

## Public Art Advisory Board Meeting

February 19, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 305 SW A Street

Contact [skerr@bentonvillear.com](mailto:skerr@bentonvillear.com) to request participation via Zoom.



## AGENDA

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### **Members**

- 1 Elizabeth Miller
- 2 Allan Paulose
- 3 Sara Asplund
- 4 Catherine Bays
- 5 Anne Jackson, Chairperson
- 6 Clint Schaff
- 7 Tom Hoehn, Vice Chairperson

### **Ex Officio**

- Beckie Seba, City Council
- Kalene Griffith, Visit Bentonville
- Alison Nation, Visit Bentonville
- Cynthia Post Hunt, Crystal Bridges/The Momentary
- Aaron Kunze, OZ Art

### **Staff**

- Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager  
Josh Stacey, Deputy Director of Parks

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes \* – January 15, 2026
3. Proposed Amendments to Bylaws \* (no action to be taken)

## OLD BUSINESS

4. Murals Discussion
  - a. Memorial Park Improvement Update (basketball court and skatepark murals)
  - b. Hello
  - c. ColorFULL
5. Cricket RFP – Final Draft \*
6. Water Tower Rd Roundabout RFP – Final Draft \*
7. America 250 Commemorative Project \*
  - d. Submittal Details
  - e. Lead Artist RFQ

## NEW BUSINESS

### PROJECT UPDATES

8. Maintenance RFQ
9. Proposals
  - Community Center Painting
  - Old Tree Sculpture
10. Installations
  - J and John DeShields Roundabout

### OTHER BUSINESS

11. Puzzle Art Installation at Train Station Park Removed

## ADJOURNMENT

\*Attachment

## Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting

January 15, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 305 SW A Street

Contact [skerr@bentonvillear.com](mailto:skerr@bentonvillear.com) to request participation via Zoom.

THE CITY OF BENTONVILLE



PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Member	Attendance	Ex Officio	Attendance
1 Elizabeth Miller	In person	Beckie Seba, City Council	In person
2 Allan Paulose	Virtual	Kalene Griffith, Visit Bentonville	Absent
3 Sarah Asplund	In person	Alison Nation, Visit Bentonville	In person
4 Catherine Bays	In person	Cynthia Post Hunt, Crystal Bridges/The Momentary	In person
5 Anne Jackson, Chairperson	In person	Melisa Durkee, OZ Art	In person
6 Clint Schaff	In person		
7 Tom Hoehn, Vice Chairperson	In person		
		<b>Staff</b>	
		Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager	In person
		Josh Stacey, Deputy Director of Parks	In person

### 1. Call to Order

Chairperson Jackson called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Tom made a motion to approve the December 16, 2025, meeting minutes; Elizabeth seconded. All in favor, motion passed 5-0. (Allan and Clint had not logged on yet.)

## OLD BUSINESS

### 3. Murals Discussion

Upon review of the condition assessments completed in spring of 2025 and updated photos Tom provided, the committee agreed on the following:

- *Aura Activity* – No action.
- *Hello* - Leave as-is but reach out to the artist to evaluate opportunity for touch ups.
- *Natural Skate* – Members noted that skaters don't particularly like the paint where they are skateboarding. Leave decision until next month when Josh can provide an update on improvement plans for Memorial Park.
- *Hole in the Wall* – No action.
- *Basketball Court* - Leave decision until next month when Josh can provide an update on improvement plans for Memorial Park.
- *ColorFULL* - Reach out to original artist and water/sewer to see what plans are for that sewer line. Discuss further at next meeting.
- *Art Feeds* – No action.
- *All Bikes Welcome* – No action.
- *Bentonville Fish* – No action.

For future considerations:

- Incorporate construction into the design – prefer a concrete stain to paint.
- Future evaluations should provide an original photo from time of installation for comparison purposes.
- Establish criteria to allow for proper ranking.

#### **4. Cricket RFP**

Members will review proposal and provide comments to Shelli. They suggest six weeks between publication and deadline.

#### **5. Water Tower Rd Roundabout RFP**

Members will review proposal and provide comments to Shelli. Comments:

- We need to be more explicit on the scale
- Be clear that it can include multiple pieces.
- Find out if we can tap into the electric.
- Reach out to NWACC about collaborating.
- Make sure those that previously applied get the new RFP.

#### **6. Priority Installation Locations**

Map and list was provided in packet. No further discussion since several projects have already been identified for 2026.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **7. 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Project**

Shelli and Allen presented the collaborative project to celebrate America's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Details provided in agenda packet.

*Elizabeth made a motion to support the concept and refine the age group a little older and focus on what they love about America, Sara seconded. All in favor, motion passed 7-0.*

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

**8. Public Art Improvement Package.** Goal is to get this back to City Council in February.

**9. Maintenance RFQ.** Shelli has prepared a draft RFQ that is being reviewed by purchasing.

**10. Proposals.** Both the Community Center Painting and the Old Tree Sculpture will be brought through to City Council after approval of the public art policy.

