

Guidelines

- Children must be at least 8 years of age to participate. Refer to the declaration on entry form.
- All Gratiot Downtown Art Expo submissions will be reviewed by the banner design selection committee and the chosen entries will reflect the wide diversity of community participants.
- Those who are chosen to paint banners will be contacted by **March 19, 2026**.
- Artists will paint their banners in late March-late April.
- Banners will be hung by **May 22, 2026**.
The location of each banner is at the discretion of the cities, though every effort is made to hang banners in the city in which the artist resides.

Anyone Can Participate!

The Downtown Art Expo is unique in that it involves the whole community. Although professional artists may submit a design, any individual has the same chance of being selected; adults, students, seniors, children and families are being asked to create a unique and vibrant gallery in the streets. This is a wonderful opportunity for community members to express themselves artistically, by entering a design and if chosen, painting a banner. These 'one of a kind' works of art will decorate the lampposts of Alma, Breckenridge, Ithaca, and St. Louis.

Banner Committee

The Downtown Art Expo committee is made up of community members who see the benefit of public art. For people wishing to volunteer to help during the various stages of the committee, please call Alma Community Art Center at 989-463-8366.

Gratiot Downtown Art Expo

The Art Expo is a collaborative project between the communities of Alma, Breckenridge, Ithaca, and St. Louis, and the Alma Community Art Center.



Alma Community Art Center



Showcasing unique local art in Gratiot's downtowns:

Alma

Breckenridge

Ithaca

St. Louis



We want **YOUR** art!

Submit **your** design using the enclosed entry form!

Gratiot Downtown Art Expo Entry Form

Entry Deadline: March 2, 2026

Please submit design and completed entry form to:

Downtown Banner Project c/o City of St. Louis
300 N. Mill St., St. Louis, MI 48880

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Artwork Title _____

Check one: Adult artist Child artist (8-14 years old)

All submitted designs and banners become property of the Downtown Art Expo.

Declaration of Banner Artist:

I understand that the Downtown Art Expo is not responsible for damaged or stolen banners. I understand the Gratiot Downtown Art Expo reserves the right to reproduce any of the works for publication, fundraising or promotion.

I declare that my entry is my own original design.

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____

Declaration of an adult for children 14 and under:

I declare that the entry submitted is an original design by the child named above and that I will be responsible for assisting the child with the banner painting and delivering the completed banner to the appropriate location.

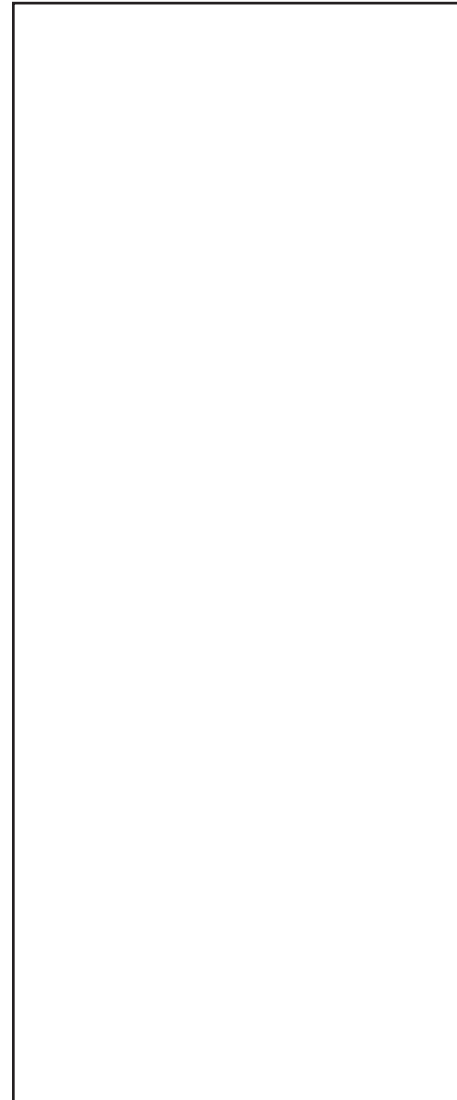
Name (please print) _____

Signature _____

Artists may pick up their banners at the end of the outdoor display at the City/Village Hall where they were displayed.

Gratiot Downtown Art Expo

The Gratiot Downtown Art Expo is an exciting event which displays local talent and community spirit! The goal is to produce 100 banners that will be designed and painted by our local citizens and students. These banners will be displayed on downtown lampposts in Alma, Ithaca, Breckenridge, and St. Louis, creating a colorful and unique city streetscape.



Design Form: Draw your design within this rectangle using a pencil, then use colored pencils to complete your art.

How to Enter

Originality:

All entries must be **your own original design**. You may enter more than one design, but **only one design per person** will be chosen.

Content:

Your design should be an imaginative, original art piece. **No words, business/personal names, or logos.**

Submission Format:

Sketch your final design on the design form included on this flyer. Your design should be considered **finished artwork and colored in the manner you intend the finished banner to be**. Simple designs using bold solid colors are the most effective. *Leave no area uncolored on your design.*

Submission Details:

A completed entry form must accompany the design form. Both forms are part of this flyer. **Please be sure that your entry form includes an accurate phone number and email address!** *Your application may be disqualified without accurate contact information.*

Submission Deadline:

March 2, 2026

All design and entry forms must be submitted to:

Downtown Banner Project, c/o City of St. Louis
300 N. Mill St., St. Louis, MI 48880

Painting Process

Banners, instructions, and special banner paint, brushes, etc., will be available for pick up during the week of March 23-27 at Alma Community Art Center. The artist will paint their banner at home, taking the time needed to do quality work. ACAC volunteers are available for questions, concerns, special arrangements, and additional supplies as needed. Completed banners must be returned to the appropriate City/Village Hall in the town where your banner will hang, as explained in your acceptance letter, **no later than April 30.**