

EYC Lights Parade Poster Competition 2026

Join a cherished Annapolis holiday tradition! Each year on the second Saturday in December, the harbor comes alive as boats adorned with thousands of twinkling lights glide through the night, crewed by festive participants in the Eastport Yacht Club (EYC) Lights Parade.

The Maryland Federation of Art (MFA) and EYC invite artists from across the United States and its territories to participate in our annual art competition. We welcome original two-dimensional artwork in any medium that follows MFA's submission guidelines (see details below).

Artwork **MUST** feature an Annapolis landmark or the city skyline, include a festively decorated boat or boats, and incorporate the EYC burgee.

The selected piece will be featured as the official image of the 2026 Lights Parade and reproduced on posters, note cards, and other promotional materials. All entries will be showcased in MFA's Online Gallery after the reveal party in November through December 31, 2026. A People's Choice Award will be announced on December 17 at 5 PM.

TERMS OF ENTRY

- Entry is open to all artists residing in any of the states or territories of the US.
- Entering this exhibition indicates understanding and agreement on the part of the artist with the conditions stated herein and with (a) MFA's approved Statement of Equality and Diversity and (b) MFA's General Guidelines. Work must meet exhibition guidelines to be included in the event. MFA may determine work ineligible if entry guidelines are not followed.
- Artwork **MUST** depict the following: an Annapolis landmark or the Annapolis skyline, and a festively decorated boat or boats, and include the EYC burgee, which may be downloaded on the entry page.
- Please reference the LP Art page at EYCLightsParade.org for prior years' winning submissions
- By submitting a piece of art for consideration: The artist agrees she/he/they grant EYC an irrevocable license to use the piece, and copies of the piece, on various media in connection with promoting the Lights Parade.
- The artist of the piece selected in the 2026 competition will be deemed to have gifted the piece to EYC. EYC is a 501(c)(7) organization. Artists should consult with their tax advisor with respect to this gift.
- EYC will contribute up to \$125 toward framing of the winning piece. The winning piece is chosen by the EYC Lights Parade Committee to be the representational image of the 2026 Lights Parade.
- The chosen artist shall work directly with EYC with respect to the delivery of the original piece of work.
- Images of accepted works may be used at the sole discretion of MFA for promotional purposes including, but not limited to: the invitation, catalog, website, social media, or a subsequent year's prospectus. Images will include attribution wherever possible.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- All entries must be original and completed solely by the artist's hand. MFA does not accept work created via image-generative AI. No reproduced artwork will be accepted.
- A maximum of two (2) original works created within the past three (3) years may be entered. If artwork is part of a limited edition, please state total number in the edition.
- Size requirements: Minimum size of work based off of edges of the artwork should not be less than 24" in one direction by 30" in the other direction.
- Maximum size of work, including edges of artwork and frame, cannot exceed 36" in any direction.

ENTRY FEES

- 1 or 2 entries \$10. Entry fees are non-refundable.

NOTIFICATION

- All artists will receive notification by email. Accepted artists and artwork will also be posted on MFA's website.
- **Artists who have unsubscribed from MFA emails will not receive notification.**
- The notice to accepted artists will include specific details and may vary from prospectus. See website for more details.

LIABILITY

- MFA shall not be liable for any special or consequential damages that result from the use of, or inability to use, MFA's online exhibition gallery.
- Artwork will be handled with all possible care. MFA will not be responsible or liable for loss or damage from any cause whatsoever. Insurance, if desired, must be carried by the artist.

AWARDS

- The EYC Lights Parade Art Competition winner will be selected by the EYC Lights Parade Art Committee.
- EYC will award \$2,500 to the chosen artist.
- The artist with the highest number of votes in the MFA People's Choice Gallery will receive a \$70 one-year MFA Membership

SALES

- Artists will retain 80% from sales (85% for MFA Members). MFA retains 20% commission (15% for members) on any work sold through MFA. Artists will be responsible for fulfillment of sales.

SCHEDULE

Jul 23	Online Entry Opens for Submissions
Oct 21	Entry Deadline
TBA	EYC Lights Parade Poster Competition Winner Announced
TBA	Exhibition Opens Online; People's Choice Voting Opens
Dec 16	People's Choice Voting Closes at Midnight
Dec 17	People's Choice Award Announced at 5 PM
Dec 31	Last Day of Online Exhibition

MFA Circle Gallery Celebrating 60+ Years
18 State Circle, Annapolis, MD | Open daily from 11 AM – 5 PM
410-268-4566 | info@mdfedart.org | mdfedart.org
MD Relay 7-1-1 or 1-800-735-2258
Circle Gallery is accessible to people with mobility disabilities

Established in 1963, MFA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization supported by individual, corporate, and public sector contributions, including the Maryland State Arts Council and the Anne Arundel County Arts Council. For membership and exhibition information, please visit mdfedart.org.