#### **11. Installations**

- *J and John DeShields Roundabout.* Crystal Bridges continues to work on this and the artist has provided the colors to the fabricators. It requires a right-of-way permit with the city and working through details on that.
- *Thaden School Urban Studies Library Mural.* Waiting to hear back from Thaden on status.
- *Trout Crosswalk Mural.* Waiting to hear back from Thaden on status.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Tom is working on getting an updated number of public artworks in Bentonville and recommends that number be updated annually.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Catherine made a motion to adjourn; Clint seconded. All in favor, motion approved 7-0.*

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

**BYLAWS OF THE  
PUBLIC ART ADVISORY BOARD OF THE  
CITY OF BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS**

**ARTICLE I            PURPOSE**

- 1.1 [Art. 12-XIV Public Art Advisory Board](#) establishes the Public Art Advisory Board and authorizes the board to adopt bylaws.
- 1.2 The within bylaws have been adopted by the Public Art Advisory Board of the City of Bentonville, and all previously adopted bylaws are hereby repealed.
- 1.3 Pursuant to [Art. 12-XIV Public Art Advisory Board](#) this board shall be known as the Public Art Advisory Board, hereinafter referred to as “Board” or “PAAB.”
- 1.4 The purpose of these bylaws is to establish rules and procedures necessary to carry out the purpose and duties of this board as set forth in [Art. 12-XIV Public Art Advisory Board](#) as guided by the adopted Public Art Policy.

**ARTICLE II            ROLE OF PUBLIC ART ADVISORY BOARD**

- 2.1 **Role .** The role of the Public Art Advisory Board (PAAB) is establish by city code in [Art. 12-XIV Public Art Advisory Board](#)

**ARTICLE III           MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 Membership of the PAAB is established by city code in [Art. 12-XIV Public Art Advisory Board](#). (a)
- 3.2
- 3.3 **Terms.** Terms of PAAB members are established by city code in [Art. 12-XIV Public Art Advisory Board](#).
- 3.4 **Conflict of Interest.** Members of the Public Art Advisory Committee shall not hold any other municipal office or position on a standing municipal board, commission or authority, except that members of the committee may serve on other temporary committees, task forces or similar ad hoc groups. This does not apply to the one member of the Bentonville City Council serving as an ex-officio, non-voting member.
- 3.5 **Resignation.** Resignation of members of the committee shall be made in writing to the primary staff liaison who shall forward such resignation to the City Clerk. The resignation of the committee member shall be effective immediately upon receipt and verification by the City Clerk’s office.
- 3.6 **Attendance.**

- (a) *Notification of absence.* Members should advise the staff liaison before the meeting date if they expect to be absent or late.
- (b) *Multiple absences.* Any member who misses two consecutive regular meetings or three meetings in a six-month period shall receive a written notification from the staff liaison advising the member of his/her absences.
- (c) *Cause for removal.* Any member who misses three consecutive meetings or more than four meetings within a one-year period, except in extraordinary cases, may, at the recommendation of the committee, constitute cause for removal by the City Council.

#### ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS DUTIES AND ELECTIONS

- 4.1 Duties of Chairperson.** The chairperson shall preside at meetings and shall decide points of order or procedure, following Robert's Rules of Order. They shall call the meeting to order, call for votes when necessary, and call for adjournment. The chairperson may designate a parliamentarian to keep the meeting running in an orderly fashion. The chairperson shall serve as the primary contact between the committee and the staff liaison.
- 4.2 Temporary Chairperson.** In case the chairperson is absent, the vice chairperson shall assume the duties as chairperson. If both are absent and a quorum is present, those members shall elect from among themselves a chairperson to proceed.
- 4.3 Elections.** Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the first regular meeting of the calendar year. Nominations for an officer position do not require a second. Nominees shall have an opportunity to speak to their nomination before the vote is taken. A voice vote shall be taken to elect all officers.
- 4.4 Vacancy.** A vacancy in an officer position shall be filled by election at the next regular meeting of the committee among the board members present. Until such election, the Vice Chairperson shall serve as acting Chairperson if the chairperson position is vacant. All officers elected to fill a vacant officer position shall serve until the next officer election.

#### ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

- 5.1 Frequency.** The minimum frequency of PAAB meetings is established by city code in [Art. 12-XIV Public Art Advisory Board](#).
- 5.2 Schedule.** Meetings shall occur on the regularly scheduled meeting dates established for the board. Regular meetings may be postponed, rescheduled or cancelled by the staff support if necessary or if there is no business to conduct.
- 5.3 Meeting agendas.** The form of agendas shall be determined by the board and shall be posted on the city website. Meeting agendas shall include a designated time for public comments.

