

The Umbrella Arts Center - Call for Proposals for the Art Ramble

The Umbrella Arts Center presents an annual temporary outdoor public art installation called the Art Ramble, in collaboration with the Concord Natural Resources Division. This is a long-standing and beloved tradition in Concord, MA. The Ramble is usually located around the Fairyland Pond in the Hapgood Wright Town Forest. Previous Rambles have been juried and themed group exhibitions.

The Umbrella is currently seeking proposals for our Fall 2026 Art Ramble.

The Umbrella is seeking to transform the Ramble and select one proposal from an individual artist or a group exhibition that is curated and has a strong element of storytelling. We seek a Ramble that engages with and adds to the current creative conversation, offers a space of reflection, and will bring new life to our local woods.

Independent exploration of the site prior to creating a proposal is encouraged. Additional information regarding the installation site may be found in the Hapgood-Wright Town Forest Guide at <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29013/Town-Forest-Brochure>.

Proposals should include:

Section 1: About You

- Artist statement including a paragraph on your interest in working with The Umbrella (500 words max)
- Artist resume or curriculum vitae with contact information
- Artist Portfolio
- Website and/or social media (optional)
- List of three references

Section 2: About the Ramble

- Proposed Ramble Title
- Proposed Ramble Statement (300 words max)
 - Outline what you envision with this work as informed by the site and interactions with the public
- Proposed budget for the project
 - Please see the Financial section below for more information on artist honorariums and materials allowance.
- Up to 6 images of proposed piece, can be in the form of:
 - Design drawings
 - Photo of a model of the proposed installation/art piece.

Proposals can be submitted to Julia Martorell, Visual Arts Manager, at julia@theumbrellaarts.org as one PDF document that includes all of the application materials.

Deadline for submission: Wednesday, January 7th, 2026

About The Umbrella Arts Center:

Welcoming nearly 30,000 visitors each year, The Umbrella Arts Center is a cultural leader in metro west Boston providing broad and diverse access to a wide range of performing arts, visual arts, and arts education. Annual programming includes year-round gallery exhibits, a professional season of musicals and plays produced by The Umbrella Stage Company, Concert and Film Series, robust classroom offerings, and a popular summer camp. In addition, The Umbrella is an artistic home for more than 50 studio artists and artists-in-residence.

The Umbrella Arts Center promotes creativity, learning, personal growth, and cultural exchange through accessible arts education programs, performing and visual arts presentations, and community collaborations. Located in the historic and cultural center of Concord, MA, The Umbrella features multiple gallery spaces, state-of-the-art performance spaces including a 350-seat main stage theater and a 100-seat flexible black box space, a recently expanded Ceramics Studio, classroom spaces designed to support a range of artistic mediums, ages and experience levels, as well as independent artist studios.

Contact:

Julia Martorell, Visual Arts Manager

40 Stow Street, Concord, MA

Telephone: 978-209-2965

<https://theumbrellaarts.org/>

FAQ

Scope:

The Art Ramble usually takes place around a trail that is about 1.5 miles long. A walk around the trail can take between 20-30 minutes. These trails are frequently traversed by locals, many of whom have dogs. Since this is a public trail, any sound scapes or light installations must be able to turn off or be activated by visitors wishing to experience these aspects of the exhibit.

The installation will be in the woods for up to 3 months and so the pieces must be made out of durable materials.

Insurance:

Insurance for the retail value of work on loan or consignment is provided by The Umbrella up to \$50,000. An insurance rider is required if any one piece is over \$15K or if the total show is valued over \$280K. The Umbrella is not responsible for any injury, losses, or damage that might occur during transport to or from the exhibition site or for any works left behind after the agreed upon deinstallation date.

Financial:

For the Art Ramble, The Umbrella will grant an honorarium of \$2,000 for the artist, with an additional materials allowance of up to \$1,500. The materials budget should be submitted along with the proposal and any major changes made to it after an agreement is signed should be discussed with The Umbrella.

Sales:

Works may be offered up for sale in the Art Ramble. The Umbrella will take a 30% commission for any works sold during the exhibition. A price list must be provided to The Umbrella at least one month in advance of the Exhibition opening.

Installation:

All work must be ready to be hung, mounted or installed, and shown at your designated installation time. Artwork with any specific display or installation requirements will be discussed and agreed upon at least one month in advance of the Exhibition opening.

Transportation:

The Umbrella does not provide transportation or shipping of artworks.

Additional Notes for the Art Ramble:

Please note this is a Leave No Trace exhibit; from installation to dismantling, nature must be left intact and all materials brought to the site must be removed at the end of the show. No pieces can be installed in or on the water.

Final pieces are expected to match the proposals, and if they don't, The Umbrella may choose not accept the piece.

By submitting a proposal, artists acknowledge The Umbrella Arts Center and the Concord Natural Resources Division assumes no liability for artwork on the property during the exhibition.