

The Umbrella Arts Center - Call for Proposals for the Vertical Gallery

The Umbrella Art Center's Galleries present contemporary art primarily featuring regional artists in our two gallery spaces, as well as select outdoor installations. We seek exhibitions and installations that are bold, engaging, fun, educational, and create opportunities for constructive cultural conversations and explorations.

The Umbrella is looking to activate a Vertical Gallery space in the building's atrium. This space is ideal for installations that hang or "float". Above the atrium is a large skylight that lets natural light in throughout the day. Surrounding the atrium is the Wedge Gallery, our Black Box theater, and classrooms. The installation will be visible from 360 degrees and must engage viewers from all angles. Lightweight materials are preferred and must comply with fire codes.

The Umbrella is currently seeking proposals for an installation during our 2026/27 season (September 2026-June 2027). This installation will be up for up to six months.

We are accepting proposals from individual artists at this time.

Proposals should include:

Section 1: About You

- Artist statement including a paragraph on your interest in working with The Umbrella (500 words max)
- Artist/Curator resume or curriculum vitae with contact information
- Artist/Curator Portfolio
 - This should be a sample of 5-10 images representative of your entire body of work
- Website/Social media (as available)
- List of three references

Section 2: About the Installation

- Proposed Installation 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

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:

The Umbrella will grant an honorarium of \$1,000 for the artist, with an additional materials allowance of up to \$500.

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.