- 5.4 Notice of meetings.** Posting of meeting agendas on the city website shall serve as notice of the meeting. Notice of any regular or special meeting shall be posted no less than 24 hours prior to the holding of such meeting, unless an emergency requires posting within 24 hours of the meeting time.
- 5.5 Special meetings.** Special meetings may be called by the chairperson plus one regular member. When a special meeting is scheduled, all members must be notified at least 24 hours prior to the time set for such meeting by phone and written notice, including a listing of all items to be considered at the special meeting, unless an emergency requires posting within less than 24 hours prior to such meeting. Formal action taken at a special meeting called in accordance herewith shall be considered as though it were taken in a regular meeting for those, and only those, matters referred to in the agenda contained in the notice of the meeting.
- 5.6 Public meetings.** Board meetings shall be open to the public as provided by the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. All meetings of a quorum or of two or more members of the board at which any public business is discussed or at which any formal action may be taken, shall constitute a meeting for purpose of this section.
- 5.7 Public participation.** All public comments must be made during the public comment segment of the agenda. Public attendees shall sit in the audience unless asked to sit with the board during their comments. The board may identify time limits for public comments at its discretion.
- 5.8**
- 5.9 Order of business.** The order of business shall follow the distributed agenda unless otherwise agreed to by the members.
- 5.10 Rules of procedure.** The board may adopt its own rules of procedure or may conduct its meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
- 5.11 Decision making.** The affirmative vote of a simple majority of those members present shall carry any motion or resolution. All voting members of the board shall have equally weighted votes. Any member may make a motion, which must be seconded for further consideration. All voting shall be made by roll-call or voice vote.

**5.12**

## **ARTICLE VI. SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

- 6.1 Special committees.** The chairperson may establish special committees to work on specific issues or projects as needed. Special committees may include persons other than members of the PAAB. The special committee shall serve only until completion of the purpose for which it was formed. Recommendations of a special committee must be approved by the PAAB before being considered officially adopted.
- 6.2 Standing committees.** There shall be no standing committee(s) of the PAAB unless authorized by City Council.

**6.3 Committee chairperson.** A member of the PAAB shall serve as the chairperson of any committee.

## **ARTICLE VII. COMMITMENT TO THE PUBLIC**

**7.1 Commitment to the public.** Board members' commitment to the public shall be demonstrated by adherence to all Arkansas and City of Bentonville laws, rules and regulations regarding conduct of public officials.

**7.2 Conflict of interest.** The board and its members shall adhere to all Arkansas and City of Bentonville laws, rules and regulations that may pertain to the avoidance of conflict of interest.

**7.3 Communication among members.** Board members shall adhere to all Arkansas and City of Bentonville laws, rules and regulations governing government communications.

**7.4 Communications outside board.** The board may give individual members the authority to speak on behalf of the board as needs arise. Individuals shall not speak for the board without the board's authorization and shall not make commitments on behalf of the board unless the board has formally approved such a commitment.

## **ARTICLE VIII. STAFF SUPPORT**

**8.1 Planning Department.** The Planning Department will serve as the primary staff support to the public art advisory board and the public art program, with the following responsibilities.

- (a) Prepare and publish meeting dates, times, and locations on city website.
- (b) Prepare and publish board meeting agendas and supporting documents on city website.
- (c) Ensure meetings are recorded in accordance with Arkansas state law.
- (d) Ensure that actions and activities of the board are consistent with policies and procedures of the city.
- (e) Offer insights about city organization, policies, and efforts.
- (f) Notify the board of events, meetings, or circumstances when staff support is asked to speak on behalf of the board.
- (g) Update the board's presence on the city website.
- (h) Act as point person for contact with other city liaisons, departments, or boards, unless otherwise designated.
- (i) Facilitate communication among members in compliance with Arkansas open meeting laws.
- (j) Assist the chairperson during the meeting, if necessary.

**8.2 Parks and Recreation Department.** The Parks and Recreation Department will have staff attending regular PAAB meetings and are also responsible for coordinating installations in city parks, trails, and facilities.

**ARTICLE VIX. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS.**

- 9.1** These bylaws shall be adopted, and later suspended, amended or canceled only after an affirmative vote of 2/3rds of the membership of the board. Copies of the proposed amendment(s) shall be provided to each member at least one week prior to the date of any regular or special meeting at which the bylaw amendment(s) are on the agenda for consideration.

BY A 2/3 VOTE OF THE APPOINTED VOTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ART ADVISORY BOARD, THESE BYLAWS FOR THE PUBLIC ART ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF BENTONVILLE ARE HEREBY PASSED AND APPROVED THIS FOURTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Request for Art Proposals: Near the Pitch

City of Bentonville, Arkansas

Published: March 1, 2026



## A. Project Details

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<b>Project Name</b>	Near the Pitch
<b>Request</b>	The City of Bentonville’s Public Art Advisory Committee and Bentonville Parks and Recreation are seeking proposals for sculptural artwork to be installed adjacent to the state’s first regulation-size cricket pitch.
<b>Location</b>	Creekside Park, 3104 SW Bright Rd, Bentonville, Arkansas
<b>Deadline</b>	Wednesday, April 8, 2026, before Midnight Central Time
<b>Contact</b>	Shelli Kerr, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager City of Bentonville, Arkansas 305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR 72712 479-271-3122 <a href="mailto:skerr@bentonvillear.com">skerr@bentonvillear.com</a>

## B. Eligibility

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<b>Eligible Artists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any artist, architect, designer, or team is encouraged to submit.</li><li>• Background in, experience with, and/or interest in cricket is preferred.</li><li>• Experience with sculptural fabrication is preferred.</li></ul>
<b>Eligible Art</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Artwork suitable for continuous outdoor display and minimal maintenance requirements, with a minimum life expectancy of 10 years.</li><li>• Artwork that follows all the regulations in <u>Art. 2-IX of the Bentonville Municipal Code</u>, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Artwork without logos, tag lines or be in any way thematically linked to a commercial business, establishment, product or service.</li><li>• Artwork that is not obscene as defined by A.C.A. 5-68-302 et sq.</li><li>• Artwork that is or will not be used by any non-city entity to generate revenue or for fundraising</li></ul></li></ul>

