



ARTIST SUBMISSION PACKET | 2026

Submissions Due May 1, 2026

Hearts of Carmel is calling on talented artists to pour their passion into one of Carmel-by-the-Sea's most beloved community art events. The program celebrates the creative spirit that has defined Carmel-by-the-Sea for more than a century — a place where artists, makers, and storytellers have long shaped the character of the village.

The 2026 Hearts of Carmel will showcase twelve (12) one-of-a-kind heart sculptures, each crafted by a talented local artist and proudly sponsored by a local business. These heart-filled masterpieces will be on display for residents and visitors to discover and enjoy throughout the summer.

A *Follow Your Heart Trail* walking map—highlighting all the Hearts and their sponsoring businesses—will be available at the Carmel Visitors Center and online, guiding art lovers on a delightful journey through the heart of our community.

Hearts of Carmel is more than a public art event—it's a celebration of creativity, community, and the spirit of Carmel. By joining forces with local businesses, schools, community groups, and artists, we create something truly meaningful: art that gives back. Proceeds support a local charity (to be announced).

This is your moment to wear your heart on your sleeve—and on our streets.

What's in it for You?

- ♥ Gain recognition and visibility as an artist in one of California's most celebrated art communities.
- ♥ Receive promotion through the chamber's online channels, social media, print materials, and live events.
- ♥ Enjoy a stipend of \$150 for your time and materials.
- ♥ Raise money for a deserving local charity.
- ♥ Promote the importance of creativity and art.
- ♥ Be part of a heart-warming Carmel tradition.

How It Works

- ♥ We provide the canvas—a primed, fiberglass Heart sculpture.
- ♥ Once selected, you'll have approximately 4 weeks to bring your heart to life.
- ♥ Artists receive a \$150 stipend for their time and materials upon return of the completed heart by the due date.

Eligibility

- ♥ Open to artists 18 years and older within driving distance of Carmel-by-the-Sea.
- ♥ Preferential consideration will be given to artists based in the Carmel area and Carmel Chamber of Commerce members.
- ♥ Artists are required to use Golden Artist Acrylics. A list of approved paints is included in this packet; visit goldenartistcolors.com for more information.
- ♥ Artists must be able to pick up and return their Heart sculpture to the Carmel Chamber of Commerce.
- ♥ Artists must submit a completed packet by May 1, 2026.

Submission Guidelines

- ♥ Submitted designs must clearly represent the finished sculpture and must be appropriate for public display in a family-friendly community setting.
- ♥ Artists must use the Heart outline template provided for all concept illustrations.
- ♥ Once a design is approved by the Hearts of Carmel Committee, artists will be invited to pick up their Heart sculpture and will have approximately 4 weeks to complete it.
- ♥ All completed Hearts must be returned to the Carmel Chamber of Commerce. Please allow adequate drying time for primer, artistic paint, and final clear coat.
- ♥ You may submit up to three (3) designs; however, a maximum of one design will be selected per artist.

Selection & Approval Process

1. The Hearts of Carmel Committee will review all submissions.
2. All artists will be notified in writing when their design has been selected.
3. Selected artists will receive their \$150 stipend upon return of the completed Heart by the deadline.

Submissions must be received by Noon on May 1, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered.

Submissions must include:

- ♥ Artist Application & Agreement (signed)
- ♥ Heart Copyright Assignment (signed)
- ♥ Full-color Heart design proposals (up to 3, using the provided template)
- ♥ Images of other completed art projects, or a link to your website/portfolio
- ♥ Attachments must not exceed 5 MB total
- ♥ Designs must be high-resolution in PDF, PNG, or JPEG format

Please note: The Carmel Chamber of Commerce is unable to return submitted materials.

How to Submit

- ♥ Email completed applications to: kimberlie@carmelchamber.org
- ♥ Mail: P.O. Box 4444, Carmel, CA 93921
- ♥ Drop off in person at the Carmel Chamber of Commerce offices, 3rd floor of Carmel Plaza, Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

2026 Program Timeline

* All dates subject to change.

| Date | Milestone |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| April 1, 2026 | Artist Submissions Open |
| May 1, 2026 | Artist Submission Deadline (Noon) |
| May 14, 2026 | Designs Selected — Artists Notified |
| May 15, 2026 | Hearts Available for Pickup |
| June 15, 2026 | Completed Hearts Returned to Chamber |
| July 2026 | Hearts of Carmel Public Reveal |
| September 2026 | Hearts of Carmel Auction |

FAQ & Guidelines for Artists

Do you cover expenses?

The fiberglass heart sculpture is provided at no cost. All other artistic materials are the responsibility of the individual artist. Artists receive a \$150 stipend upon timely return of the completed Heart.

