



Visual Arts

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVENTH
NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

August 28 - September 7, 2026

Grand Island, NE



Join the Visual Arts Department in celebrating “It All Happens Here”
at the 2026 Nebraska State Fair.

Superintendent: Anita Lewandowski, Grand Island, NE

Phone: 308-850-1480

Email: anita.lewandowski@gmail.com

New for 2026

Completed ID Cards must be included for each exhibit:

Important Dates

Entry Deadline: Tuesday, August 11, 11:59 pm

Exhibit Delivery: Wednesday, August 19, 8am – 8pm

Thursday, August 20, 8am – 8pm

Exhibit Release: Monday September 7, 6pm – 8pm. ****Early Release is Prohibited****

Tuesday September 8, 8am – Noon

Now located in the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse

Exhibitor’s Name
Exhibitor Contact Information
Entry Dimensions
Brief Entry Description

As an Open Class exhibitor you are an important part of what makes the Nebraska State Fair great. If you've appreciated your involvement and want to find other ways to support Competitive Exhibits, we hope you'll consider coming out to volunteer with us during the event! All volunteers get to pick what department they'd like to volunteer, they receive free gate admission for each shift worked and a complimentary official souvenir shirt. For more information or to register as a volunteer, please contact Haley Hewen at hhewen@statefair.org or visit www.statefairvolunteer.org.

New Classes for 2026

- 0704 Neurographic Art
- 1411 Silversmithing
- 1459 Silversmithing
- 1605 Illusion Art
- 1607 Monochromatic Art
- 1613 ATC and ACEO
- 1614 Upcycled Paintings
- 1703 Taxidermy
- 1704 Nature Art

Visual Arts Department Divisions

- Divisions 4401-4417 contain classes based on different kinds of visual arts.
- Division 4419 is for Senior Adults Age 75 and older
- Division 4420 is for Senior Living Communities.
- Division 4426 is age-specific classes for senior youth (**ages 15-18**) that covers a range of visual arts.
- Division 4427 Plein Air is a Main Event during the fair by individual artists. Exhibits will be for sale.
- Division 4428 Tattoo Art Competition
- Division 4431 Recycled Ribbon Challenge is a Main Event created prior to the fair.
- Division 4433 Chalk Art Contest – Showcase Your Fair Face
- Division 4434 America 250

Class Premiums and Overall Awards

The judge may, but is not required to, award a ribbon for the first five places in each class of all Visual Arts divisions.

The premiums listed below are paid by the Nebraska State Fair

Place	Ribbon	
1	Blue	\$10
2	Red	\$6
3	White	\$4
4	Pink	
5	Yellow	
Honorary	Green	

In addition, the Nebraska State Fair also awards the following:

- Plein Air Premiums: Class 2701 1st \$300, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$75
- Poster Contest Premiums: 1st \$100, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40
- Tattoo Design, Recycled Ribbon Challenge, & Chalk Art
 - Premiums: 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20
- Best of Divisions 4401-4417, 4426 – Rosette and \$30
- Reserve Best of Divisions 4401-4417, 4426 – Rosette and \$10
- Best of Senior Youth Division 4426 1st rosette and \$20 and 2nd rosette and \$10
- Three Overall Division Awards from entries in Divisions 4401-4417, 4417, and 4426 – rosette and \$75
 - Best of Painting and Drawing
 - Best of 3-D
 - Best of Other Art
- All Nebraska Artist medal for any exhibitor who receives Best of Division in the same division for two out of five consecutive years.
- Judge's choice and people's choice selections will receive a rosette (no premium).

Critiques: Exhibitors may receive a critique by the judges. These critiques will be available only to the exhibitor and should be picked up when the exhibit is released. We are not responsible for comments lost in the mail.

Results: Judging results will be available at www.statefair.org. Select "Agriculture & Competitive Exhibits", then select "Open Class Competitive Exhibits".

Overall Sweepstakes Sponsored by Grand Island Casino Resort

These are based on a point system. 1st place – 5 points, 2nd place – 3 points, and 3rd place – 1 point.
Best of Show – 15 points, Reserve Best of Show – 12 points, Best of Division 10 points, Reserve Best of Division 7 points.
Note: If an exhibitor wins for 2 consecutive years, they will be ineligible to win for the following 2 years.

