



Open Call for: VAM Exhibition Proposals (2026-2027)

Visual Arts Mississauga is now accepting proposal submissions from Ontario-based visual artists for upcoming exhibition dates for our 2026-2027 season. We invite artists working in all media to apply, including painting, sculpture, photography, video, and mixed media.

We are looking for creative proposals that engage our community, spark conversation, and connect with park visitors and art lovers alike.

Availability (until Dec. 2027)

	Hallway Gallery <i>1-Week (Monday – Sunday)</i>	White Studio Gallery <i>Weekend (Friday– Sunday)</i>
2026 Dates	October	October November
2027 Dates	September November	January February April May June September October November

Eligibility

- Open to local and Ontario-based emerging, mid-career and established visual artists, age 18+
- Individual artists, artist collectives, and member groups are welcome to apply.

- All exhibiting artists (including individuals or groups) must be active VAM members at the time of contract booking and during the exhibition period.
- Limit one artist or group application for Hallway Gallery per year
- Limit one artist or group application for White Studio Gallery per season
- All works must be original works of visual art produced within the past two years. Reproductions will not be accepted.
- All works must be made by the artist(s) who have rented the space. Assisted made works, reproductions of original works, and copies will not be accepted.
- Only digital submissions are accepted. Please do not hand deliver in-person, courier, or mail your application.

What We Offer

- **Hallway Gallery exhibition: \$265 + HST**
 - One week duration (Monday to Sunday)
 - Monday installation with the assistance of or led exclusively by VAM, artist optional
 - Sunday take down & removal by 4pm
- **White Studio Gallery exhibition: \$465+HST**
 - Optional add-on: Opening reception on Friday evening (6-8pm or 7-9pm) or Sunday afternoon (1-3pm): \$75+HST
 - Weekend duration (Friday to Sunday)
 - Friday Installation support by VAM, led by the artist
 - Sunday take down & removal by 4pm
- VAM marketing (social media, website, and email newsletters)
- VAM to provide artwork labels (2"x4") and 1 optional 8.5"x11" show title/statement label
- Buyer purchase options:
 - VAM provides contact info of interested parties – Contact sheet required
 - You can bring POS to weekend exhibit
 - VAM facilitates debit/credit transactions, but takes admin fees
 - Work under \$500 = \$30 admin fee
 - Work over \$500 = 20% admin fee

- Exhibitor responsibilities:
 - Ensuring all artwork is labelled and fitted with d-rings and a wire
 - Provide a detailed list of artwork information 3-4 weeks prior to exhibition
 - Submitting required promotional details 4-6 weeks prior to exhibition

Selection Process

Only completed applications that include all requested information and support materials (as outlined), will be reviewed by a panel based on artistic merit, feasibility, and alignment with VAM's mission.

Only applications submitted during the Open Call window will be adjudicated. Incomplete applications or late applications will not receive a response.

Eligibility is determined by Visual Arts Mississauga's staff & jury. Exhibiting artists and artist groups will be selected based on:

- Technical proficiency reflects evidence of formal training, mentorship, or advanced self-directed study, demonstrating mastery of composition, colour theory, perspective, and other foundational skills.
- Artwork that conveys conceptual depth, intention, and originality; presents a distinctive artistic voice or approach to subject matter or medium and reflects an understanding of how the pieces fit within a larger art practice or body of work.
- Professional presentation, consistent level of sophistication in both execution and concept; contributes to an exhibition that upholds VAM's reputation for quality and artistic excellence.

VAM aims to present exhibitions that reflect sophistication in both concept and execution, while celebrating the diversity of artistic voices in our community.

Exhibition Content & Community Standards Policy

(Aligned with the City of Mississauga's public facility and community programming guidelines)

Visual Arts Mississauga (VAM) operates as a free, publicly accessible community arts and learning space within a municipal context and welcomes visitors of all ages.

In keeping with the City of Mississauga's commitment to creating safe, inclusive, and respectful public environments, exhibition proposals must be suitable for display in a shared civic space. While artistic expression may address complex or mature themes, VAM reserves the right to restrict or decline artwork that includes graphic violence, explicit sexual content, or imagery that may be reasonably perceived as pornographic or excessively disturbing for a general public audience.

Artwork containing non-graphic, implied, or contextual representations of sexuality, the human figure, or sensitive subject matter may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration artistic intent, educational value, and audience accessibility.

Final curatorial decisions regarding content suitability are made at the discretion of Visual Arts Mississauga and reflect its mandate, municipal obligations, and responsibility to the diverse communities it serves.

Ready to Apply?

Submission Requirements

In addition to the application form, submissions must include the following attachments:

1. **Artist Statement:** Max 250 words describing your overall practice.
2. **Exhibition Proposal:** Max 500 words detailing the theme, concept, and number of works (including how they will be displayed). Be sure to answer the question: Why is having a show at VAM of interest to you as an artist? What connections do you have to our space? How will your art enhance the spirit & goals of VAM whilst on display here?
3. **Portfolio:** 5-10 high-quality images of work intended for the exhibition or recent works that represent the proposed style (JPG format).

4. **Image List:** Corresponding list with Title, Medium, Dimensions, and Date.
5. **CV:** Including education and exhibition history (max 3 pages).

**For group applications: please ensure the images are representative of the range of work being proposed and include one combined file of all individual CV's part of the application (1 page per artist).*

**Groups or artists who have previously exhibited in the last two years at VAM are not required to re-submit their CV*

Submission Process & Key Dates

Please submit your proposal via [THIS ONLINE FORM](#), OR, by email to exhibits@visualartsmississauga.com with the subject line "Exhibition Application- [Your Name]".

Proposals will only be accepted via the online form or email only. Do not hand deliver in-person, deliver, or mail your application.

Deadline to Apply: June 30, 2026 at 11:59pm

Results Notification Date: The weeks of August 3-14, 2026

Please ensure you have added exhibits@visualartsmississauga.com to your safe sender list or address book to ensure you are not missing important emails.

Due to the volume of applications, no additional feedback or critique will be given to artists who are not selected. Only applications with all required submission components will be reviewed & notified.

Please do not call, email, or send follow-up requests or follow-up in person as it interrupts the adjudication process.

Accepted artists will be required to sign a contract agreement and pay 50% of all exhibition fees as a non-refundable deposit within 30 days to secure dates offered. Failure to make a deposit payment will result in dates being released. No exceptions will be made.

If you have any questions after reviewing all of the submission guidelines, please contact exhibits@visualartsmississauga.com.