What paint and materials do you recommend?

Artists are required to use Golden Artist Acrylics. A clear coat of Gemina 60 Water Based Clear Coat (available from Fisk Paints in the Barnyard and Sand City) must be applied as a final protective layer.

While all art forms are welcome, experience shows that collage and paper-based materials do not hold up well outdoors. The Hearts will be displayed outside during the summer for up to 8 weeks—please factor weather durability into your design.

Will I be asked to change my design?

If your design is selected and paired with a sponsor, they may wish to share some thoughts with you. We will facilitate an introduction, but any changes should be minimal. The Hearts of Carmel Committee will always act in support of the integrity of your artistic vision.

Can I use logos in my design?

Corporate logos and advertising are not permitted. Artists may sign and date their sculpture discreetly, but no logos, QR codes, or social/web links may be painted on or attached to a sculpture.

Are there any design concepts you would not accept?

Designs that are overtly religious, political, or sexual in nature will not be accepted. Imagery evoking fear or aggression is also not permitted. Keep in mind that your audience will be diverse and of all ages. The review panel has sole discretion to accept or reject any design.

Can I add 3D elements to my design?

Hearts of Carmel is an interactive event and sculptures will be touched by the public. Artists may attach 3D elements, but all additions must be securely fastened and durable for an outdoor environment. Only artists experienced in working with fiberglass are encouraged to submit designs involving structural modifications. Please keep the base area clear of attachments, as sculptures may be bolted to a secure base at display locations.

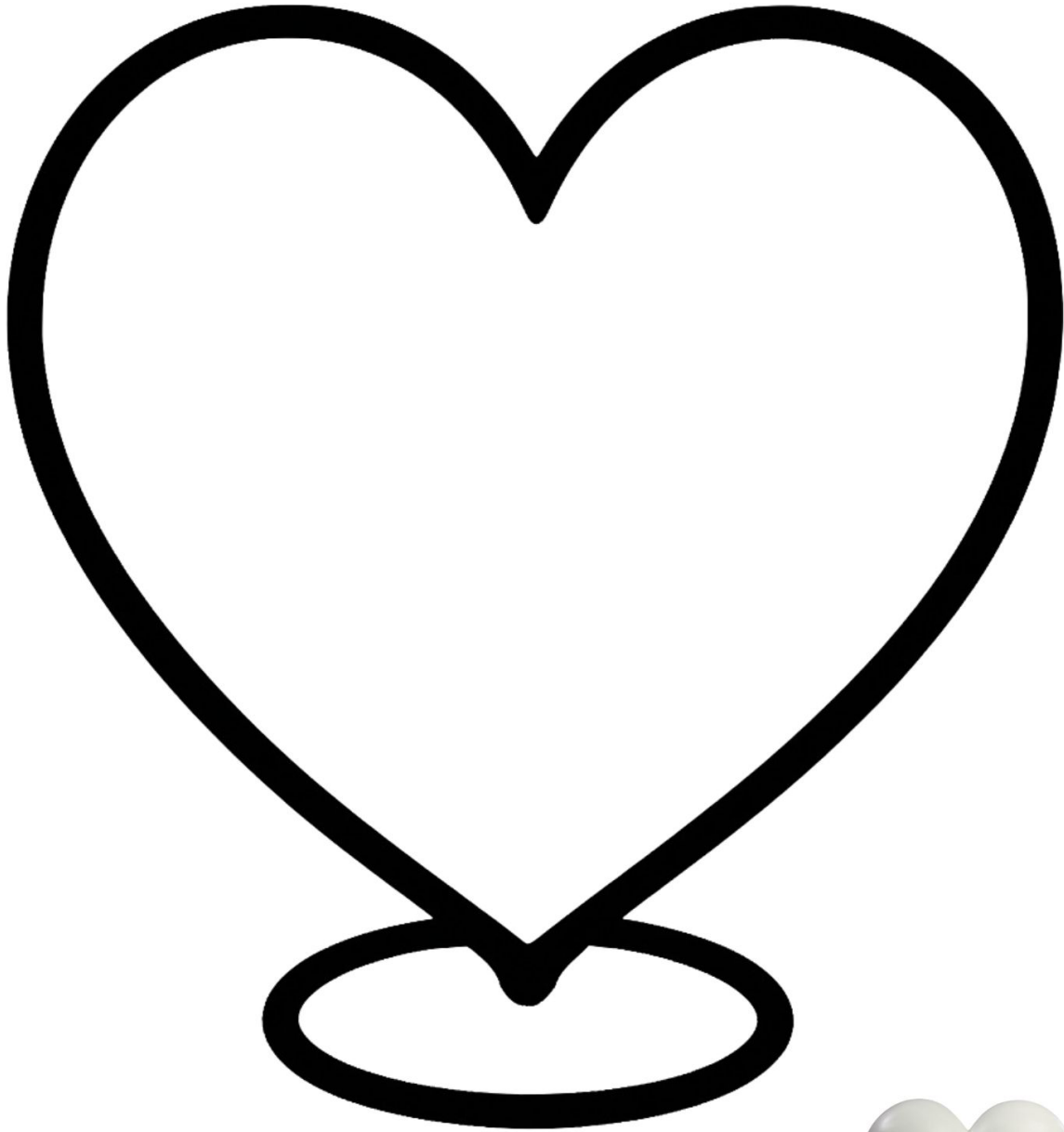
Can I share my design publicly before the reveal?

