Edible Watertown: Edible Plants 2023
Call for Artists & Writers

Clockwise from top left: Daylily by Patti Murphy, Bee Balm by Niloufar Keyhani, Elderberry by Marija Draskic Brancazio, Wintergreen by Kate Martens, Mayapple by Carol Leonesio, Mountain Mint by Cat Bennett, Huckleberry by Donna Calleja, Red Bud by Debajyoti Biswas, Bearberry by Connie Henry, and Garlic Chives by Jaclyn Kain.

About Edible Watertown
Edible Watertown is a long-term interdisciplinary project that promotes awareness of our local environment through community engagement and the artistic and scientific exploration of edible plants in Watertown.

Edible Watertown aims to uplift the importance of local 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

About “Edible Watertown: Edible Plants”
Edible Plants 2023 is the second iteration of the “Edible Plants” project. In the pilot cycle, ten visual artists were selected to each create a 2-dimensional artwork based on an edible plant found in Watertown. The finished artworks were then on display at four locations around Watertown before
being auctioned off. The artists had their work reproduced in a coloring book that was made freely available throughout Watertown, led workshops, and participated in a moderated panel discussion. In 2024, the Public Arts & Culture Committee will put out a call for “Edible Plants 2024” inviting visual and culinary artists to participate.

In Edible Plants 2023, ten visual artists will be selected to each create a 2-dimensional artwork, one for each of ten edible plants listed below. Ten literary artists will also be selected, to write in their preferred style about one plant from the list. Selected visual and literary artists will indicate their plant preference and have the plants assigned:

1. Comfrey
2. Milkweed
3. Mullein
4. Pokeweed
5. Prickly Wild Rose
6. Red Clover
7. Shagbark Hickory
8. Spicebush
9. Trumpet Honeysuckle
10. White Yarrow

Upon selection and contract agreement, each visual artist will be paid $375 and assigned their plant. Artists will be paid the remaining $375 upon completion and delivery of the artwork, a total of $750. Visual artists will have an 18x24” wooden artboard provided by the Public Arts & Culture Committee, that they must pick up in Watertown. The boards will be hung in portrait format. Visual artists will be informed of their literary artist plant pairing and are invited to collaborate if they wish (it is not required).

Upon selection and contract agreement, each literary artist will be paid $375 and assigned their plant. Artists will be paid the remaining $375 upon completion and delivery of the artwork, a total of $750. Literary artists will be asked to write 500-1000 words about their plant and the completed work will be displayed next to the visual artwork of their plant. They may explore whatever themes they believe to be most relevant, in whatever style they wish. Finished writing will be displayed next to the visual artwork on a matching artboard. Literary artists will be informed of their visual artist plant pairing and are invited to collaborate if they wish (it is not required).

The artwork and writing will be displayed among local public venues, including the Mosesian Center for the Arts, Till Wave Gallery, and Watertown Free Public Library, through March 2024. At the end of exhibit cycle, the artwork will be auctioned off with proceeds going to the next iteration of the “Edible Plants” project. Artists are encouraged to participate in several events including an opening reception, moderated artist talk, and readings. Artists will retain copyright of their artwork and the city will retain a license of rights to use the artwork in perpetuity.

In addition to the rotation of local exhibitions, the completed artworks will be digitized and compiled into a Plants of Our Past artbook, printed by the Public Arts & Culture Committee. The artbooks will be given away at the exhibition venues and other community events, copies will be reserved for participating artists.
Eligibility
All 2-dimensional mediums (painting, drawing, collage, mixed media, photography, etc.) will be considered. All literary forms are welcome. Whether your preference is prose, poetry, or avant garde. You may apply for both categories (visual and literary art) but each artist may only be selected to participate in one category. Please submit visual and literary applications separately.

Black, Indigenous and People of color, women, LGBTQ-identified persons, and others from historically underrepresented communities are encouraged to apply. There is no geographic requirement (but visual artists must be able to pick up their artboard in Watertown, MA, and all completed artworks must be returned to the Watertown Administration Building). Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications from City of Watertown Employees will not be considered.

Timeline
June 1: Application opens
June 16, 7-8 PM: Virtual Information Session
July 16: Applications are due by 11:59 PM
July 25-28: Notification of artist selection and plant assignment
July 31 – August 4: Artboards available for pickup at the 149 Main Street
September 22 (or earlier): Completed artwork must be delivered to 149 Main Street, written formats may be emailed
October 2023 – March 10, 2024: Artwork will be on public exhibition cycle
March 7, 2024: Closing Reception and Auction

How to Apply
Apply online: https://form.jotform.com/ehelfer/edible-plants-2023-call-for-artists

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 one)
   e. Social media handles (if relevant to your artwork)
3. 1-3 Recent work samples – Writing samples should be two pages or fewer. Remove identifying information from your images and writing samples, the jury will review them anonymously.
4. Image List or Writing List – include the following information for each work sample:
   a. Title
   b. Materials/Genre
   c. Dimensions/Length
   d. Year Completed
5. Artist Statement – may be combined with the Artist Bio
6. Artist Bio – may be combined with the Artist Statement
7. Your Resume – this is optional and should not exceed 2 pages

Applications may also be submitted by mail or hand delivered:
c/o Liz Helfer, Public Arts & Culture Planner
Planning Office, 3rd Floor
**Artist Selection**
Artists will be selected by the Public Arts & Culture Committee and guest jurors based on a review of their work samples and their alignment with the Public Arts & Culture Committee’s mission and values (as evidenced by their artist statement and/or bio). Each artists’ application will be given a numerical score by each juror. Visual artists with the top ten combined scores and literary artists with the top ten combined scores will be reviewed and a final selection made at the discretion of the jury.

Selected artists will be required to sign a contract with the City of Watertown. Selected artists will receive a total of $750, $375 upon signing a contract with the city and $375 upon delivery of the finished artwork or writing.

**Contact + Info Session**
If you need clarification about Edible Watertown: Edible Plants and the application process, please contact Public Arts & Culture Planner, Liz Helfer.

Virtual Information Session – Edible Watertown: Edible Plants 2023  
June 16, 7-8 PM  
Meeting ID: 812 9704 0297  
Passcode: 641366  
Phone: 16469313860

Zoom Link: [https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/81297040297?pwd=Y0NWWmM3SGVrC9LU2ErzUzUjcydz09](https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/81297040297?pwd=Y0NWWmM3SGVrC9LU2ErzUzUjcydz09)

Liz Helfer  
Public Arts & Culture Planner  
Community Development & Planning  
149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472  
[www.watertown-ma.gov/688/Public-Arts-Culture](http://www.watertown-ma.gov/688/Public-Arts-Culture)  
617-972-6417 Ext: 12167