be in a protective sleeve.**
11. If the artist would like to include brief biographical information, a personal story about the artwork or disclose their disability, they may do so on the back of the release form. This is optional and will not have any bearing on whether the piece is chosen for statewide display.

SALE OF ARTWORK

- There will be three opportunities for the artwork to be sold. The **first opportunity** is when the art submissions are judged, which will be March 4, 2026. The **second opportunity** will be on-line in the gallery on our website at the end of March. The **third opportunity** will be at the annual Mental Health Champions' Banquet scheduled for May 7, 2026.
- If the artist indicates they wish to sell their entry on their “Entry Form”, but does not provide a price, the piece will be marked for sale at \$25.00.
- *The Missouri Mental Health Foundation collects a handling fee above the amount priced by the entrant on each piece sold.*

EXHIBITING AND RETURN OF ARTWORK

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- Some of the submissions will be selected for our Director's Pick Showcase (formerly Traveling Show) which if requested, gives the public the opportunity to view the display in person across Missouri through October.
- In MARCH, you will be notified by the MMHF if your artwork is selected for the Director's Pick. If selected, your artwork will be returned in October after potential displays.
- Please refer to **Attachment E** for a time-line of activities associated with the Director's Creativity Showcase.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY

1. ENTRY FORM (Attachment B)

- Each entry must be identified with the entry form label provided.
- Please fill out all the areas on the entry form label, including the CATEGORY.
- Labels should be **typed or printed** neatly and legible, so we have accurate information for all correspondence. The artist may title their work if they choose to do so. A place on the entry form label is provided.
The facility contacts and address information are crucial. This information is used for the return of the artwork and when questions arise. NOTE: If there is more than one contact at a facility, the artwork will be returned to ONE of the contacts and it will be that **contact's responsibility to return to entrant or other contacts.**

2. RELEASE FORM (Attachment C)

- A release form, signed by the artist/guardian, as well as a witness, **MUST** accompany all art, photos, and craft items submitted.
- Artists should be aware that their work may be placed on public display and that confidentiality is not possible if their name is visible when displaying their artwork.
- A signed release form allows the Missouri Mental Health Foundation, and the Missouri Department of Mental Health, to use images of the art in its promotional materials.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY (CONT)

3. SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

- To save on the cost of mailing artwork, you may deliver entries to a participating Department of Mental Health facility or provider agency. **(IF YOU DELIVER ARTWORK TO A FACILITY – PLEASE NOTE THE DIFFERENT DEADLINE BELOW)** Arrangements will be made with the facilities to transport the artwork to Jefferson City.
- A listing of participating facilities and contact names can be found on **Attachment D**.
- Entries may also be delivered or mailed to one of the following locations:

**Department of Mental Health
Office of Public and Legislative Affairs
Attn: Debra Walker
1706 E. Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101**

**Missouri Mental Health Foundation

Attn: Hannah Malzner
223 East Capitol, Suite 100, LL
Jefferson City, MO 65101**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES

- Entries **must be received** by the **Missouri Mental Health Foundation** or the **Department of Mental Health Central Office in Jefferson City** by **Friday, January 30, 2026**.
- If you are delivering artwork to one of the designated Department of Mental Health facilities or provider agencies, you will need to deliver the artwork to the location **at least one week prior to the deadline (by January 23, 2026)** so arrangements can be made for its transport to Jefferson City by the deadline.

CATEGORY AWARDS

For the following three (3) categories, 1st – 5th place awards will be provided as noted below.

- **Substance Use Disorders**
- **Mental Illness**
- **Developmental Disabilities**

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$200	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25

- **Best of Show**

\$250

- **Photography and Crafts**

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
\$100	\$75	\$50

QUESTIONS?

Point of Contact:
Hannah Malzner

Phone:
(573) 635-9201
(573) 680-9266

E-Mail:
mmhf@missourimhf.org
hannah.malzner@missourimhf.org



Missouri Department of
MENTAL HEALTH



ATTACHMENT B

PLEASE CUT OUT
ENTRY FORM AND
SECURE TO THE BACK
OF THE ARTWORK

Please **COMPLETE ALL**
PORTIONS of the entry
form & **ATTACH IT TO**
ARTWORK

Accurate mailing and
contact information is
critical for both the artist
and contact person so
that awards, payments
and artwork returns can
be completed afterwards.

**NO COMPUTER
GENERATED ENTRIES
CAN BE ACCEPTED**

2026 DIRECTOR'S CREATIVITY SHOWCASE ENTRY **MUST BE TYPED OR PRINTED NEATLY**

ARTIST CONTACT INFORMATION

Artist Name

Artist Street Address (NO PO Boxes)

City, State, Zip Code

Email Address

**Primary CATEGORY pertaining to
Artist (One category MUST be
checked but **ONLY ONE** Category)**

- ☐ Substance Use Disorders
- ☐ Developmental Disabilities
- ☐ Mental Illness
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Craft

FACILITY CONTACT INFORMATION

Facility Name

Facility Address (NO PO Boxes)

City, State, Zip Code

Contact Person

Contact Phone Number

Contact Email Address

Title of Art _____

Do you wish to sell your entry?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If yes, what is the price?