## C. Display Site

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<b>Location</b>	Creekside Park, <a href="#">3104 SW Bright Rd</a> , Bentonville, Arkansas
<b>Display Site Description</b>	<p>Creekside Park is a 35-acre community park. It is home to Bentonville's first regulation cricket field. Other amenities include eight pickleball courts, an evening-lit dog park, splash pad, shade structures, playground and passive recreation space with a group pavilion.</p> <p>The park is adjacent to an elementary school, a Hindu temple and two apartment complexes. Little Osage Creek runs through the park. Artwork will be displayed near the cricket pitch.</p>
<b>Community Description</b>	<p>Bentonville, located in Northwest Arkansas, is in one of the fastest growing regions in the country with a population over 65,000. In the past 20 years, Bentonville has transformed itself from a sleepy small Arkansas town to a bustling center of commerce and a hub for arts, culinary and outdoor experiences. Bentonville is home to Walmart and <a href="#">Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art</a>, and is the self-proclaimed “mountain bike capital of the world” with an extensive network of nearly 70 miles of trails connected to the 400-mile <a href="#">Oz trail systems</a> across Northwest Arkansas</p>

## D. Creative Brief

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<b>Objective</b>	Enrich and energize this public space with an original work that becomes a landmark and physical recognition of cricket in the area.
<b>Insights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cricket is played by millions and enjoyed by billions all over the world. Northwest Arkansas has over fifty cricket teams with more than 1,000 athletes. While it isn't a traditional sport for this region, Bentonville isn't a traditional city.</li><li>• Every year, Northwest Arkansas welcomes new residents from all over the world. Bentonville places a high value on outdoor activity and works to provide facilities for all forms of recreation.</li><li>• Cities become more than just municipalities when its people connect in new shared experiences. Sports are one way – just like food – to connect in a memorable way even across traditions and cultures.</li><li>• Audience is visitors to Creekside Park, particularly cricket players, coaches and volunteers.</li></ul>
<b>Creative Prompt</b>	What will grab the attention of every visitor? What about the work will have special meaning to those who play the game?

## E. Budget

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<b>Funding Available</b>	The Committee has earmarked \$30,000 for this project but is seeking reasonable proposals regardless of cost.
<b>Detailed Budget</b>	Artists are required to submit a detailed budget. Proposals without a detailed budget will not be accepted. Budget should include the amount and description of the following, which are outline on the submittal form:  <b>Total Fabrication</b> : Material costs, production costs, and installation costs (if applicable, cost for foundation and equipment rental).  <b>Artist Fee:</b> Cost including fee for artistic development (not to exceed 20% of total cost).  <b>Travel Costs:</b> If applicable, proposed travel fee (including travel, lodging and meals).

## F. Submissions

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<b>Submittal Format</b>	Proposals must be submitted via the online application form at <a href="http://www.bentonvillear.com/FormCenter/Planning-8/Public-Art-Proposal-70">http://www.bentonvillear.com/FormCenter/ Planning-8/Public-Art-Proposal-70</a> . Only those proposals submitted through the online application form with all required attachments uploaded will be accepted.
<b>Information Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Online application.</b> Completely filled-out online proposal form that requires the following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact Information for Artist(s) and Collaborator(s)</li><li>• Artwork title, medium, and dimensions</li><li>• Narrative describing the artwork and the inspiration</li><li>• Requirements for access to electricity or water</li><li>• Fabrication time</li><li>• Requirements for installation, including foundation needs</li><li>• Life expectancy</li><li>• Maintenance requirements</li><li>• Budget consistent with Section E. Budget above</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Attachments.</b> The following items must be uploaded to the online application. Required attachments may be uploaded in a Word or PDF format.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 ½ X 11 sketch/image of artwork with dimensions and materials.</li><li>• Artist’s CV/Resume</li><li>• At least three (3) images of previous artwork including the title, date, media, location and brief description</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Submittal Deadline</b>	All proposals must be submitted before the deadline <b>Wednesday, April 8, 2026 before midnight Central time</b> . Only those proposals submitted by the deadline will be accepted.

