



Call for Artists

“Bouncing through Downtown: Art & Basketball”

Deadline for Submission: Jan. 31, 2025

Submission and Application Accepted Online Only:

DowntownWichita.org/Bouncing-Downtown

Project Summary

In celebration of Wichita hosting the 2025 NCAA Men's Basketball Championships' First and Second Rounds, “Bouncing through Downtown: Art & Basketball” (“Bouncing through Downtown”) is an innovative project to transform downtown storefront windows into vibrant gallery displays featuring basketball-themed art installations.

Using basketballs as the core artistic element and medium, local artists will create unique, temporary art pieces. These creations will be displayed in vacant or underused downtown storefronts, inviting residents and visitors to experience downtown locations in an entirely new and inspiring way.

Project Description

“Bouncing through Downtown” is a grouping of three public art installations to transform downtown storefronts into vibrant art galleries during the First and Second Rounds of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship. The tournament will be held at INTRUST Bank Arena in downtown Wichita on March 20 and 22, 2025.

To foster community spirit, enliven the streetscape, and provide opportunities to showcase local artists’ talents before a broad visitor audience, “Bouncing through Downtown” will match three selected artists with vacant or underused storefronts near the arena. Each artist will create an installation piece, using recycled basketballs as the core artistic medium. The basketballs may take on their traditional form or be repurposed, reformed or deconstructed as raw material for each installation. From rubberized clothing fabric to undulating landscapes, the possibilities are only limited by your imagination.

These unique, temporary art installations, timed to coincide with the tournament excitement, will be visible from mid-March until the end of the national tournament. The project aims to unite the community through art while driving foot traffic to downtown businesses and enhancing the quality of life in the city during this major destination sporting event. This project is led by Downtown Wichita and is funded through the City of Wichita Arts & Cultural Services.

Budget: \$5,000 per Artist/Team

Each artist will receive a minimum of 25 recycled basketballs and \$5,000 total in artist and materials fees.

Eligibility

The project is open to those who are at least 18 years of age and are legal residents of the United States. Applicants must currently live and work in the greater Wichita region, which includes the following 10 counties: Butler, Cowley, Harvey, Harper, Kingman, Marion, McPherson, Reno, Sedgwick and Sumner.

Requirements

- Each installation must be fully experienced by the viewer from the public realm. No audience member will be permitted to enter the storefront space, i.e., immersive art pieces cannot be accommodated through this grant opportunity.
- No fee or other admission criteria will be associated with viewing the piece.
- The installation period will be two weeks: March 1-15. Installations must be completed by 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 15.
- Awardees must be available between 12 – 8 p.m. on Friday, March 21 to participate in community engagement events, including artist talks.
- Installations must be maintained in original condition throughout the installation period: March 15 – April 7.
- Deinstallation may begin on April 8 and must be completed by April 12.
- In keeping with federal trademark regulations, certain language referencing the basketball tournament is prohibited without explicit permission. Please see the list of words and phrases protected by trademark below.

Trademark Protections

The NCAA is very protective of its trademarks and intellectual property. Here are the key trademarked phrases and terms that you **cannot use** without explicit permission when promoting the NCAA First and Second Round Basketball Tournament:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| ○ Trademarked Phrases | ○ Any reference to " Official Sponsor of " or implying affiliation with the NCAA |
| ○ March Madness® | |
| ○ Final Four® | |
| ○ The Big Dance® | |
| ○ Elite Eight® | |
| ○ Sweet Sixteen® | |
| ○ Road to the Final Four® | |
| ○ Selection Sunday® | |
| ○ Bracketology® | |
| ○ NCAA® | |
| ○ NCAA Tournament® | |
| ○ First Four® | |

Trademarked Logos and Graphics

- NCAA-related logos (e.g., the basketball tournament logo).
- Mascots or team logos unless explicitly licensed.
- NCAA-specific visuals, such as courts or trophies.

Implicit Association

- Avoid language or imagery that could suggest partnership or sponsorship (e.g., "Wichita's Home for March Madness" or using brackets in promotional materials).
- Do not use phrases like "watch the Madness" or "Bracket Fever" if they could imply NCAA affiliation.

