

CALL TO ARTISTS


Project Overview

Abilities First, Inc. invites artists/artist teams to submit qualifications for public art to be displayed throughout Dutchess County. This project is a fundraising endeavor for Abilities First, Inc, a not-for-profit organization that provides educational, vocational, clinical and residential services for 2300 people with developmental disabilities in the Mid Hudson Valley region. All proceeds will benefit the endowment fund. See www.abilitiesfirstny.org for additional information about the organization.

We are asking artists to submit designs for painting a fiberglass maple leaf, approximately 4' X 4' which will be displayed around the Hudson Valley in public spaces for approximately 6 months. A maple leaf form was selected as a reflection of our beautiful Hudson Valley. We anticipate installing approximately 30 leaves in public spaces throughout the region. When the public display period is ended, the painted leaves will be auctioned or sold.

The Artwork:

- Should provide a positive impression and lasting memory for citizens and visitors
- Be designed and fabricated for long-term outdoor durability and ease of maintenance, including potential vandalism.

 **Materials** A Prep And Painting Tips Sheet prepared by Cowpainters is attached. Additionally, Cowpainters has a Artist Information Hotline (312) 666-6257) for any questions about painting the leaf. Abilities First will arrange for the final clear-coating of the leaves.

Budget and Payment Schedule

The artist will receive a \$200 stipend **upon design selection**. Additionally, when the sculpture is auctioned, the artist will receive 20% of the auction price. If the sculpture is purchased by the current sponsor, the artist will receive \$200 at purchase.

Selection Process

Responses to this call to artists will be evaluated by a selection committee consisting of

- Executive Director of Abilities First, Inc.
- Project Manager of Abilities First, Inc.
- Representatives of local arts organizations
- Fundraising Committee chair
- Representatives from Project Committee
- Municipal Representatives

Selection criteria to be used shall include but not be limited to

- Artistic quality
- Context
- Media
- Permanence
- Public safety
- Diversity
- Feasibility

Timeline

Phase I

February 10, 2010	Call To Artists
March 1, 2010	Artists proposals due to Abilities First
March 1-5	Review artist proposals and select artists for project
March 10	Event matching sponsor and artist Press release issued
March 10	Leaves delivered to artists
May 15	Completed, painted leaves returned to Abilities First
May 15-25	Clearcoat applied to leaves
June 15	Event to unveil leaves and announce placement Press release issued
June 16	Leaves installed at sponsors and public places

Phase II

April 1, 2010	Second call to artists
May 1	Artists proposals due to Abilities First
May 1-5	Review artist proposals and select artists for project
May 6-10	Leaves delivered to artists
June 30	Completed, painted leaves returned to Abilities First
July 1-5	Clearcoat applied to leaves
July 10	Event to unveil leaves and announce placement
July 11-15	Leaves installed at sponsors and public places
July-November	Leaves remain on display
November 2010	Retrieve leaves Return leaves to artists for touch-up/repair Auction Event

Submission Requirements

Artists are welcome to submit multiple designs and more than 1 design may be selected by the selection committee.

- 1) A brief letter of interest (no longer than one page, typed) addressing the selection criteria and highlighting particular qualifications and perceptions about the project.
- 2) Current bio and/or resume. If applying as a team, each team member must submit a bio and/or resume.
- 3) Printed photo and jpg images of previous relevant work
- 4) Provide a “quick sketch” style illustration limited to 8 ½ X 11 inches to show the selection panel your initial idea, theme, etc for your project. This should not be the final design – just ideas to illustrate your creative thought process
- 5) News articles or reviews (optional)
- 6) Self-addressed and stamped envelope for return of materials if you want them returned.

7) Mail submissions to:

Regina Fitzgerald Donato
Abilities First, Inc.
70 Overocker Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
845.485.9803 ext 384

8) Submission Deadline: All submissions must be received no later than 5:00PM March 1 for Phase I and May 1 for Phase II.

Eligibility

The project is open to all artists regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines. Abilities First has the right to decline any application that it considers not meeting the above criteria. Owing to the number of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Sponsor Involvement

Abilities First will solicit sponsorships for public display of leaves. Sponsors will select a design or artist from the designs submitted. The sponsor may elect to purchase their sponsored leaf, in which case the artist will receive \$200 at purchase.