1st place - \$300
2nd place - \$200
3rd place - \$100

The first-place winner will then be entered in a people's choice Overall Sweepstakes Winner receiving a plaque and their name engraved on a trophy that will be displayed each year during the fair. The voting will begin the final weekend of fair after all static events are complete. It will be a google form that you will use an email address to submit a vote.

Judging results will be available at www.statefair.org. Menu – Agriculture & Competitive Exhibits – Open Class Competitive Exhibits

Department Rules

It's the Exhibitor's responsibility to be familiar with the [General Rules & Regulations](#) linked here which apply to all Nebraska State Fair open class departments of Competitive Exhibits and to the specific rules for each department.

Additional Rules Specific to the Visual Arts department are:

- Competition is limited to Nebraska residents only.
- All artworks must be original. This means the artist has used his or her own ideas. Copies of work created by other artists or photographers must not be used in any way, including downloading, reproducing, duplicating in exact form the ideas or subject matter of other artists or photographers. Exhibits found to be copies will be disqualified from competition unless they are from class-led instructions.
- Paint-by-number items are not allowed. Enter Diamond Art kits in Textile Arts.
- It is not necessary for an item to be entered in a county fair prior to entry in the Visual Arts Department at the Nebraska State Fair.
- The exhibit may be created prior to 2026 if not previously exhibited in the Visual Arts Department of the Nebraska State Fair.
- The exhibitor selects the division and class for entry; however, the superintendent may move an item to a different class if it benefits the exhibitor.
- An exhibitor may enter up to three different items in the same class, but the same item cannot be entered in more than one class.
- Senior Youth must enter Division 4426. The exhibitors age as of January 1, 2026, is required on the entry form.
- Exhibitors may offer their exhibits for sale. The sale price must be clearly listed on the entry form. Not for sale artwork must be identified as NFS (not for sale). The Nebraska State Fair will receive a 20% commission. A check will be sent to the exhibitor within 30 days of the conclusion of the fair.
- Plein Air and Chalk Art are artwork created entirely onsite at the Nebraska State Fair. Plein Air does have an entry fee.
- Barn Quilts must be entered in Division 4416 class 1611 or 1612 .
- Removal of entries by the exhibitor prior to release time set by the Nebraska State Fair is prohibited.

Exhibit Presentation Requirements

- Remove all county fair ribbons, newspaper articles, and photos before bringing the items to the fair.
- **All two-dimensional artwork must be received installation ready.** Artwork must be suitably framed (unless canvas) and wired using strong, screw eyes and wire. Artwork with clip mounts, missing wires, string, scotch tape, or sawtooth hangers WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Completed identification cards must be included for each exhibit, which will include: the entry dimensions to the closest inch, two or three words that are helpful in identifying the exhibit by site, and the exhibitors name and contact information.

Entering Exhibits – Deadline is Tuesday, August 11, 11:59 pm

Exhibitors may pre-purchase \$5 Exhibitor Gate Tickets. A maximum of 5 exhibitor tickets per family is allowed. No refunds will be given on any unused or lost tickets. To purchase these tickets, go to <http://bit.ly/4bVSm5v> and use password CVENT. Exhibitor tickets go off sale Thursday August 27, 2026 at 11:59pm.

Please note that daily gate admission for seniors (age 60+) and kids (6-12) is \$6 for any day of the fair. Find additional ticket deals and details at www.statefair.org “Buy Tickets”.

Online Registration: The most time and cost-efficient way to enter is online. Exhibitors can enter all their open class exhibits and order exhibitor tickets (optional) in one session. Online entry begins around July 1. Instructions on how to enter online are found on the website www.statefair.org – Menu – Competitive Exhibits – Scroll down to Agricultural Products – Online Entry

Mail-In or In-Person Registration: When using mail-in or in-person registration, the exhibitor must use a separate form for each department entered. Either print the entry form from the following link: [2026 Visual Arts Entry Form](#) or request a form from the Nebraska State Fair Office, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE 68801, Phone 308-382-1620.

