

First Friday Gallery Crawl

The First Friday gallery crawl is a unique opportunity for thousands of students, families and art lovers to engage with local art each month at unique locations in Downtown and throughout the city. This grassroots event continues to thrive because of the collective vision and collaboration of galleries and artists.

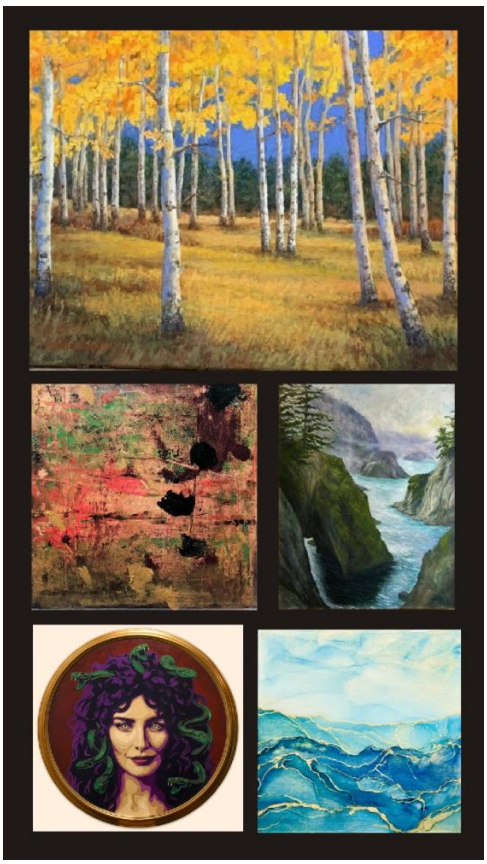
As the name implies, First Friday happens the first Friday of each month. Hours vary between galleries, but most are open during the core hours of 7pm to 9pm. Most galleries use First Friday to unveil and debut new shows or as a closing reception. All venues are free and open to the public and several galleries incorporate artist demonstrations and/or live music. Not only does this event give guests the opportunity to view creative art space, it also is an excellent time to purchase one-of-a-kind artwork directly from artists.

Transportation Options
Explore the core and gallery hop using the free Q-LINE Trolley shuttle service that runs up and down Douglas Avenue. Electric scooter and bicycle rentals are also available. Discover additional transportation options.

First Friday Events

This month's First Friday will occur on September 6, 2019. Participating venues will be listed on this website no less than a week before the event.





Gallery 12
412 East Douglas Avenue

Event: First Friday at Gallery 12: 50th Anniversary Former Members Exhibition

Date: Dec. 4 | 6-9 p.m.

Featured artists: More than 20 former Gallery 12 members

Event description: Gallery 12 will celebrate its upcoming 50th anniversary in 2027 with a special group exhibition featuring more than 20 former members. The exhibition will run throughout December and January, bringing together artists who have contributed to the gallery's history and creative community. Gallery 12 will also offer hand-printed original lithographs for sale by former members R. Finnell, C. Ranney, D. Tigue, C. Branda, H. Greywall, M. Walter, J.A. Ray, J. Dove, A. Horton, J. Shellito, R. Dugan, J. Millard, B. Sieler, K. Enquest, M. Mueller, M.E. Williford, D. Strattman and A. Wong. The opening reception will take place on First Friday, December 4, from 6-9 p.m. The exhibition will remain on display through January 31, with a closing reception scheduled for Final Friday, January 30, from 6-9 p.m. Gallery 12 is free and open to the public. Regular gallery hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday from noon-6 p.m. and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.





Maven Gallery
3238 East Douglas Avenue

Event: First Friday at Maven Gallery: Seasons of Light 2026

Date: Dec. 4, 2026 | 5-8 p.m.

Featured artists: Austin Mann & Esther Havens Mann

Event description: Maven Gallery's annual Seasons of Light exhibition will showcase the beauty of the Kansas Flint Hills through the photography of acclaimed photographer Austin Mann. Revisiting his home-state roots, Mann captures the sweeping prairie landscape in a never-before-seen quadriptych featuring multiple perspectives, changing weather and all four seasons. The exhibition will also celebrate the launch of Austin Mann and Esther Havens Mann's ninth fine-art calendar, featuring an intimate desktop calendar and select larger-scale artworks from the series. Guests can enjoy a gourmet hot chocolate bar while exploring the exhibition and shopping for unique holiday gifts.



The Enchanted Mermaid
222 North Washington Street

(316) 796-5383

Event: First Friday at The Enchanted Mermaid

Date: Dec. 4, 2026 | 2-9 p.m.

Featured artist: Cindy Edwards

Event description: The Enchanted Mermaid will feature Magical Shells of the Ocean, showcasing the handmade creations of Cindy Edwards. Edwards transforms beautiful ocean seashells into tiny underwater worlds filled with coral, mer folk, caves, castles and other imaginative details. Each unique creation captures the magic and wonder of the ocean through intricate miniature artistry. Visitors are invited to explore these one-of-a-kind pieces and experience the creativity behind these enchanting ocean-inspired works.