We ask that you keep your finished design confidential to help build excitement for the summer trail launch. You're welcome to share behind-the-scenes teasers and in-progress images, but please do not display your Heart in a public place before the official reveal in July 2026.

Approved Paints

Artists must use Golden Artist Acrylics. Visit goldenartistcolors.com/products/golden-artist-acrylics for the full product range. A final clear coat of Gemina 60 Water Based Clear Coat (Fisk Paints) is required for all sculptures.

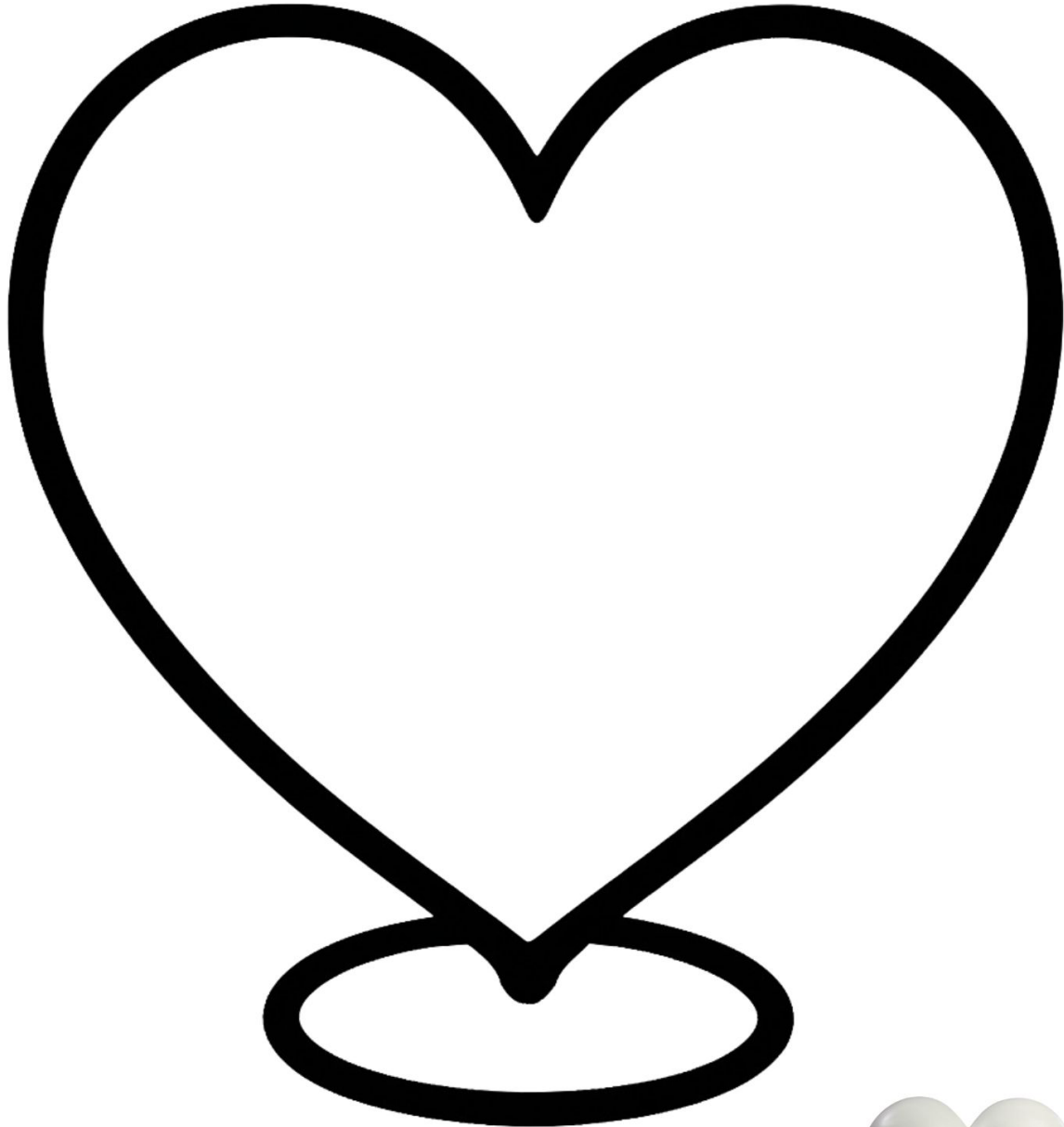
Heart Sculpture Design Submission Template - Front