Entry forms must be mailed, faxed, or delivered to the Nebraska State Fair. Deadline for is Tuesday, August 11, 11:59 pm.

- Mailing Address: Nebraska State Fair, PO Box 1387(envelopes only), Grand Island, NE 68802-1387
- Fax: 308-384-1555
- In person delivery: Nebraska State Fair, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE 68801

Guidelines for Completing Entry Form

- Enter all items you plan to bring. There is no entry fee except in Divisions 4427. Items not brought will be deleted at the fair. No add-ons or substitutions will be allowed.
- The entry form description is for identification purposes only. It should only be a few words long, provide identifying size and subject to help locate item by sight. Do not include class name/number as part of the description.
- Retain a copy of the entry form. A copy is required when you deliver your exhibits. For online registration, print either the entry receipt activity report or a packing/loading report.
- If you are entering a very large item please contact Visual Arts Superintendent Anita Lewandowski via email anita.lewandowski@gmail.com or by phone at 308-850-1480 in advance so she can plan room to accommodate your exhibit.
- Several, but not all, of our fine arts divisions have been divided into Professional and Novice classes. The exhibitor will determine which class to enter.
 - Professional classes indicate that the artist’s work is unique, identifiable, and well developed. They have an inventory of properly finished work and are recognized as a professional by their peers. Professional artists are in the business of producing an income.
 - The novice classes indicate that the artist has little previous training or professional status. They may or may not sell and derive income from their art, but that is not their primary motivation. They are not in business.

Delivery of Exhibits – 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse - Deadline is Thursday, August 20th, 8pm

Entries can be delivered in person or sent by USPS, FedEx, or UPS.

- In-Person: bring exhibit(s) along with a copy of the entry form to the Visual Arts area in the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse. Enter Gate 5 and enter through the North or West Doors. Receiving times are Wednesday, August 19 and Thursday, August 20, 8 am-8 pm.
- Drop-off and Pick Up locations listed on page 18
- Ship by USPS, UPS, FedEx: refer to [Shipping Options](#) for detailed instructions on packaging, where to send exhibits, and include a prepaid return label with the exhibit. Note that items sent by mail may experience long delivery delays.
- Please ship exhibits with protective packaging. Broken exhibits will not be judged or displayed.

Return of Exhibits – Early release is prohibited.

- In Person: Items can be picked up Monday September 7, 6 pm-8 pm or Tuesday September 8, 8 am - noon. You must present identification and sign the release list to collect your items.
- Drop-off and Pick Up locations listed on page 18
- Shipping: Exhibitors who want items returned by mail or a delivery service must make this notation on the entry form enclosed with the exhibits. A prepaid return label must be included. Please send entries for other departments separately. Exhibits will not be accepted or returned by COD. Refer to [Shipping Options](#) for return information.

Exhibits not picked up during release time or without a prepaid return label must be picked up from the Nebraska State Fair office, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200 Grand Island NE, by Friday, October 30, 2026. After that items will be donated to charity.

Divisions 4401-4426

Division 4401: Oil, Acrylic, & Permanent Media

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Oils - Professional – fix class numbers

- 0101 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0102 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0103 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0104 Still Life/Florals
- 0105 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Acrylics - Professional

- 0111 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0112 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0113 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0114 Still Life/Florals
- 0115 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Oils - Novice

- 0151 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0152 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0153 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0154 Still Life/Florals
- 0155 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Acrylics - Novice

- 0161 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0162 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0163 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0164 Still Life/Florals
- 0165 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4402: Water Soluble Media

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Watercolor – Professional

- 0201 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0202 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0203 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0204 Still Life/Florals
- 0205 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Gouache – Professional

- 0211 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0212 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0213 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0214 Still Life/Florals
- 0215 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Other Water Soluble – Professional

- 0221 Graphite
- 0222 Oil
- 0223 Crayon
- 0225 Pastels

Watercolor – Novice

- 0251 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0252 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0253 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0254 Still Life/Florals
- 0255 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Gouache – Novice