 **Leaf Outline** is attached.

ARTIST APPLICATION
Abilities First 2010 Leaf Project

Application Deadline: Phase I March 1, 2010
Phase II May 1, 2010

Artists should bear in mind that the audience will be broad-based and of all ages and designs should be appropriate for public display. Designs that are religious, political or sexual in nature will not be accepted. Additionally, no corporate logos, corporate branding or advertising is allowed. As outlined below, designs will be evaluated by a review panel to ensure they conform to these guidelines. The review panel may reject any design that, in its sole discretion, does not adhere to these guidelines.

Legal Name: _____

Your name for plaque, website, etc.: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Email: _____ **Website, if any:** _____

Proposed title of completed leaf: _____

Artist Statement: *Please write a brief description of yourself and your leaf design. Use additional sheet if necessary.*

Leaf Outline: *Please complete your proposed design on the outline provided. Copies of the leaf outline are allowed. Note that the more complete your design, the easier it will be for our panel and sponsors to review your submission. Please note that all application materials become the property of Abilities First, Inc. and no materials can be returned to the artist. Please keep a copy of your application for your records.*

Assurances and Terms: *By signing this application, I agree to all the terms of the attached Call To Artists and all such terms are hereby incorporated into this application. I certify that all statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that Abilities First, Inc. is not liable for damage or loss of materials submitted.*

Artist Signature _____

Date _____



PREP & PAINTING TIPS©
ARTIST INFORMATION HOTLINE: (312) 666-6257

Preparation: Your form is primed white. Wash the surface while looking it over carefully to see if there are any holes to fill or defects in the surface that must be fixed before proceeding. **If small holes are found:** fill with a bondo-type product sold in a tube and available at auto supply stores. Smooth with spatula and let set before sanding. For your health and safety, **always wear vinyl or rubber gloves and dust masks or respirators when prepping critters.** Work in a well-ventilated space. **CLEAN UP THE DUST WITH DAMP MOPS, DON'T SWEEP.** If you find any areas where the primer appears to be flaking off, stop and call the **Hotline** for suggestions.

Paint and Varnish: We recommend acrylics by Golden, Windsor-Newton, Daler-Rowney, Pebeo, Lascaux, Liquitex and other professional-grade paint. You can also use the oil paints of your choice; please paint in thin layers when using oils, letting each layer dry thoroughly between applications. Latex wall or house paints are not recommended. Avoid paints that do not have a high colorfast rating – you don't want your design to disappear in the sunlight! **Protect your artwork** before the form leaves your studio by varnishing with a coat of **Lascaux UV-1 gloss varnish (over acrylic paint only).** It can be ordered from Jerry's Artarama Catalog (800-827-8478) or Dick Blick Art Supply (www.dickblick.com). **Lascaux is the best so be sure to order early.** Order one 250 ml bottle for a small form, 2 bottles for a medium sized form and 3 bottles for a large form. One coat of Lascaux, diluted 3 parts varnish to 1 part water, will protect your work until it is clear-coated. If you are planning to **decoupage or apply mosaics** to your form, please call or email for additional information.

Clear-Coat: The art project should arrange for a final finish with an auto-body clear coat, which will create a hard-shell high-gloss finish with a UV-protection component. Our auto-body shop uses Sherwin Williams' automotive urethane 7000, cured at no more than 140 degrees for no longer than 40 minutes. It is recommended that you do not clear-coat over mosaic or mirrored surfaces.

Additions and Extensions: Remember that anything you add to the creature will be vulnerable. Vandals (and the weather) will try to remove add-ons, so think "permanence" when planning and executing your design. There are professionals in your community who can help you do this, such as auto-body shops and other professionals who work with fiberglass. If you wish to sculpt forms onto your fiberglass form, use epoxy putty. Go to www.magicsculpt.com and/or www.restorersupplies.com for epoxy putty and product tech support. To glue stuff onto your creature, use liquid nails or jewelers cement, epoxy adhesives or Bond 527 multi-purpose cement. We do NOT recommend that you add hats, bags and other items made of fabric. They will deteriorate outside. **REMEMBER THAT BUYERS WILL NOT BE HAPPY WITH FAULTY ARTWORK SO WHEN WORKING WITH THE FORMS, THINK PERMANENCE!!!** Note: These tips have been compiled from the experiences reported to Cowpainters by public art project artists across the country and are provided for the information of our clients' artists. Please regard all of these tips as suggestions on how to proceed. The entire process depends upon an artist's knowledge of materials and proper application. If in doubt -- EXPERIMENT. We are happy to share this information with our clients, but Cowpainters cannot assume, and expressly declines, any warranty or liability for the finished artwork.

COWPAINTERS, LLC

Woman owned and operated

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Maple Leaf Front

© Conpainters



Maple Leaf Rear
© Compainters