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ArtsWave, MeetNKY and Northern Kentucky Port Authority Launch Artist-in-Residence Program with New Call to Artists

COVINGTON, Ky. (Feb. 11, 2026) – ArtsWave, MeetNKY and the Northern Kentucky Port Authority today announced that **applications are now open for the new OneNKY Center Artist-in-Residence Program at the OneNKY Center Gallery Fueled by ArtsWave.**

The open call invites 2D visual artists to apply for a high-visibility residency and exhibition opportunity inside the OneNKY Center at 209 Greenup St. in Covington. **Applications will be accepted through March 6 at 5 p.m.**

The Artist-in-Residence Program builds on the formal collaboration among ArtsWave, MeetNKY and the Northern Kentucky Port Authority to expand creative placemaking efforts across Northern Kentucky and the launch of the OneNKY Center Gallery. Together, the three organizations are integrating arts and culture directly into civic and economic development infrastructure.

"This residency is a powerful example of how Northern Kentucky continues to invest in its creative future," said Julie Kirkpatrick, president and CEO of MeetNKY. "When artists are embedded in spaces like the OneNKY Center, we're doing so much more than just displaying artwork, we're shaping how residents and visitors understand our community. That kind of intentional placemaking strengthens our identity and enhances Northern Kentucky's appeal as a destination."

The selected artist will receive a \$5,000 honorarium and the opportunity to present a cohesive exhibition from April through Sept. 10, 2026, in the gallery's 1,500-square-foot, first-floor public space. The residency also includes networking opportunities, three artist talks with the local community, and the creation of an original work to remain at the OneNKY Center.

The OneNKY Center houses 10 regional growth organizations, including MeetNKY, BE NKY Growth Partnership, the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and others, making it a central hub for economic and civic leadership. ArtsWave's director of

creative placemaking is also based in the building, marking ArtsWave's first-ever satellite office in Northern Kentucky.

"This is about more than an exhibition," said Rachael Parker, ArtsWave's Director of Northern Kentucky Creative Placemaking. "Our goal is to ensure art is part of the core strategy in how we design spaces, grow our economy and build connection. By placing artists at the center of civic spaces, we're creating environments people want to gather in, work in and return to. That energy fuels local pride and long-term economic strength."

How to Apply

Artists must be 21 or older and identify as 2D visual artists. Preference will be given to those living or working in Northern Kentucky, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, or with strong ties to the region. Applicants will submit an existing body of work that reflects a cohesive vision and celebrates Northern Kentucky or the Greater Cincinnati region's history, culture or identity.

To help potential artists navigate the submission process, there will be an application overview session on Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. at the OneNKY center (details and sign-up at onenkyartistsession.eventbrite.com). Notifications are expected during the week of March 23. The opening reception will take place April 24, 2026.

Specific information, qualifications, timeline, overview session sign-up and more can be found at <https://artswave.submittable.com/submit/>.

For questions about the Artist-in-Residence program, contact rachael.parker@artswave.org.

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About ArtsWave

ArtsWave fuels the Cincinnati region's arts, supporting 150+ organizations, projects, and artists each year. Since 1927, it has been the primary way the region funds the arts, raising millions annually from tens of thousands of individuals, businesses, and foundations to drive a more vibrant economy and connected community. Through the Blueprint for Collective Action, now in its second 10-year cycle, ArtsWave strategically makes investments that maximize the arts' impact across the region. To learn more and give, visit artswave.org.

About MeetNKY

MeetNKY drives quality of life and economic growth for Northern Kentucky through tourism marketing and destination development. Learn more at MeetNKY.com and visitcincy.com.

About Northern Kentucky Port Authority

The Northern Kentucky Port Authority (NKY Port) was jointly formed as an economic development organization by Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties in 1968 under the provisions of KRS 65.510 to 65.650. The NKY Port is a managed entity of BE NKY Growth Partnership and it was activated in 2022 as a real estate and development tool as a key initiative of the Build + Elevate Northern Kentucky investor campaign. Learn more at www.NKYPort.org.

About OneNKY Center Gallery Fueled by ArtsWave

Dedicated on September 12, 2025, the OneNKY Center Gallery Fueled by ArtsWave represents a landmark collaboration between the Northern Kentucky Port Authority, meetNKY, and ArtsWave, embodying our shared commitment to integrating arts and culture as essential components of community vitality. The gallery is a testament to the power of creative placemaking, demonstrating how strategic investment can transform public spaces into meaningful experiences and how important the creative economy is to the future of the region. Through this dedicated space for artistic expression, we celebrate Northern Kentucky's distinctive character and reinforce our belief that arts are not merely decorative but fundamental to building connected, vibrant communities.