

RFP: Michigan City 190th Anniversary Art Bench Exhibit

Michigan City, IN (March 30, 2026) — The Michigan City Public Art Committee (MAC) is seeking artwork that celebrates Michigan City's 190th Birthday, July 4, 1836-2026 under the theme, "Heritage and Legacy: 190 Years, 190 Stories. Community members are invited submit proposals to paint original artwork on 15 wooden benches to be exhibited on selected sites in Michigan City. Benches will be on exhibited June 19 – October 10, 2026

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Monday, Monday, May 4th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CST

ELIGIBILITY

- This project is open to all individual community members, organizations, or youth over the age of 18. Those under 18 or Student Artists may submit as a School or Family Project
- Be able to meet all of the Project requirements (see below);
- Be willing to meet all contractual obligations and adhere to a strict budget and timeline; and

THIS PROJECT WILL REQUIRE

- Providing a concept design with qualification submission, (A template will be provided);
- Coordinating with MAC to develop an approved design;
- Painting and sealing the art on a wooden bench.
- Pick-up of unfinished bench and delivery of completed bench to a designated site. (Participants are responsible for transport of benches)

PROJECT BUDGET

This Project will carry a commission fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per bench, to be paid to each artist selected to complete the Project pursuant to this RFP. This fee encompasses and includes all of the selected artist's compensation and anticipated expenses, including, but not limited to, design fees, paint, brushes, sealant, other materials, production and labor.

Additional compensation in relation to this Project will not be provided. Each wooden bench will be provided by MAC. Payment will be made in two installments: 1/2 will be paid to each selected artist at the beginning of the Project, with the remaining 1/2 to be paid upon completion of the Project. Please note that, due to the City's statutory claims process, these payments may take up to 30 days to arrive.

SUBMISSIONS

Upon request, MAC will provide an applicant artist with electronic copies of dimensions of the benches and a template for use in development of the proposed design. Participants may submit more than one design proposal and be selected to paint more than one bench.

SELECTION PROCESS

Artists must submit their qualifications to MAC Committee (art.mac.mc@gmail.com) by 4 p.m. CST Monday, May 4, 2026.

Representatives of MAC will review submitted qualifications and select finalists to design and paint benches. One artist may be selected to paint multiple benches, and teams of artists are welcome to submit qualifications as a team. Each selected artist will be provided a contract for services that must be executed and returned before work on the Project may begin. Each contract will contain provisions required by Indiana law, including but not limited to Ind. and Ind. Code § 22-9-1-10. Artist will need to submit a W-9 to Michigan City for payment.

Note: While this is the intended selection process, in the event of an insufficient number of qualified applicants, the MAC reserves the right to invite an artist to perform the Project, or to directly select an artist, and also reserves the right to cancel this RFP and the associated opportunity entirely at any point and for any reason.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Finalists will be selected based upon the following criteria:

- Ability: indicates the capacity to meet the requirements of this Project
- Quality: Your submission is appropriate to its context, innovative, creative and stylistically distinctive celebrating the 190th Anniversary of Michigan City. Submissions may be pictorial, symbolic or abstract. Preference will be given to positive artistic interpretations of Michigan City heritage, industry, culture, faith, the lakeshore, and the city's future. Quotations or titles may be used. Submissions may not include advertising or political statements.

PROJECT TIMELINE

This timeline represents the Project as of the date of issuance of this RFP. Changes may be necessary as the Project progresses.

Monday, May 4, 2026 by 4 pm - deadline for Bench Art submissions

Thursday, May 7, 2026 – special MAC meeting review/selection

Friday, May 8 and Monday and Tuesday, May 11 and 12, 2026 – artists sign contracts

Tuesday through Saturday, May 19-23, 2026 – artists pick up benches at Majik Faktory, 1602 Tennessee Street, Michigan City, IN 46360, between 10 am and 5 pm

Tuesday, May 19 through Friday, June 19, 2026 – art production

Friday, June 19 through Sunday, June 21, 2026 – artist to deliver bench to location as directed by MAC

Monday, June 22 through Saturday, October 10, 2026 – exhibition and auction on October 10, 2026

HOW TO APPLY

Community members must submit the completed application to Michigan City Public Art Committee at art.mac.mc@gmail.com, please note: submission materials will not be returned to applicants.

Concept Design: Include a drawing, sketch, painting or digital rendering of your design concept in a digital format, (pdf, jpg, png). Paper submissions may be submitted but original artwork will not be returned.

DELIVERY OF SUBMISSIONS

Submissions may be emailed to Michigan City Public Art Committee at art.mac.mc@gmail.com

or hand-delivered or mailed to:

Shannon Eason, MAC Treasurer
Michigan City Hall
100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2
Michigan City, IN 46360

Submissions must arrive no later than 4 pm CST on Monday, May 4, 2026