The Leprechaun's Lab
630 East Douglas Avenue

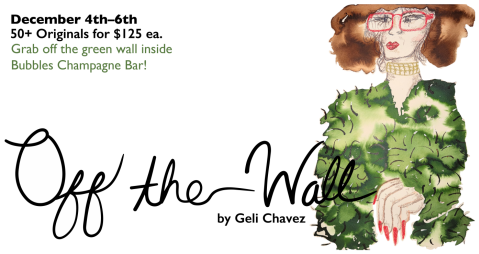
(316) 397-0397

Event: First Friday at The Leprechaun's Lab

Date: Dec. 4 | 6-10 p.m.

Featured artist: Erin Thompson

Event description: The Leprechaun's Lab will exhibit "Unbothered," a photography exhibition by Erin Thompson. The series features images of stoic American bison standing boldly against a foggy, frozen tallgrass landscape. Through her photography, Thompson captures the quiet strength and presence of these iconic animals against the beauty of the winter prairie. The exhibition offers visitors an opportunity to experience the Kansas landscape through a unique artistic perspective.



The Workroom
150 N Cleveland St

Event: First Friday at The Workroom: OFF THE WALL by Geli Chavez

Date: Dec. 4 | 5-9 p.m.

Featured artist: Geli Chavez

Event description: The Workroom will present OFF THE WALL, an exhibition featuring more than 50 original, one-of-a-kind works by artist Geli Chavez. Each artwork will be available for purchase for $125 during the exhibition, allowing visitors to take their favorite piece home directly from the wall. Chavez's work features playful characters, bold colors, expressive fashion and imaginative compositions created using ink, artist crayons and 100% cotton paper. Inspired by fashion, individuality and childlike whimsy, her portraits celebrate confidence, creativity and the freedom to embrace being wonderfully unconventional. The exhibition opens Friday, December 4 and runs through Sunday or until all the artwork has sold.





Vertigo 232 Art Gallery
232 North Market Street

(316) 264-2450

Event: First Friday Holiday Art Sale at Vertigo 232 Art Gallery

Date: Dec. 4 | 5-9 p.m.

Featured artists: Various Artists

Event description: Vertigo 232 Art Gallery will host its Holiday Art Sale featuring artwork from various local artists at discounted prices. Shoppers are invited to browse a selection of unique artwork and find special gifts for loved ones or something for themselves while supporting Wichita's local arts community. The sale will take place on two Fridays: December 4 during First Friday and December 11. The event is a great opportunity to shop local and discover one-of-a-kind artwork just in time for the holidays.



WSU Shiftspace Gallery (At the LUX)
120 E 1st St N, Ste 115

(316) 978-3555

Event: First Friday at WSU ShiftSpace Gallery: "Bear in Mind" | Aly H. | Exhibition Closing Reception

Date: Dec. 4, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.

Featured artist: Aly H.

Event description: WSU ShiftSpace Gallery will host the closing reception of "Bear in Mind," the Master of Fine Arts terminal project for artist Aly H. The exhibition follows Honey, a bear living in a modern world of turmoil who serves as the artist's alter ego and a comedic, nostalgic coping mechanism. Through cartoon-inspired imagery, humor and childhood nostalgia, the work explores complicated childhood memories, trauma and healing. The playful visual style softens difficult subject matter while examining the contrast between childhood innocence and the realities of growing up. Aly H. is a non-binary artist originally from southeastern North Carolina who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and is currently based in Wichita. Bears are a recurring subject in their work with their persona Honey serving as the central character. This exhibition fulfills a requirement for the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art at Wichita State University. The closing reception offers visitors a final opportunity to experience the exhibition.

First Friday Interactive Map

Future Dates



The majority of the galleries that currently participate in Final Friday have announced plans to shift their monthly event to First Friday, beginning in September. Since there is no "governing body" that oversees Final Friday, Downtown Wichita generally takes direction from what the majority of the local galleries wish to do. As of now, Downtown Wichita plans to transition the Final Friday calendar to First Friday beginning in September as well. In order to make this transition as seamless as possible, the usual listing and interactive map for both the August Final Friday (August 30) and September First Friday (September 6) will be created.

Mark your calendars for the following 2019 First Friday dates to never miss an event:

- September 6
- October 4
- November 1
- December 6

Submit Your Event

Are you an artist or gallery owner interested in being included on the First Friday list? Contact us for more information. Since there is no designated organizing body for First Friday, all participating venues are required to do their own marketing and advertising. Downtown Wichita does provide a listing on our website of all venues that are participating for the general public and visitors to use.

Submit your Final Friday exhibit info no less than one week prior to the event in the following format to be listed on the Downtown Wichita website**.** Fill-out the form below or email your submission to megan@downtownwichita.org.

Please provide a horizontal image that represents the gallery via email.
Click here for more information on how to promote your event.