



## WASHINGTON COUNTY Arts Council

October 14, 2016

Dear Prospective 2017 Western Maryland Blues Fest Visual Artist,

The Washington County Arts Council (WCAC), along with the committee members of the Western Maryland Blues Fest (WMBF), are pleased to invite visual artists, including local artists of Western Maryland and the surrounding area, to answer a "Call to Visual Artists" for the opportunity of becoming the 2017 Blues Fest Visual Artist. All submissions are subject to the guidelines set forth herein, and the "Call to Visual Artists" is open to submission by any and all interested artists. When determining a winner among closely judged alternatives, The City of Hagerstown and jury members of the WMBF's "Call To Visual Artists", may, but need not, give preference to an artist currently having (or, instead, having once had) a connection to the City of Hagerstown or to the State of Maryland.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Western Maryland Blues Fest is scheduled for June 1-4, 2017. Your original work of art will be commissioned by the WCAC and the City of Hagerstown, and will be used to create posters, t-shirts, programs and promotional materials. A raffle is conducted for the original piece throughout the 4-day festival to help raise funds for the Western Maryland Blues Fest.

Artists who are interested in having their work reviewed by the WCAC and the Blues Fest Committee for a chance at becoming the 2017 Blues Fest Visual Artist are encouraged to submit up to three (3) entries. Images must be submitted in a jpeg format and files should be labeled: "Last Name, First Name, and Title of Work."

Please email images of the works to be considered to:

[gallerymanager@washingtoncountyarts.com](mailto:gallerymanager@washingtoncountyarts.com). Include full name, address, telephone and email address. Alternatively, artists may submit digital images by sending a CD, marked with the artist's name, and a completed entry form to:

Washington County Arts Council, Inc.  
34 S. Potomac Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Artists who would like to have the CDs returned should include a stamped, self-addressed return envelope.

All digital entries must be submitted no later than noon on **November 16, 2016**. Submitting artists will be notified about the committee's decision the week of **November 30, 2016** by phone and by mail.

The final product selected from the proposed sketches will be due to the WCAC gallery by **December 16, 2016** no later than 5 pm. The final product should be created based on the selected sketch. Approval of committee must be obtained in writing if the artist wishes to change the artwork's content significantly.

Please make note of the following detailed guidelines which apply equally to your sketches and, in the event that you are selected, your final poster image product:

1. The artwork must be original, and not clearly identifiable as imitative of any existing art or artist. The artist hereby agrees to hold the City of Hagerstown and the WCAC harmless, and indemnify the same for any loss, damages or claims arising as a result of the style, content, subject or theme of the said artwork.
2. Keep in mind when creating your original work that it will be manipulated by a graphic designer.
3. The artwork should not represent tobacco, alcohol, or drug use, or, without express written permission from the subject or from his/her authorized legal representatives, a real identifiable personage, living or dead. Again, you hereby agree to hold the City of Hagerstown and the WCAC harmless, and indemnify the same for any loss, damages or claims arising as a result of the style, content, subject or theme of your artwork.
4. It is recommended that the artists visit [www.blues-fest.org](http://www.blues-fest.org) and search under history to view the posters from previous years.
5. There will be promotional efforts marketing the Blues Fest artist that will include a full-page article in the program booklet and news releases to regional news media.
6. There will be a gallery exhibit featuring your work at the Washington County Arts Council Gallery in downtown Hagerstown. You will need to provide a body of work to be hung at the art gallery on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. The exhibit will open on Thursday, June 1, 2017 with a reception from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The show will remain on display through Tuesday, June 27, 2017. Artwork must be picked up by 5 pm. on Wednesday, June 28, 2017. All artwork on display in the Gallery must be for sale. WCAC will collect 30% commission on all works sold during exhibit. Artist will be paid promptly after the close of their exhibit. Selected artists must contact the Arts Council to view the gallery space to determine the amount of art necessary to fill the display space.
7. There will be a poster signing during the opening at the WCAC Gallery.
8. The artist will receive 50 posters for his or her own use.
9. The artist will receive the following package as part of their commission: 3 nights accommodation at a hotel selected by the City of Hagerstown, 2 event T-Shirts and 2 hats (valued at \$80), and 2 free VIP tickets for Friday, June 2, 2017 and 2 VIP tickets for Saturday, June 3, 2017 which provide entrance to the festival and VIP tent which includes food and beverages (valued at \$500). If additional merchandise or VIP tickets are needed, they can be purchased from the City of Hagerstown. Please call 301.739.8577 ext. 116 for more details and pricing.
10. The artist will be compensated \$750 by the City of Hagerstown for the artwork and all reproduction rights. The artwork becomes the property of the City of Hagerstown.

We are very pleased to offer this opportunity to the artists of our surrounding area and we look forward to reviewing your work.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact WCAC Gallery Manager, Chris Brewer at 301-791-3132 or email [gallerymanager@washingtoncountyarts.com](mailto:gallerymanager@washingtoncountyarts.com). Please note that the Washington County Arts Council Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 am to 5 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm.

Very truly yours,

Lauren Metz  
Community Events Coordinator  
The City of Hagerstown

Mary Anne Burke  
Executive Director  
Washington County Arts Council, Inc.