Heart
17"H x 6"D



Heart Sculpture Design Submission Template - BACK



Heart
17"H x 6"D



HEARTS OF CARMEL 2026

ARTIST APPLICATION & AGREEMENT

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1, 2026

Artist name and business name (as you would like it to appear in print):

Mailing address:

Gallery / retail address (if applicable):

Email address:

Artist cell phone:

Artist website:

Artist social media handles:

Have you previously participated in Dogs or Hearts of Carmel? **Yes / No (please circle one)**

Do you have experience painting on 3D surfaces? **Yes / No (please circle one)**

Design Statement (Brief description of your design, inspiration, and/or how it will be made):

Portfolio / Examples of Previous Work

Please include up to three images showing examples of other art projects you have completed. Use the attached Heart outline template for your concept illustration(s), showing clearly how you propose to design each Heart in full.

Artist Assurance

I have read the Hearts of Carmel 2026 Artist Packet in full and agree to its contents. I acknowledge that all submitted materials will become the property of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce and will not be returned. I agree to all terms of the Artist Agreement and Copyright Assignment.

Artist's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

♥ HEARTS OF CARMEL 2026 COPYRIGHT ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, (artist's name), an individual, is the Author of the design and sketches (collectively referred to as the "Design") attached to the application submitted to the Hearts of Carmel Committee on the same date as this assignment;

WHEREAS, the Artist understands and acknowledges that, as part of the application process, it is intended that the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, with an address of PO Box 4444, Carmel, CA 93921, owns the entire right, title, and interest in and to the Design;

WHEREAS, the Artist understands and acknowledges that he/she will be notified in writing by the Hearts of Carmel Committee when his/her design has been approved and selected;

WHEREAS, the Artist understands and acknowledges that upon receipt of written notification that his/her design has been selected and approved, he/she shall apply that design to a Heart sculpture provided by the Hearts of Carmel Committee, thereby creating a "Finished Heart" ready for outdoor display during the summer of 2026;

WHEREAS, the Artist desires to transfer all of his/her right, title, and interest in and to the Design, including but not limited to all derivative works based on the Design, to the Hearts of Carmel Committee;

WHEREAS, the Hearts of Carmel Committee shall be the sole and exclusive owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the Design and all derivative works, including the Finished Heart, as described in the Call for Artists.

The Artist will receive \$150 as compensation for his/her work, provided the Heart is delivered by the stated due date. Any Heart not delivered by the due date may be disqualified.

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and intending to be legally bound, the Artist hereby assigns to the Hearts of Carmel Committee all right, title, and interest in and to the Design and any derivative works based thereon, including but not limited to any rights in the Finished Heart, together with all copyright applications and registrations therefor.

The Artist acknowledges and agrees that, due to the nature of public display of the Finished Heart, Hearts of Carmel shall not be liable for any distortion, mutilation, modification, or destruction of the Finished Heart by accident, act of God, or any person. The Artist hereby waives his/her rights under the Visual Artists Rights Act ("VARA"), 17 U.S.C. § 106A, as against the Carmel Chamber of Commerce and sponsoring businesses in the event of such distortion, mutilation, modification, or destruction.

The Artist further acknowledges and agrees that if the Finished Heart is vandalized, damaged, or otherwise modified and the Artist is unable or unwilling to promptly repair such alteration, the Carmel Chamber of Commerce shall have the right to make, or have made, such repairs—even if those repairs would constitute distortion, mutilation, or modification. The Artist hereby waives his/her rights to the extent the Carmel Chamber of Commerce deems such repair necessary.

The Artist represents to the Carmel Chamber of Commerce that he/she is the sole author of the Design, that the Design is an original work of authorship that does not infringe upon the copyright or intellectual property rights of any third party, and that he/she has the unencumbered right to make this assignment.

In the event the Design is not approved or selected for exhibition, Hearts of Carmel shall assign (and hereby does assign) back to the Artist all right, title, and interest in and to the Designs.

Artist's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____