

2026 EASEL AWARD

LOCATION: Grove City Hall, Council Chamber
4035 Broadway, Grove City, OH 43123

REGISTRATION: Wednesday, Sept. 16 & Thursday, Sept. 17
5:30-8 p.m.

ENTRY FEE: **\$30 per entry | Maximum three entries**
Artwork submitted may not be entered in any other Arts in the Alley shows.

JUDGING:

Friday, Sept. 18, 3-5 p.m.
Winner will be notified Friday, Sept. 18 after 5 p.m.

Judges will consider:

Theme – Interpretation of and connection to Life in Grove City, and how clearly or compellingly the artist communicates the theme.

Originality – Creativity, individuality and the artist's unique approach to the subject.

Artistic Ability – Skill, technique, craftsmanship and effective use of the chosen medium.

Visual Impact – Composition, visual appeal and the overall impression of the artwork.

Presentation – Quality of framing or finishing and the artwork's readiness for exhibition.

AWARDS:

Award Ceremony – Sunday, Sept. 20, 3 p.m., Town Center Park Stage.

Easel Award Winner – The winning artist will receive a \$2,000 purchase award from the City of Grove City. The artwork becomes part of the City's permanent art collection. The artist retains copyright but grants the City permission to photograph and reproduce the artwork for award, event, collection and City communication purposes.

People's Choice Winner – Ballots are collected until 2 p.m., Sunday. The winning artist will be notified by 2:30 p.m., Sunday and earns a \$500 (non-purchase) award from the City of Grove City.

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):

Artwork created in whole or part using generative AI is not eligible. This includes AI-generated images or visual elements that are altered, traced, painted over or incorporated into original work. Traditional digital art and photography are permitted when generative AI is not used to create visual content.

Artists may be asked to provide documentation of their creative process to verify authorship or eligibility. By entering, artists certify their work complies with these requirements.

EASEL AWARD FINE ART COMPETITION CONTACT:

Sheri Dunagan 614-439-7110 • sheri.dunagan@att.net

THEME: "Life in Grove City":

Entries should reflect the people, places, experiences, traditions, natural environment or character of the Grove City community.

SUBMITTED ARTIST STATEMENT: *New for 2026!*

Each entry must include an artist statement of no more than 150 words explaining how the work relates to the theme; the inspiration behind the piece; key techniques, materials or creative choices; what the artist hopes viewers take away from the work; and any use of AI or AI-assisted tools and how they were used. Note: AI disclosure does not determine eligibility; all entries must comply with competition rules.

ELIGIBILITY:

Entries must be original artwork created by the submitting artist and completed within the past two years. Artwork previously entered in the Easel Award competition is not eligible for resubmission. 2-D and wall-mounted 3-D artwork are eligible, and must be designed and safely prepared for wall display. Eligible media include:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Photography
- Textile art
- Fiber art
- Collage
- Mixed media
- Printmaking
- Digital art (No AI)
- Wall-mounted 3-D printing/digital fabrication (designed by artist)

NOT ACCEPTED: Video/audio, installations, free-standing 3-D artwork, or 3-D printed/digitally fabricated artwork not originally designed by the submitting artist. No AI-generated work.

ORIGINALITY & REFERENCE MATERIALS:

All submissions must be the original creation of the submitting artist. Reference material that substantially contributes to the composition or subject of the finished artwork must be:

- Created by the artist;
- Used with permission of creator/copyright holder; or
- Legally available for the artist's intended use.

Artwork that substantially reproduces another artist's work, copyrighted photograph or other protected work without permission is not eligible. References should inspire original expression, not direct reproduction.

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Entries are publicly displayed and may become part of the City's permanent collection, and must arrive ready for safe, professional display.

- Artwork, including the frame, may not exceed 36"x 36"
- Artwork must be framed (or have finished edges); fragile work should be appropriately protected.
- Entries must arrive ready to hang with securely attached picture wire.
- Framing, matting and finishing are considered part of the overall presentation.
- Artwork that cannot be safely displayed may be deemed ineligible.