## G. Selection

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<b>Selection Process</b>	<p>Using the review criteria below, the Board will evaluate all proposals submitted by the deadline. At a regularly scheduled Public Art Advisory Board meeting, the committee will select the preferred proposal. The committee meets once per month.</p> <p>The selected artwork must then be approved by both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (meets once per month) and City Council (meets twice per month). This process can take up to three months.</p>	
<b>Review Criteria</b>	<b>RFP Objectives (20%)</b>	Responds, reflects and designed to meet the objectives and intent of the RFP.
	<b>Artistic Quality (20%)</b>	Strength of the artist's concept, vision, innovation, execution, experience and craftsmanship.
	<b>Context (20%)</b>	Suitability of the art to the scale, character, natural features, historical, and geographic.
	<b>Durability (20%)</b>	Ability to withstand the environment of the display site and feasibility of maintenance costs.
	<b>Public Safety (10%)</b>	Proposed artwork does not create an unnecessary safety hazard to the public or impede traffic.
	<b>Cost (10%)</b>	Finding that the cost for the artwork is reasonable for the proposals and that the city has available funding.
<b>Notification</b>	Notification of selection non-selection will be sent to all artists upon approval by City Council.	
<b>Agreement Required</b>	Selection and funding are contingent upon a signed Letter of Agreement between the artist(s) and the City of Bentonville. Before a contract agreement, detailed cost estimates will be required and will be evaluated. The final design will be attached to the agreement and the final project must be consistent with that shown in the agreement.	
<b>Invoicing</b>	Artist will be requested to submit the invoices according to the agreement and a completed W-9. Payment is dispersed as follows: 50% upon a signed agreement and receipt of invoice and the remaining 50% upon complete installation and receipt of invoice.	
<b>Installation</b>	The City will coordinate with the artist(s) on timing and assistance needed during installation.	
<b>Ownership and Maintenance</b>	Upon acceptance by the city after installation, the city will assume ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the artwork. Details on maintenance requirements for the artwork must be provided by the artist(s).	

Request for Art Proposals:  
**Water Tower Rd Roundabout**

City of Bentonville, Arkansas

Published: **March 1, 2026**

**A. Project Details**

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<b>Project Name</b>	Water Tower Rd Roundabout
<b>Request</b>	The City of Bentonville’s Public Art Advisory Committee is seeking proposals for a large-scale sculptural artwork to be installed inside the roundabout at Water Tower Rd and SE 8 <sup>th</sup> Street.
<b>Location</b>	Roundabout at intersection of Water Tower Rd and SE 8 <sup>th</sup> St, Bentonville, Arkansas
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 8, 2026</b> , before Midnight Central Time
<b>Contact</b>	Shelli Kerr, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager City of Bentonville, Arkansas 305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR 72712 479-271-3122 skerr@bentonvillear.com

**B. Eligibility**

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- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Eligible Artists</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any artist, architect, designer, or team is encouraged to submit.</li><li>• Experience with sculptural fabrication is preferred.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Eligible Art</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Artwork suitable for continuous outdoor display and minimal maintenance requirements, with a minimum life expectancy of 10 years.</li><li>• Artwork that follows all the regulations in <u>Art. 2-IX of the Bentonville Municipal Code</u>, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Artwork without logos, tag lines or in any way thematically linked to a commercial business, establishment, product or service.</li><li>• Artwork that is not obscene as defined by A.C.A. 5-68-302 et sq.</li><li>• Artwork that is or will not be used by any non-city entity to generate revenue or for fundraising</li></ul></li></ul> |

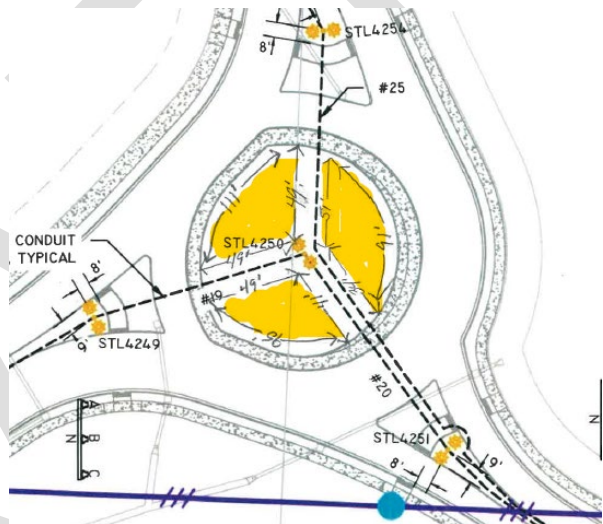
## C. Display Site

**Location** Bentonville, Arkansas inside the roundabout located at Water Tower Road and SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The display location is a newly constructed roundabout in the northeast quadrant of the city. It is located at the intersection of Water Tower Rd, oriented north/south, and SE 8<sup>th</sup> St, oriented east west.

**Display Site Description** The roundabout is located approximately 1,200 feet from the SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street interchange with I-49. The surrounding land uses included Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) to the south, a single-family residential neighborhood to the east, vacant property to the north owned by NWACC, and new Walmart Campus to the west.

The roundabout is flat and currently sodded with grass. The diameter of the roundabout is 115 feet. However, the space available for artwork and foundation is limited to avoid the streetlight in the center and underground electric conduits. The area highlighted on the interior of the roundabout in the map is available for artwork.

**Community Description** Bentonville, located in Northwest Arkansas, is in one of the fastest growing regions in the country with a population over 60,000. In the past 20 years, Bentonville has transformed itself from a sleepy small Arkansas town to a bustling center of commerce and a hub for arts, culinary and outdoor experiences. Bentonville is home to Walmart and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and is the self-proclaimed “mountain bike capital of the world” with an extensive network of nearly 70 miles of trails connected to the 400-mile Oz trail systems across Northwest Arkansas.



## D. Creative Brief

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**Objectives** Our city and its guests will benefit from a moment's interaction with art as they bike, walk, or drive through this heavily trafficked public space.

