

City of Galax- Public Art
Mountainmade in Galax
Music, Art & Outdoors- Mural CALL FOR ART

The City of Galax Public Art Committee announces “Mountainmade in Galax: Music Art & Outdoors” Mural Designs Call for Art.

This committee is made up of representatives from The City of Galax, Galax City Council, Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, Department of Tourism, The Arts Council of the Twin Counties, Community Advocate and Gallery Owner.

In partnership with the Design Committee of the Main Street Board, The City of Galax Public Art Committee is thrilled to announce the call for Mural designs in fitting with the priorities of focus for this unique, authentic place.

Site locations are being identified and strategically prioritized throughout the City of Galax to provide a narrative of the City’s history and culture, heighten visitation and an awareness of all there is to see in Galax. Each Mural will be artistically designed with out-door paint, and sealed for preservation or printed on weather impervious material based on site location. Artists’ design submissions will be selected by citizens of the Twin County community. At their absolute discretion, the Public Art Committee and the City of Galax have the right to reject or exclude any submission. Phase I of this ongoing project includes a “Welcome to Galax” mural on the Jackson Hewitt Building, the wall across from the Dairy Bar and Cornerstone Church.



Call for Art: Artisans are encouraged to submit design entries to communicate the values of the City. Approved themes include: Music, Art, Outdoors, History and Diversity. Artistic interpretations of the community will be created by the artisans on one of several downtown buildings strategically placed throughout the City in highly visible public outdoor places. Each design should include a hidden galax leaf as part of a larger planned scavenger hunt. Artists are encouraged to include community engagement in the painting of and/or interaction with each mural. It is the intent that every piece will be fully accessible. Site specific entries are not guaranteed for designated site, however. Entries must not exceed 24” x 36”. Entries must include an artist statement, quote to create and install as well as a resume reflecting experience with painting murals and related references. DEADLINE: Friday, March 13, 2026. Submission must be postmarked by this date and may be sent to: Chestnut Creek School of the Arts (CCSA), 100 North Main Street, Galax, VA, 24333. Questions may be directed to Chris Pollins, Executive Director (276)236-3500. cpollins@chestnutcreekarts.org

Digital entries will be accepted, but there are restrictions which are the responsibility of the submitter. Receipt of digital entries must be acknowledged by email within 72 hours of submission. If receipt is not acknowledged within 72 hours, it is the responsibility of the submitter to inquire within that time frame. Digital entries will be printed on 8.5" by 11" printer paper and will be displayed un-matted and un-mounted.

Submitted entries will be displayed from March 18-May 13 at The Galax Library and members of the community will be invited to vote on their favorite designs. Design winner(s) will be announced on Friday, May 15 based on People's Choice votes and in keeping with the standards of the City of Galax and the Public Art Committee. The Public Art Committee will determine the winning entries' locations and communicate the final assignments in the artisan contracts. Winning artists will have six months or by November to complete their work. Pieces will have polyurethane professionally applied to protect the work. Final site locations will be determined once winners are selected.

History and description of the [City of Galax](#): Named after the native woodland plant with heart-shaped leaves, the City of Galax was incorporated in 1906 when the Norfolk and Western Railway extended the railroad line to Galax Station. The railroad was a lifeline for furniture and mirror manufacturers, the mining industry, textiles, lumber and farmers. In 2003, textile and furniture plants in southwest Virginia, which had been the bread and butter of the economy, were closing and going overseas. The economy in the region looked bleak. The City of Galax, a community of 7,000 residents, lost more than 1,200 jobs in a short period of time. The reality of growing unemployment in a distressed regional economy stimulated the need for economic diversification. The City of Galax and community leaders decided to reinvent their economy highlighting traditional music and visual arts as a vital component of the renewal. This creative economy is based on the artisans and musicians who have been a part of the community for generations. Their creativity is an economic driving force for the future. The objectives of the revitalization are to support regional economic development; encourage activities that diversify the economic base; enhance entrepreneurial activities; develop a highly skilled, competitive workforce; and provide training and technical assistance to citizens engaged in economic development.

Galax is designated as the World Capital of Old Time Mountain Music and the home to the Old Fiddlers' Convention. This year, the second weekend in August will mark the 90th anniversary of the event. Besides the Fiddlers Convention, Galax hosts several Cruise-Ins each year and this year welcomed its very first HillBilly Dayz, hosted by The Shriners. Galax is also home to Smoke on the Mountain, the state barbeque championship and bi-annual Studio Tours with Chestnut Creek School of the Arts. All these events, along with outdoor recreation and the natural scenic beauty of the New River Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway make Galax a popular destination. The

area is rich in Appalachian history and home to innumerable musicians, luthiers and artisans. Bands and musicians from the area are world renowned and travel internationally to teach.

Nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, downtown Galax is the home of [Chestnut Creek School of the Arts](#), a community art school which is both a function of the City of Galax and its own 501© 3 non-profit organization offering classes and events year-round. Classes are offered for all ages and skill levels in traditional music, heritage crafts and contemporary arts. Chestnut Creek School of the Arts has three locations downtown including their Wood, Pottery and Main Building housing their gift shop, administration offices and studios in: Jewelry, Glass, Painting, Drawing, Printmaking, Fibers and Music.

Additional information on the area available from:

City of Galax, Virginia www.visitgalax.com

Chestnut Creek School of the Arts www.chestnutcreekarts.org

New River Trail State Park www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/new.shtml

Blue Ridge Parkway www.blueridgeparkway.org