How to Promote Without Violating Trademarks

- Use general terms like "college basketball tournament" or "the big games."
- Refer to the "tournament in Wichita" without using trademarked terms.
- Highlight the event date, city, and venue, such as "Wichita hosts a premier college basketball event."

Selection Process

A committee comprised of Downtown Wichita staff and downtown stakeholders will select artists. Preference will be given to artists who are current residents of the City of Wichita and who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and/or women. The selected artists will be paired with an available downtown storefront space based on aesthetic compatibility and installation requirements.

Evaluation Criteria

Details:

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Creativity and Originality (30%):** Unique artistic vision and innovative use of basketballs.
- **Feasibility (25%):** Practicality of completing the installation within budget, timeframe and technical limitations.
- **Community Impact (20%):** Potential to engage the public and enhance the downtown streetscape.
- **Artistic Portfolio (15%):** Demonstrated quality and relevance of past work.
- **Alignment with Project Goals (10%):** Consistency with the project's theme and objectives.

Timeline

- Call for Artists: Dec. 20, 2024
- Submissions Due: Jan. 31, 2025
- Selection Committee Meets: Feb. 4, 2025
- Artist Notifications: Feb. 7, 2025

- Installation Period: March 1 – 15, 2025
- Public Unveiling: March 15, 2025
- Community Engagement Events: March 21, 2025
- Deinstallation: April 8 – 12, 2025

Submission Instructions

[Click here](#) to complete the online submission form and upload CV/resume, work samples and artist statement. Work samples can include original artwork, design portfolio, photographs of completed projects, sketches, etc. A minimum of two examples are required with a maximum of six examples. Please note any previous art installation experience.

In keeping with grant reporting requirements and funding priorities listed in the 2024-2028 Cultural Arts Strategic Plan, we will collect applicants' demographic information. Using the online form, please complete the Representation and Other Demographic fields.

Please note: If you are applying as a team, choose a team lead and submit one application. There will be a section within the submission form to list the names of any team members. Feel free to include examples of teammate work within the example upload section of the submission form. If more information is needed about the teammates, Downtown Wichita will contact you.

Downtown Wichita is committed to ensuring that all art installations are accessible and inclusive for diverse audiences. Artists are encouraged to design their installations with accessibility in mind, ensuring they can be experienced and appreciated by individuals of all abilities. Installations should consider elements such as clear visibility from different angles and appropriate lighting.

Storage and Transportation of Materials

- Artists are responsible for transporting their materials to and from the installation site.

Insurance for Artworks

- Downtown Wichita will provide general liability insurance to cover damage or theft of the installations during the display period.
- Artists must submit an itemized list of materials and their estimated value by March 1, 2025, to be covered under the policy.
- Insurance will not cover damage to property due to artist negligence during installation or deinstallation.

Permits and Permissions

- Downtown Wichita will coordinate all necessary permits for using storefront spaces and ensure compliance with city regulations.

- Artists must adhere to any additional guidelines provided by property owners and may not modify storefront structures without prior approval.
- Any modifications to the property must be reverted, repaired, or restored to the property owner's or manager's satisfaction at the artist's expense.

Recycling of Materials

- At the conclusion of the project, artists may keep their installations or donate them for potential future exhibitions or repurposing.
- Basketballs and other materials no longer needed must be either recycled through a designated program or disposed of responsibly.
- Artists are encouraged to include a recycling or upcycling plan for unused materials in their deinstallation process.

Contact Information

Downtown Wichita
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Wichita, KS 67202

Additional Contact Information

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About Downtown Wichita

Downtown Wichita is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that amplifies downtown's energy, capital, and growth by empowering residents, visitors and businesses to explore the possibilities of the city's core. Collaborating with stakeholders, the organization stimulates continued investment and interest downtown and connects resources from the private sector and local government that allow commerce and culture to thrive. For more information visit:

<https://downtownwichita.org/home>.

