

Call for Artists – Edible Watertown: Plants of Our Past



About Edible Watertown

The Watertown Public Arts & Culture Committee is pleased to launch the first project of Edible Watertown, a long-term interdisciplinary project that promotes awareness of our local environment through community engagement and the artistic and scientific exploration of native plants in Watertown.

Edible Watertown aims to uplift the importance of native flora and their ecosystems to connect people with the environment right outside their door. The community connections created by this local movement, in response to the global issue of climate change, will encourage us all to be better stewards of the environment and increase recognition of the known natural gifts in our community.

More about Edible Watertown:

<https://www.watertown-ma.gov/815/Edible-Watertown>

Drawing by Sally Young 2022

About “Edible Watertown: Plants of Our Past”

In *Plants of our Past*, 10 artists will be selected to each create a 2-dimensional artwork, one for each of 10 native edible plants in Watertown:

1. Bearberry
2. Bee Balm
3. Daylily
4. Garlic Chives
5. Mountain Mint
6. Wintergreen
7. Mayapple
8. Red Bud
9. Elderberry
10. Huckleberry



Upon selection and contract agreement, each artist will be paid \$500 and asked to complete a recognizable image of their assigned plant on a 18x24” artboard that will be provided by the Public Arts & Culture Committee. Both representation and abstraction are encouraged but abstracted images should still be recognizable as the assigned plant. All 2-dimensional mediums (painting, drawing, collage, mixed media, etc.), except for photography, will be considered.

Upon completion, each artist will be paid \$500, and the artwork will be displayed in conjunction with a community meal in late September or early October. The artwork will then be on rotation among local public venues, including the Watertown Free Public Library, through January 2023. Afterwards, the artwork will be auctioned off with 50% of proceeds going to the artist and 50% going to the Public Arts & Culture Committee. The artist will retain copyright of their image and the city will retain a license of rights to use the image in perpetuity.

In addition to the rotation of local exhibitions, the completed artworks will be digitized and compiled into a Plants of Our Past coloring book, printed by the Public Arts & Culture Committee, that will be given away at the community meal, exhibition venues, and other community events. Included in the coloring book will be local prose and poetry, crowdsourced to highlight existing connections to the natural world through a corresponding open call to the community. Details about “Plants of Our Past: Shared Stories” can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/g/UWRUd8pc29>

Each 18x24" artboard is constructed of finely sanded plywood with a wooden frame behind. The boards will be hung in portrait format (short sides at the top and bottom, long sides on the left and right). The boards are designed to be durable and to easily accept many mediums. Each completed artwork should be weatherized to withstand display outdoors for limited amounts of time, as well as repeated handling between exhibition locations. For questions about the materials and sealing the finished artwork, please attend the Plants of Our Past Information Session on July 1st or contact Public Arts & Culture Planner, Liz Helfer, at ehelfer@watertown-ma.gov.

Eligibility

All artists working in 2-dimensional mediums are welcome to apply. Photography and 3-dimensional work will not be considered in this project but will be considered for future projects of Edible Watertown. Artists may work or reside anywhere in the world but preference will be given to artists working or living in Watertown, MA, and New England. Applications from City of Watertown Employees and those working for the City in any capacity will not be considered. Applications that are incomplete will not be considered.

Timeline

June 28: Applications open

July 15, 12:00-12:45 PM: Virtual Information Session about the Call for Artists

July 24: Applications are due by 11:59 PM on Sunday July 24, 2022.

July 26: Notification of artist selection.

July 26-August 5: 18x24" artboards will be available for pickup at City Hall

September 9 (or earlier): Completed artwork should be delivered to City Hall

September 12-16: Completed artwork will be photographed and digitized for inclusion in the Plants of Our Past coloring book.

Late September: Artwork will be on display as part of the community meal, Plants of Our Past coloring books featuring the artwork will be available to the community, and the Public Arts & Culture Committee will host an opening reception.

September 24 - January 31, 2023: Artwork will move to Faire on the Square for the first of several public exhibitions through January 2023.

January 2023: Artwork will be put up for public auction while on display at the Watertown Free Public Library. 50% of sales will go to the artist and 50% to the continuation of the Edible Watertown.

How to Apply

Complete applications must include:

1. Your Name
2. Your Contact Information – this may be included in your resume
 - a. Email
 - b. Phone number
 - c. Address
 - d. Website (if you have on)
 - e. Social media handles (if relevant to your artwork)
3. Your Resume – not to exceed 2 pages
4. 3-5 Images of Recent Artwork – please do not put your name on your images, the jury will be viewing them anonymously
 - a. Please title your images so that each one relates to your Image List
5. Image List – include the following information for each artwork
 - a. Artwork Title

- b. Year Completed
- c. Materials
- d. Dimensions (Length x Width x Height)
6. Artist Statement – not to exceed 2 paragraphs, may be combined with the Artist Bio
7. Artist Bio – not to exceed 2 paragraphs, may be combined with the Artist Statement

Complete applications may be submitted by email, mail, or hand delivered.

- Email: ehelfer@watertown-ma.gov
Send your application to Liz Helfer, Public Arts & Culture Planner, Subject Line: Plants of Our Past
- Mail or in-person delivery:
c/o Liz Helfer
Planning Office, 3rd Floor
149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Artist Selection

Artists will be selected anonymously by a jury that includes the Edible Watertown Subcommittee of the Public Arts & Culture Committee. Artists will be selected based on a review of their previous work, their ability to complete projects on time (as evidenced by their resumes), their alignment with the Public Arts & Culture Committee's mission and values and/or Edible Watertown (as evidenced by their artist statement and/or bio) and weighted by their proximity to Watertown. Each artists' application will be given a numerical score by each subcommittee member and the artists with the top 10 combined scores will be selected. The subcommittee will make a final determination in the event of a tie.

Incomplete applications, applications that solely feature photography or 3-dimensional work, and applications by City of Watertown Employees and those working for the City in any capacity will not be considered.

Selected artists will be notified by July 26 and be required to sign a contract with the City of Watertown to receive the artwork board and complete the project. Selected artists will receive a total of \$1000, \$500 upon signing a contract with the city and \$500 upon delivery of the finished artwork, and 50% of proceeds from the auction of the artwork at the end of the exhibition cycle.

Contact + Info Session

If you need clarification about Edible Watertown: Plants of Our Past, please plan to attend the Plants of Our Past Information Session on July 15 or contact Public Arts & Culture Planner, Liz, who will be your primary contact throughout this process.

Virtual Information Session about the Call for Artists – Edible Watertown: Plants of Our Past
July 15, 12:00-12:45 PM Meeting ID: 867 0928 8025 Passcode: nUXx4N Phone: +19292056099
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86709288025?pwd=dE83bzcwNTZLQlIxQWhaOGM5NytIZz09>

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