\$ _____

THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL

**Please type or print CLEARLY all
information!**



For MMHF Office Use Only

RELEASE FORM ATTACHMENT C

A signed release form MUST accompany all art, photos, & craft items submitted.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH RELEASE FORM TO ARTWORK

I ☐ **do** ☐ **do not** give my permission for my artwork submission to the Director's Creativity Showcase to be displayed, in any venue or area designated, for general public viewing.

I understand that by signing below:

- I am giving up any right to hold the person(s), partnership, or corporation in charge of the display area liable for any damages and/or loss of my artwork.
- I am giving permission to the Missouri Mental Health Foundation, the Missouri Department of Mental Health, and exhibit venues to use images of my artwork for educational and promotional materials

Artist Name: _____

Artist Address, City, Zip Code: _____

Artist Signature / or Guardian: _____

Witness: _____ Date Signed: _____

Facility Name: _____

Facility Contact Person: _____

Facility Address, City, Zip Code: _____

NOTE: Please have a release form signed and submit to:

**Missouri Mental Health Foundation
223 E. Capitol Ave., Lower-Level
Jefferson City, MO 65101**

ATTACHMENT D**2025 Director's Creativity Showcase Facility Locations & Primary Contact Information**

LOCATION	FACILITY ADDRESS	CONTACT NAME	NO.	CONTACT E-MAIL ADDRESS
CENTRAL MISSOURI				
MO Dept of Mental Health-CO	1706 E. Elm Street	Debra Walker	573-751-1647	Debra.Walker@dmh.mo.gov
	Jefferson City, MO 65101			
MO Mental Health Foundation	223 East Capitol, Lower Level	Hannah Malzner	573-635-9201	Hannah.Malzner@missourimhf.org
	Jefferson City, MO 65101			
KANSAS CITY & NORTHWEST MISSOURI				
Northwest Missouri	3505 Frederick	Kassie Cronk	816-387-2805	Kassie.Cronk@dmh.mo.gov
Psychiatric Rehabilitation	St. Joseph, MO 64506			
Center				
Kansas City Regional	821 E. Admiral Blvd	Jennifer Jenkins	816-889-3420	jennifer.jenkins@dmh.mo.gov
Office for Developmental	Kansas City, MO 64106			
Disabilities				
ST. LOUIS & EASTERN MISSOURI				
St. Louis Forensic Treatment Center-North	5351 Delmar	Betsy Alfermann	314-877-3389	betsy.alfermann@dmh.mo.gov
	St. Louis, MO 63112			
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI				
Mission Missouri	509 Ruth Street	Jane Pfferkorn	573-380-7847	missionmissouri1@gmail.com
	Sikeston, MO 63801			
SOUTHWEST MISSOURI				
Joplin Regional Center	3600 East Newman Road	Julie Lillich	417-629-3267	Julie.Lillich@dmh.mo.gov
	Joplin, MO 64802			
Springfield Regional Center	1515 E. Pythian	Julie Lillich	417-629-3267	Julie.Lillich@dmh.mo.gov
	Springfield, MO 65801			

2025 TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

ATTACHMENT E



Timeline	Director's Showcase Activity
October 31	Announcement of the annual art contest , including the guidelines, entry form, release form and other pertinent information is distributed.
January 30	Deadline for the submission of the artwork and forms. January 23 for DCS to be delivered to designated DMH site or Provider Agency to be delivered to JC.
March 4	Artwork submissions are judged by community volunteers. <i>Winners will be announced, and cash awards mailed within two weeks after judging. The purchase of artwork will also be available while the artwork is on display for judging.</i>
March	Artwork is selected for Director's Picks <i>Making the artwork available for public viewing is one way we can help reduce stigma and raise awareness of issues impacting individuals and families living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders.</i>
March	Notification to Artists: Director's Picks — <i>letters are sent to the artists and facility contact persons notifying them their artwork was selected for the annual Traveling Showcase. The notification will state the artwork will be retained until after the last traveling show in 2026.</i>
March	Pictures will be taken of each piece of art and will be put available for viewing on the virtual art gallery on our website.
May 7	Artwork will be on display and for sale at the Mental Health Champions' Award Banquet—held on May 7, 2026. <i>Payments will be made to every artist by the end of May if the artwork was sold.</i>
June	Arrangements are underway to return the artwork <u>not</u> included in the Director's Picks. <i>Arrangements are made with various sites throughout MO to display the Artwork. Some artwork is returned via a mail delivery company, while larger and more delicate pieces are returned by DMH, or facility/organization staff based on their travels to the general location of the artist. Please note that if there are multiple contacts at facilities, all artwork for that location will be returned to ONE contact.</i>
June – October	Director's Picks Artwork is displayed at select venues throughout Missouri <i>starting in June.</i>
September/October	Initiate the process for 2027 Director's Creativity Showcase entries
November	Arrangements are underway to return the artwork from the prior year's Director's picks

Event sponsored by MMHF and DMH. For questions, please contact the Missouri Mental Health Foundation at (573) 635-9201 or mmhf@missourimhf.org.

