December 2022 Newsletter

Introducing Eagan Art Festival:  Behind the Scenes!

An occasional newsletter from the EAF Board

How are artists chosen for the Eagan Art Festival?
By Wanda Borman, Executive Director

What is a juried art festival? In a juried art festival, artists apply to be a part of the event submitting work details and photographs, and then a group of people (the Jurors) with expertise in specific media select the artists that will be participating.

What criteria do you use to decide on artists? Jurors look at the expertise of the artist in a particular medium, how the work is executed, its general appeal to an audience, and in the case of the Eagan Art Festival (and some others) a booth shot to see how the work of that artist will be presented onsite.

Can new artists ‘break in’? Yes, at the Eagan show we regularly have new artists at the festival. As organizers we are open to questions from new artists and on occasion pair new artists with a more experienced artist so that they are able to ask questions about preparing for the event.

Are there certain types of artists you are looking for? The EAF accepts artists in all media and some fine crafts. However, the work must be made by the artist applying, not by a collective and not in a manufacturing facility. The EAF also accepts a maximum number of artists in any one medium to ensure that there is variety at the show.

Applications open at the end of January with an early April deadline.
Give MN update - did we meet our match?
We did! The board offered a match of $600 during the recent GiveMn Day. So far over almost $1500 has been donated. You can still make a year-end donation. Donations, company sponsorships, and grants allow us to continue to host a free festival! We thank you for your support!

Seeking New Board Members!

With the end of the year, comes the end of board terms for some of our members. We thank Zach Wang (3 years), Leslie Chudnoff (4 years), Bethany Nelson and Brenda Lyseng (6 years each). We are pleased that each of them have committed to continue their service via committees and as volunteers.

That means there are openings on our board! If you are interested in a broader role and leading the Eagan Art Festival forward with a new executive director, please consider a board position. All of us on the board are either artists or art appreciators. More importantly, we believe that art is an important part of Eagan and we want to be a part of making that happen. More information and an application can be found on our website or by contacting outgoing Board President Brenda Lyseng at brenda@eaganartfestival.org.

If focusing on one aspect of our work is more your style, then one of our committees is an option. We currently have committees for marketing, volunteers, and fundraising. Do you have graphic design and social media skills? Try Marketing. Love recruiting people and delegating tasks? Try Volunteering. Ready to approach companies and give them an opportunity to support us? Then Fundraising is your spot. All the committees meet year-round as needed but do their heavy lifting in the spring and during the festival. Contact brenda@eaganartfestival.org to find your spot!