- **Work that becomes a landmark.** Special consideration will be given to concepts that easily become casually referenced as navigational aids (e.g., "Take the second left at the big blue penguin sculpture.") Consider that the city's street grid is primarily made up of letters and numbers. Submissions that include letters or numbers could create confusion.
- **Work that contributes to safety.** Safety is an important impetus for this project. Artwork can aid in more easily recognizing the intersection as a roundabout that requires a driver's attention. Special consideration will be given to works that are not distracting to drivers. For example, a work that uses multiple shades of blue would not be considered distracting – even with great amounts of visual detail in structure. Something with extreme, varied color contrast and great detail in structure might.
- **Work that feels planned for this space.** Due to the significant size of the roundabout, special attention will be given to the scale of the artwork and its interaction with available space.
- **Works that have potential to create a theme in future roundabouts.** There are other roundabouts near this one. Consideration will be given to works that could be paired or grouped to play off each other in theme, color, or meaning.

### Insights

- Scale should be appropriate to the size of the roundabout.
- Reflection of the community and surrounding land uses pertaining to education and commerce.
- Audience is visitors, residents and employees of Bentonville, specifically the Walmart Campus and Northwest Arkansas Community College.

## E. Budget

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<b>Funding Available</b>	The Committee has earmarked <b>\$50,000</b> for this project but is seeking reasonable proposals regardless of cost.
<b>Detailed Budget</b>	Artists are required to submit a detailed budget. Proposals without a detailed budget will not be accepted. Budget should include the amount and description of the following, which are outline on the submittal form:  <b>Total Fabrication :</b> Material costs, production costs, and installation costs (if applicable, cost for foundation and equipment rental).  <b>Artist Fee:</b> Cost including fee for artistic development (not to exceed 20% of total cost).  <b>Travel Costs:</b> If applicable, proposed travel fee (including travel, lodging and meals).

## F. Submissions

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<b>Submittal Format</b>	Proposals must be submitted via the online application form at <a href="http://www.bentonvillear.com/FormCenter/Planning-8/Public-Art-Proposal-70">http://www.bentonvillear.com/FormCenter/ Planning-8/Public-Art-Proposal-70</a> . Only those proposals submitted through the online application form with all required attachments uploaded will be accepted.
<b>Information Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Online application.</b> Completely filled-out online proposal form that requires the following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact information for artist(s) and collaborator(s)</li><li>• Artwork title, medium, and dimensions</li><li>• Narrative describing the artwork and the inspiration</li><li>• Requirements for access to electricity or water</li><li>• Fabrication time</li><li>• Requirements for installation, including foundation needs</li><li>• Life expectancy</li><li>• Maintenance requirements</li><li>• Budget consistent with Section E. Budget above</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Attachments.</b> The following items must be uploaded to the online application. Required attachments may be uploaded in a Word or PDF format.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 ½ X 11 sketch/image of artwork with dimensions and materials.</li><li>• Artist’s CV/Resume</li><li>• At least three (3) images of previous artwork including the title, date, media, location and brief description</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Submittal Deadline</b>	All proposals must be submitted before the deadline <b>Wednesday, April 8, 2026 before midnight Central time.</b> Only those proposals submitted by the deadline will be accepted.

## G. Selection

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<b>Selection Process</b>	<p>Using the review criteria below, the Board will evaluate all proposals submitted by the deadline. At a regularly scheduled Public Art Advisory Board meeting, the committee will select the preferred proposal. The committee meets once per month.</p> <p>The selected artwork must then be approved by both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (meets once per month) and City Council (meets twice per month). This process can take up to three months.</p>												
<b>Review Criteria</b>	<table><tr><td>RFP Objectives (20%)</td><td>Responds, reflects and designed to meet the objectives and intent of the RFP.</td></tr><tr><td>Artistic Quality (20%)</td><td>Strength of the artist's concept, vision, innovation, execution, experience and craftsmanship.</td></tr><tr><td>Context (20%)</td><td>Suitability of the art to the scale, character, natural features, historical, and geographic.</td></tr><tr><td>Durability (20%)</td><td>Ability to withstand the environment of the display site and feasibility of maintenance costs.</td></tr><tr><td>Public Safety (10%)</td><td>Proposed artwork does not create an unnecessary safety hazard to the public or impede traffic.</td></tr><tr><td>Cost (10%)</td><td>Finding that the cost for the artwork is reasonable for the proposals and that the city has available funding.</td></tr></table>	RFP Objectives (20%)	Responds, reflects and designed to meet the objectives and intent of the RFP.	Artistic Quality (20%)	Strength of the artist's concept, vision, innovation, execution, experience and craftsmanship.	Context (20%)	Suitability of the art to the scale, character, natural features, historical, and geographic.	Durability (20%)	Ability to withstand the environment of the display site and feasibility of maintenance costs.	Public Safety (10%)	Proposed artwork does not create an unnecessary safety hazard to the public or impede traffic.	Cost (10%)	Finding that the cost for the artwork is reasonable for the proposals and that the city has available funding.
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Cost (10%)	Finding that the cost for the artwork is reasonable for the proposals and that the city has available funding.												
<b>Notification</b>	<p>Notification of selection non-selection will be sent to all artists upon approval by City Council.</p>												
<b>Agreement Required</b>	<p>Selection and funding are contingent upon a signed Letter of Agreement between the artist(s) and the City of Bentonville. Before a contract agreement, detailed cost estimates will be required and will be evaluated. The final design will be attached to the agreement and the final project must be consistent with that shown in the agreement.</p>												
<b>Invoicing</b>	<p>Artist will be requested to submit the invoices according to the agreement and a completed W-9. Payment is dispersed as follows: 50% upon a signed agreement and receipt of invoice and the remaining 50% upon complete installation and receipt of invoice.</p>												
<b>Installation</b>	<p>The City will coordinate with the artist(s) on timing and assistance needed during installation.</p>												
<b>Ownership and Maintenance</b>	<p>Upon acceptance by the city after installation, the city will assume ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the artwork. Details on maintenance requirements for the artwork must be provided by the artist(s).</p>												

