



For Immediate Release

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## **CherryArts Announces Artists Selected for 2024 Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Debuts Emerging Artists Grant Program**

*The 250 artists, chosen from a field of nearly 2,000, will exhibit their work in Denver this July 5 to 7, 2024*

**DENVER, CO (January 24, 2024)** — Nearly 2,000 artists applied and 250 were selected to exhibit their work at the 33rd annual Cherry Creek Arts Festival this July 5, 6, and 7, in Denver’s Cherry Creek North neighborhood.

A jury of five art professionals selected this line-up during a blind jury process in January. CherryArts—who produces the annual festival to raise funds for their year-round work bringing art experiences to Coloradans—received 1,942 applications this year, in 13 different disciplines of art. The festival continues to be one of the most competitive in the United States.

Of this year’s selected artists:

- 35 are from the state of Colorado
- 3 are from countries outside the U.S.
- 52 are first-time exhibitors at CCAF
- 20 are first-time applicants to CCAF
- 97 exhibited at the 2023 CCAF
- 5 are emerging artist grant recipients

New this year, the CherryArts Emerging Artist Grant will help five new, emerging artists prepare for and participate in the festival. Each selected emerging artist—defined as an artist near the beginning of their career—will receive \$5,000 in unrestricted funds to pursue any investment that supports their work.

“These grants mark a new chapter of our Emerging Artist Program, which we started twenty years ago,” said Tara Brickell, executive director of CherryArts. “This funding will help newer

artists handle some of the financial obstacles that many less established artists face. And we get to continue showcasing some incredible talent in the process.”

The jury for CCAF changes annually and selects work based on artistic excellence of quality, creativity, and overall impression of original handcrafted work. The only artists exempt from the jury process are the previous year’s poster artist, the festival’s advisory committee, and award winners from 2023.

CCAF receives thousands of applications due to the festival’s reputation, the high level of artistic excellence, and average annual sales. In 2023, sales averaged \$18,381 per artist, with more than \$4.4 million in total sales. Another key to success is the festival’s setting in the heart of Denver’s unique, beautiful, and affluent Cherry Creek North neighborhood, with an educated, art-buying audience of around 150,000 visitors and a nearly \$1M multi-media marketing campaign.

The Cherry Creek Arts Festival features artists in 13 different media categories including ceramics, digital art, drawing, fiber, glass, printmaking, jewelry, metalworks, mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture, and wood. The full list of 2024 artists is [here](#).

The 2024 jury included:

- Jane Burke — curator at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, based in Denver
- Barbara Lewis — owner, Lewis Art Consulting in Denver, Colorado
- Robert Varela — award-winning CCAF artist, based in Eugene, Oregon
- Paige Whitcomb — award-winning CCAF artist, based in Springfield, Missouri
- Betsy Youngquist — artist, educator, and gallery owner in Rockford, Illinois

The Cherry Creek Arts Festival is produced by CherryArts, a Denver-based nonprofit dedicated to the beliefs that access to art is for everyone and that artists are essential. CherryArts supports artists and arts education through interactive programming at their annual festival and year-round throughout Colorado. Last year, CherryArts directly served more than 40,000 students with mobile outreach programs designed to spark creativity and empower the next generation through arts education. These programs include a mobile art gallery, art kits, the Student Art Buying Program, Mobile Art Cart: Printmaking, and the Alliance Project.

Photos from previous Cherry Creek Arts Festivals are in the CCAF media kit at [bit.ly/CCAF2024](http://bit.ly/CCAF2024).

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