

OneNKY[®] Center

Spring 2026 OneNKY Center

Artist-in-Residence Program

Call to Artists- Now Accepting Applications for OneNKY Center Artist-in- Residence Program, Spring 2026

Program Overview

The OneNKY Center Gallery Fueled by ArtsWave is proud to announce the launch of its Spring 2026 OneNKY Center Artist-in-Residence Program funded by the Northern Kentucky Port Authority, meetNKY, and ArtsWave. We invite 2D visual artists to apply for a unique experience to prominently display a collection or series exhibition in the first-floor public gallery located in the OneNKY Center, 209 Greenup St, Covington, KY 41011 from April 24 -September 10, 2026.

The goals for this program are:

- To enhance the vibrancy of Northern Kentucky through creative placemaking efforts that amplify the arts and build a connected community for all.
- To provide economic opportunities for local and regional artists.
- To inspire, motivate, and instill pride in residents and visitors alike.

The OneNKY Center Gallery Fueled by ArtsWave embodies 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.

The OneNKY Center Artist-in-Residence Program offers

- A professional exhibition space for emerging or practicing artists to showcase a vibrant and cohesive body of work in the heart of Northern Kentucky's thriving arts and culture community.
- Honorarium stipend of \$5,000.00.

- A supportive and dynamic environment to advance their career development through provided resources and networking opportunities during the residency.

From February 11, 2026, to March 6, 2026, we will accept applications from eligible visual artists for the [Spring 2026 OneNKY Center Artist-in-Residence Program](#).

Residency dates will be confirmed with selected artist based on availability to install.

Spring session: Mid-April through September 10, 2026

Opening reception: Friday, April 24, 2026

Site Location and Specification

A 47,000-square-foot Class A office building at the foot of the historic Roebling Suspension Bridge. It houses 10 regional growth organizations: meetNKY, LifeSciKY, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Northern Kentucky Bar Association, Thomas More University Division of External Affairs, BE NKY Growth Partnership, Horizon Community Foundation of Northern Kentucky, OneNKY Alliance, The Catalytic Fund and EducateNKY. ArtsWave's director of creative placemaking will also operate out of the meetNKY office in the OneNKY Center, representing the organization's first-ever satellite office.

The first-floor gallery space is approximately 1,500 square feet and has 50 linear feet of wall space for exhibition.

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.

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 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 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, ArtsWave strategically makes investments that maximize the arts' impact across the region. To learn more and give, visit artswave.org.

Who May Apply

This is an Open Call to all 2D Artists. Preference will be given to Artists living or working in Northern Kentucky, surrounding areas, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, or with strong ties to the region. This is a qualifications-based selection process; applicants will submit a collection or series of existing work for the exhibition, and will be selected based on their experience, artistry, alignment with the program's goals, and demonstrated interest. The exhibition should celebrate Northern Kentucky or the Greater Cincinnati Region's rich history, culture, and identity. Artists who have experience interacting with the community are strongly encouraged to apply.

- Identify as a 2D visual artist and showcase a portfolio of work with a serious commitment to artistic practice.
- Be at a pivotal point in their career and demonstrate how residency would be a benefit.
- Be 21+ years of age.
- Be committed to being present and active for the duration of the residency cycle. Participate in the opening reception, professional development opportunities such as 'artist talks', media opportunities, and create a culminating original piece of artwork for the OneNKY Center.
- Complete and submit an application.

Honorarium Stipend

The \$5,000.00 honorarium is to be paid and used by artist to

- Prepare and ready 10-20 pieces for the exhibition (see **Art Criteria and Expectations** below)
- Attendance and participation in the gallery opening.
- Provide three artist talks during the exhibition, to be determined.
- Being available for media appearances and networking opportunities, as requested.

- Create one original piece of artwork to present to the OneNKY Center at the conclusion of the residency.

Art Criteria and Expectations

All work must arrive in the gallery ready for display. This includes:

- 2D work must be framed or on gallery wrapped canvas with painted edges.
- Frames must be undamaged and in good repair.
- Make sure glass and matting are clean (no fingerprints or smudges)
- Work on paper must be behind glass/plexi or be sealed.
- All work must be fully cured. No wet paint! No exceptions!
- Appropriate weight hanging wire used and secured to the frame (not the backing).
- Make sure screw eyes and a wire hanger are properly attached for hanging (do not use "sawtooth" hangers)

No copies of paintings or published work will be accepted. All work must be **original** by the artist.

All work to be displayed in the gallery will be received at the predetermined drop-off/pick-up days preceding the exhibition. The inventory list and values will be provided by the artist for the website. The installation and gallery labels will be purchased and provided by the Artist-in-Residence program. All work in the featured artist exhibits will remain in the gallery for the duration of the exhibition.

Application Instructions

All application materials must be submitted via Submittable, ArtsWave's online grantmaking system. We strongly recommend that you begin your online application well before the due date to familiarize yourself with the online system and to address any technical concerns. While completing your application, remember these tips:

- Be brief, clear and direct, focusing on what is most important.
- We recommend that you prepare your responses offline in a word processing program and then copy and paste them into the appropriate sections of the online application.
- Limit the use of bullets and other formatting in text fields.
- Add Impact@ArtsWave.org to your safe senders list to ensure that you receive all communications from the online grantmaking system.
- Use one of the following compatible browsers: Chrome® v.22+, Firefox® version v.27+, Internet Explorer® v.8-10 (if enabled), Internet Explorer v.11, Safari® v.7+, or Edge®.
- The application for the Spring 2026 OneNKY Center Artist-in-Residence Program can be accessed using the following link:
<https://artswave.submittable.com/submit/>

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will be a diverse group of jurors with a breadth of knowledge, perspectives, and experience in various areas. Primarily, the panel will take into consideration the overall body of work submitted and its representation of the artist's vision, commitment, dedication to studio practice, and how the residency will advance an artist's career at a pivotal moment.

The panel will meet in March and anticipate informing artists shortly thereafter.

- Artist-in-Residence will complete one original piece for the OneNKY Center by the end of residency.
- Artist-in-Residence is expected to be engaged and participate in career development and networking activities offered.

Key Dates

- Application Open **February 11, 2026**
- Application Overview Session 1 **February 13, 2026 at 12:00 pm**
RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1982306834103?aff=oddtcreator>
- Application Overview Session 2 **February 18, 2026 at 5:00 pm**
RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1982307293477?aff=oddtcreator>
- **Application Deadline** **March 6, 2026 at 5:00 pm**
- Notifications **Week of March 23**
- Artist-in-Residence Opening Reception **April 24, 2026**

Contact ArtsWave

- Please email rachael.parker@artswave.org for any questions regarding this Artist-in-Residence Application.



Application

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- First and last name (artist moniker, include in parenthesis)
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- Address
- Professional website
- Social media channel (optional)
- Personal connection to Northern Kentucky, or the region (max 500 words)
- Biography/General Artist Statement (max 1000 words)
- Describe your proposed series/collection and/or the theme for the OneNKY Center Gallery exhibition (max 1000 words)
- Describe what your proposed work will add to the OneNKY Center (max 1000 words)
- How will being selected as the Spring 2026 OneNKY Center Artist-in-Residence advance your professional career? (500 words)
- Resume/CV
- Prior Work samples (preferably of work similar in nature to the proposed project but that is not a requirement) (up to 5 images)
- Proposed series/collection including work sample descriptions and measurements (required, up to 10 images; optional, up to 20 images)