# Request for Student Artwork: What I Love About America: Celebrating 250 Years

City of Bentonville, Arkansas

Published: April 15, 2026



## A. Project Details

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<b>Project Name</b>	What I Love About America: Celebrating 250 Years
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>Students who live in or go to school in Bentonville will submit their two-dimensional artwork showing what they love about America. A special committee will select 250 of the submitted artworks.</p> <p>The selected student artworks will then be curated and integrated into a large-scale mosaic installation on the north side of City Hall. The final installation will visually unify individual student pieces, create an impactful, community-centered commemorative artwork, and serve as a visual time capsule of youth perspectives in 2026.</p>
<b>Request</b>	The City of Bentonville is seeking colorful, illustrative original, two-dimensional artworks from 6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students who live in Bentonville or attend a Bentonville school that illustrates what they love about America.
<b>Location</b>	City Hall, 305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR 72712
<b>Deadline</b>	September 30, 2026
<b>Contact</b>	Shelli Kerr, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager City of Bentonville, Arkansas 305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR 72712 479-271-3122 skerr@bentonvillear.com

## B. Eligibility

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<b>Eligible Artists</b>	Students in 6 <sup>th</sup> through 8 <sup>th</sup> grade who reside in Bentonville or attend a school located in Bentonville, including public, private, independent and home-schools.
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## C. Display Site

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<b>Location</b>	305 SW A Street, City Hall, Bentonville, Arkansas
<b>Display Site Description</b>	The collaborative mural will be installed on the north side exterior wall of City Hall, facing the new Adult Wellness Center. Individual artworks will be scaled as needed to fit into a <b>SIZE</b> space.

## D. Creative Brief

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**Objective** Create a collaborative art installation that reflects Bentonville's youth voice in 2026 that celebrates America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Insights** Students are encouraged to interpret the theme broadly. Artwork may reflect:

- Freedom and democracy
- Community and family
- Culture
- Nature and landscapes
- Innovation and opportunity
- Service and leadership
- Local pride within the American story
- Hopes for America's future
- Specific places in America

**Creative Prompt** Students should be encouraged to think both personally and thoughtfully:

- What makes America meaningful to you?
- What values do you cherish?
- What do you hope America becomes?
- What places mean the most to you in America?

**Tone**

- Positive, reflective, and respectful
- Non-commercial
- Free from copyrighted imagery
- Free from political campaign messaging

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**Medium** The following mediums may be used to create an original, two-dimensional artwork:

- Pen
- Pencil (any color)
- Watercolor
- Paint
- Chalk
- Marker
- Collage

## F. Submissions

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<b>Submittal Format</b>	Proposals must be submitted on the provided submission form that is available on <a href="http://bentonvillepublicart.com">bentonvillepublicart.com</a> , in person at 305 SW A Street, the Bentonville Public library, and through participating schools.
<b>Information Required</b>	Completely filled-out submittal form that requires the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student and parent contact information</li><li>• Student age, grade and school</li><li>• Artwork title</li><li>• Narrative describing the artwork and the inspiration</li><li>• Artwork itself</li></ul>
<b>Submittal Deadline</b>	All proposals must be submitted no later than the deadline of September 30, 2026.

## G. Selection

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<b>Selection Process</b>	Using the review criteria below, the America 250 selection committee will review all submissions to select the final 250 student artworks to be included in the mural. The final 250 artworks must be approved by the Public Art Advisory Board and City Council.	
<b>Review Criteria</b>	Project Objectives (30%)	Responds, reflects and designed to meet the objectives and intent of the America 250 Community Art Project.
	Artistic Quality (30%)	Strength of the artist's concept, vision, innovation, execution, experience and craftsmanship.
	Narrative (20%)	The narrative description is thoughtful, clear and adequately demonstrates the intent behind the illustration.
	Reproducibility (20%)	The ability of the artwork to be reproduced for the final mural.
<b>Notification</b>	Notification of selection will be sent to all artists upon approval by City Council.	
<b>Ownership / Maintenance</b>	Upon acceptance, the city will assume ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the artwork.	

## SUBMISSION FORM

### What I Love About America: Celebrating 250 Years

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**Description:** Sixth through eighth grade students who live in or go to school in Bentonville will submit their original two-dimensional artwork showing what they love about America. A special committee will select 250 of the submitted artworks. The selected student artworks will then be curated and integrated into a large-scale mosaic installation on the north side of City Hall. The final installation will visually unify individual student pieces to create an impactful, community-centered commemorative artwork.

