



Call for Entry: Front Porch Project Submission Guidelines

Deadline for Submission: Friday, October 29, 2021, Midnight CST

Submissions & Application Accepted Online Only: downtownwichita.org/frontporch

Project Summary

Front Porch Wichita is a placemaking project that will extend storefronts and restaurants out into the sidewalk and integrate art and culture into the business. This may include outdoor seating, plantings, retail displays, art installations, elements of sanitization and safety, etc. If the business front does not allow enough room for a front porch, one may be erected on the ground or on a moveable trailer (parklet) and placed in front of the business in one or multiple parking spaces. This project is lead by Downtown Wichita in partnership with the City of Wichita and is funded in part by the Our Town Placemaking Grant from the National Endowment from the Arts.

Project Description

With our understanding of Covid-19 expanding every day, we are beginning to see and feel the very real impacts this virus will have on our lives and the potential for long-term effects on our small business economy and how we, as communities, will now navigate our public and private spaces.

There are a few ideas that are becoming more clear: social distancing is key; outdoor activities are more favorable; small businesses and consumers need increasing assistance in adapting to the new “normal.”

In the coming year, there will be an increased need for downtown and urban areas to be open and walkable. Visitors, shoppers, and residents will need to feel safe. It will be critical to give the community an environment where one can socially distance with access to sanitization supplies while still being able to experience the unique and vibrant aspects that are synonymous with downtown life.

Front Porch Wichita will partner a local artist (or artist team) with a downtown business to brainstorm, build, and realize how best to acclimate and accommodate future business practices. The focus of the project is to bring the idea of the front porch to business fronts. This may include outdoor seating, plantings, retail displays, art installations, elements of sanitization and safety, etc. Creating front porches for individual business will revitalize the storefront and create an inviting, safe, and interactive space for visitors and customers to enjoy.

If the business front does not allow enough room for a front porch, one may be erected on the ground or on a moveable trailer (parklet) and placed in front of the business in one or multiple parking spaces.

The project must emphasize:

Art

Project must consider the overall aesthetic of the “front porch.” Artists will work closely with the business owners to develop a concept that is in line with their brand and mission.

Health & Safety

Project must include one or more opportunities for community health and safety including but not limited to a hand wash station, hand sanitizer station, mask display, etc.

Community

Project must create a space that invites and welcomes the community via socially distanced furniture, interactive displays, etc.

Environmental

Project must incorporate natural elements such as plants, flowers, shrubs, small trees, etc. to soften the edges of the urban setting and support the ecosystem responsibly.

Budget - \$10,000 per Artist/Team

\$5,000 – Artist Stipend

\$5,000 – Project Costs: Supplies, Construction, Artwork, Permitting, Etc.

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. This region includes the counties of Sedgwick, Butler, Cowley, Sumner, Harper, Kingman, Reno, McPherson, or Marion.

The project is open to visual artists, graphic designers, interior designers, architects, decorators, and anyone working in any other creative field.

Downtown Wichita values diversity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Selection Process

Artists will be selected by a small committee made up of Downtown Wichita staff members and other downtown community stakeholders. Once the artists are chosen, they will be paired with a downtown business based on compatibility and aesthetic.

Timeline

Thursday, September 30, 2021 – Call for Entry Opens

Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. – Project Information Meeting for Interested Artists (virtual)

Friday, October 29, 2021 at Midnight – Call for Entry Closes

Friday, November 5, 2021– Artist Notification

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 – Public Announcement of Artists and Businesses

Date and Time TBD – Project Launch Meeting for Artists

November 2021 to May 2022 – Front Porch Planning, Designing, and Construction
June 2022 – Front Porch Project Launch

Submission Instructions

Go to downtownwichita.org/frontporch to complete the online submission form and upload CV/resume. Applicants are asked to also submit examples of their work which can include original artwork, design portfolio, photographs of completed projects, sketches, etc. A minimum of 2 examples are required with a maximum of 6 examples.

Please note: If you are applying as a team, choose a team lead and submit only one application. There will be a section within the submission form to list the names of 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.

Contact Information

Downtown Wichita
505 E. Douglas Avenue
Wichita, KS 67202

Additional Contact Information

Emily Brookover
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About the Downtown Wichita organization

Downtown Wichita is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation founded in 2002 as the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation (WDDC.) Our mission is to introduce optimism to opportunity to revitalize and enhance Wichita's urban core. We collaborate with change-makers whose presence stimulates investment and interest in Downtown. By connecting resources from the private sector and local government, inviting locals, investors and visitors alike to experience the diverse layers of Downtown Wichita, we steward spaces for commerce and culture to thrive.

Downtown Wichita shows collaborative leadership to strengthen Downtown as the core of urban experiences for all citizens of Wichita, a connected and prosperous place for professional growth, an incubator for creative expression and cultural diversity, and a vibrant, authentic environment for tourism, investment, and exploration.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America.