



## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS: PRINTMAKING DESIGNS FOR WHEATPASTE PROJECT IN JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE**

---

The Johnson City Public Art Committee is seeking proposals from artists or art teams for the commission of printmaking designs to be installed in downtown Johnson City using the wheatpaste technique. Installation will occur in the spring of 2025.

**ELIGIBILITY:** This opportunity is open to all professional artists over the age of 18 with previous relief printmaking experience. Artists must reside within a 100-mile radius of Johnson City. Refer to the Selection Criteria listed below for additional requirements.

**BUDGET:** Seven proposals will be selected for the project, and each finalist will be paid a \$500 honorarium for his/her finalized design and block carving. All selected artists will be provided with one 4' x 2' wood block for carving, but artists will be responsible for all other materials necessary to complete their work.

**DEADLINE:** February 26, 2025 by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**QUESTIONS:** Cheyenne Kumbhare [ckumbhare@johnsoncitytn.org](mailto:ckumbhare@johnsoncitytn.org) 423-975-2706

---

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Johnson City Public Art Committee plans to exhibit seven printmaking designs in the pedestrian breezeway between the Downtown Square parking lot and Main Street in downtown Johnson City. Selected artists will provide a block carving of their designs for printing, and faculty at the ETSU Department of Art & Design will print the artwork onto paper. The prints will be installed on the walls in the breezeway using the wheatpaste technique, a method that adheres the artwork to the walls using a flour and water-based mixture.

The exhibit will be maintained for the course of one year. After that time, it will be allowed to undergo the natural process of deterioration that is characteristic of wheatpaste installations.

The block size provided for design carvings will be 4' x 2', and artwork must be designed to fit within these dimensions. Sketches of proposed designs may be completed at any size as long as they are proportionally suited to the block size. Please refer to the template below for dimensions. **Designs must be completed in a landscape orientation.**

Final designs must be submitted for approval prior to carving. After block carvings are completed, they must be dropped off or shipped back to the Johnson City Public Art Committee for printing. Blocks will be kept so that designs can be reprinted in the event that maintenance is required on the installed prints.

## **PROJECT THEME:**

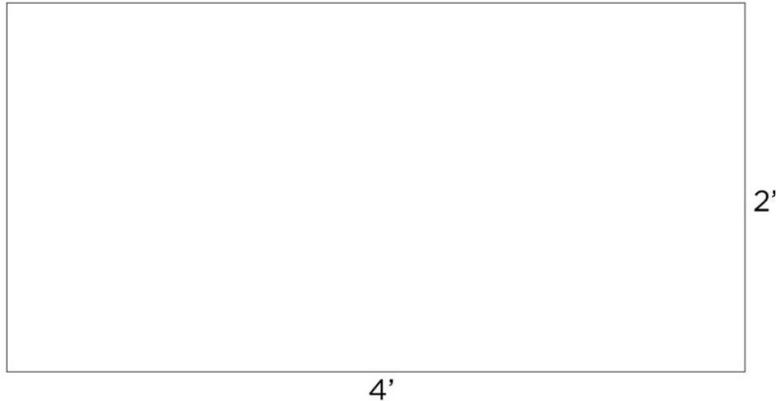
As Johnson City has grown and changed over the years, the downtown especially has become a site for re-envisioning and repurposing of space and architecture. Artists are asked to research the Johnson City area to inform the image they design for the project, while considering how to visually interpret the theme of "re-envision". Diversity in image is embraced for this project.

## **ARTWORK/BLOCK TEMPLATE:**

The printmaking blocks for this project are 4' x 2'.

**All designs must be proportionally suited to these dimensions and must be completed in a landscape orientation.**

Please refer to the template below, or download the template at <https://jcpublicart.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Wheatpaste-Printmaking-Project-Template.pdf>.



### **SUBMISSION OF BLOCK CARVING:**

Artists living within a 50-mile radius of 209 Water St. in Johnson City must pick up their blocks at this address. Blocks may be picked up during office hours (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Blocks will be shipped to artists living over 50 miles from 209 Water St. Arrangements will be made for artists living within a 50-mile radius who are unable to pick up their block during office hours due to work or other constraints.

Artists must either drop off or ship their completed carvings back to 209 Water St. by the artwork submission deadline. Complete recipient information will be provided if needed.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

A Public Art Selection Committee will review the proposals of applicant artists and make recommendations to the Johnson City Public Art Committee. The Selection Committee includes artists, arts advocates, curators, administrators, project partners, and other arts and community development specialists. Selections will be based on the following criteria:

- **Artistic excellence as demonstrated in 3 digital images of the artist(s) previous work**
- **Artistic merit**
- **Quality of proposed printmaking sketch(es)**
  - If the design is to include text, it must be included in the design. Designs may not be used for advertisement or to promote a business, product or viewpoint
  - Designs may not include any breach of intellectual property, trademarks, brands, or images of illegal activity
  - Designs must conform to the 4' x 2' proportions of the blocks to be provided and must be completed in a landscape orientation

- **Experience with relief printmaking projects and projects of a similar scale**
- **Willingness to meet all contractual guidelines**
- **The use of content appropriate for all audiences**

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

Submit a digital packet using the online form at <https://jcpublicart.com/wheatpaste-printmaking-project/>. Submissions shall include the following:

- **Artist's resume/CV**
- **3 digital images of previous artwork**
  - Artworks that demonstrate previous experience with relief printmaking are required
- **Artist Statement**
  - A typed statement (one page maximum) briefly describing:
    - Your previous relief printmaking experience
    - Your proposed design(s)
- **Sketch(es) of proposed design(s)**
  - Up to 3 designs may be submitted
  - Must be fitted to the 4' x 2' template provided for the block
  - Must be completed in a landscape orientation
  - Must provide a strong sense of the design composition
  - Scan/photograph/upload as a digital file
  - Acceptable file extensions are jpg, png, and pdf
  - Maximum file size that may be uploaded to the online submission form is 50MB

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

**Deadline for Application: February 26, 2025 by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

**Notification of Finalists: March 5, 2025**

**Final Designs Due: March 19, 2025**

**Finalist Block Carvings Due: May 1, 2025**

The wheatpaste installation will take place in the spring of 2025.

When submitting your proposal, please confirm that you can work within the timeframe noted above.