**Theme:** What I love about America. Students are encouraged to interpret the theme broadly. Artwork may reflect freedom and democracy, community and family, culture, nature and landscapes, innovation and opportunity, service and leadership, local pride within the American story, hopes for America's future, and specific places in America.

**Tone:** Positive, reflective, and respectful; non-commercial; free from copyrighted imagery; free from political messaging.

**Medium:** Pen, pencil, paint, watercolor, chalk, or marker.

- Instructions:**
1. Under Artist Information below, clearly print all required information.
  2. On next page, use the box to draw, sketch, paint your design.
  3. On next page, provide a clear written description of what you illustrated (50 words or less).
  4. Submit both pages of the completed submittal form by one of these methods
    - Drop off: In the drop box at Bentonville City Hall (305 SW A Street)
    - Email to: ADDRESS
    - Mail to: City of Bentonville, c/o Planning, 305 SW A St., Bentonville, AR 72712
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### ARTIST INFORMATION

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT / GUARDIAN PERMISSION

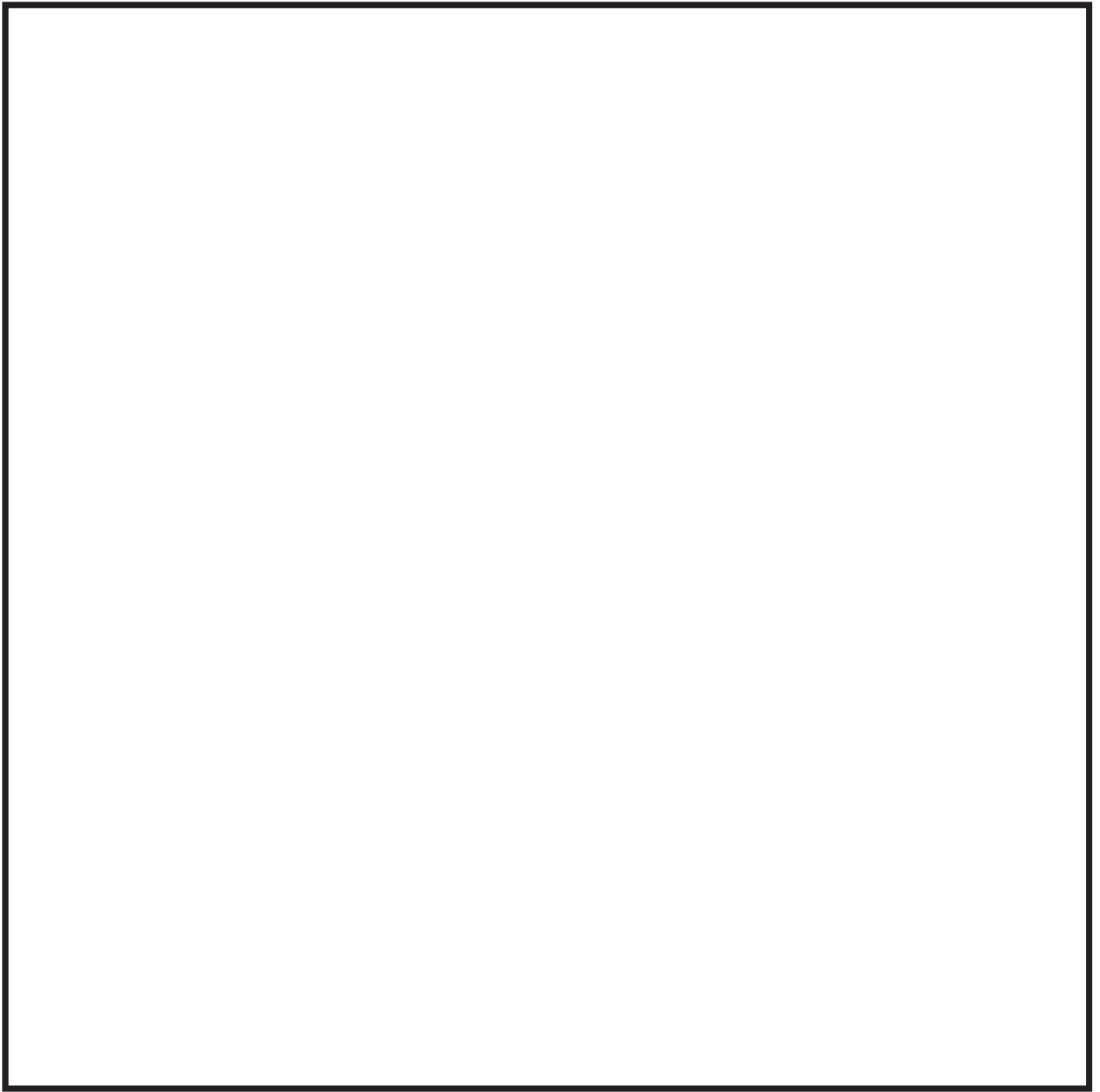
I give permission for my child's artwork to be considered for inclusion in the America 250 Community Mural Project. I understand that selected artwork may be displayed permanently in a public location and may be photographed or reproduced for educational or promotional purposes related to this project.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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