- 0261 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0262 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0263 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0264 Still Life/Florals
- 0265 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Other Water Soluble

- 0271 Graphite
- 0272 Oil
- 0273 Crayon
- 0275 Pastels

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4403: Pencil or Ink Drawings

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Professional

- 0301 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0302 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0303 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0304 Still Life/Florals
- 0305 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other
- 0307 Structured Pattern: Zentangle, Tangle Doodle, Zendoodle, Structured Doodle, etc

Novice

- 0351 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0352 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0353 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0354 Still Life/Florals
- 0355 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other
- 0357 Structured Pattern: Zentangle, Tangle Doodle, Zendoodle, Structured Doodle, etc

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4404: Pastels, Charcoals, and Other Drawing Materials

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Pastels - Professional

- 0401 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0402 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0403 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0404 Still Life/Florals
- 0405 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism

Charcoal - Professional

- 0411 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0412 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0413 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0414 Still Life/Florals
- 0415 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism

Other Drawing Materials (Conte, A Paris, Scratchboard, Silver Point, Wax Crayons, etc) - Professional

- 0421 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0422 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0423 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0424 Still Life/Florals
- 0425 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism

Pastels - Novice

- 0451 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0452 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0453 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0454 Still Life/Florals
- 0455 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Charcoal - Novice

- 0461 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0462 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0463 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0464 Still Life/Florals
- 0465 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Other Drawing Materials (Conte, A Paris, Scratchboard, Silver Point, Wax Crayons, etc) - Novice

- 0471 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0472 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0473 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0474 Still Life/Florals
- 0475 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4405: Computer-Generated Digital Artwork, Comic Book Art, & AI Generated Art

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Computer-Generated Digital Art

0501 Cartoons/Fantasy/Science-Fiction/Superheroes/etc.

0504 Other not listed, including Punk or Steam art

Comic Book Art

0551 Cartoons/Fantasy/Science-Fiction/Superheroes

0554 Other not listed, including Punk or Steam art

AI

0555 AI Generated Art

- A step-by-step account must be provided, with accompanying screenshots, of the prompts/direction given and the resulting images. This allows the judges to critique grasp of knowledge and proficiency in using the generator to produce the desired results. Exhibits submitted without step-by-step account will not be judged. This should be submitted on standard letter-sized paper, one-sided, and in color. The artist's name should not appear anywhere on this paperwork.
- No prompts/direction shall reference any specific artist (i.e. you cannot prompt something "in the style of van Gogh" or "like Picasso"). Any such direction to a specific artist will be grounds for disqualification, and the piece will not be judged.

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4406: Sculpture

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Professional

0601 Carving, Wood

0602 Carving, other not listed

0603 Welded Sculpture made from found objects or scrap metal

0604 Fabricated Metal

0606 Wire Art

0607 Plaster/Gypsum

0608 Clay

0609 Other not listed

Novice

0651 Carving, Wood

0652 Carving, other not listed

0653 Welded Sculpture made from found objects or scrap metal

0654 Fabricated Metal

0656 Wire Art

0657 Plaster/Gypsum

0658 Clay

0659 Other not listed

Note: Paper Mache moved to Paper Art Division 4412. Polymer Clay moved to Other 3-D Arts Division 4417.

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4407: Mixed Media

Note: Mixed media art refers to visual art that combines a variety of media in a single artwork. Items which include more than 50% textile fibers should be entered in Textile Arts Department, Division 5210 Creative Fiber Art.

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

0701 Wall Hung Object, 2-D including collage

- 0702 Wall Hung Object, 3-D including collage
- 0703 Stand-Alone Object, 3-D, includes Vessel with or without lid
- 0704 Neurographic Art - NEW
- 0706 Handmade Book with or without content added
- 0709 Other not listed, including mobiles, ceiling hung objects, altered books, etc

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4408: Pottery made out of Clay

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on bottom of item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

Professional

- 0801 Wheel Thrown
- 0802 Hand Built and Coiling
- 0803 Cast/Mold
- 0804 Combined Techniques
- 0805 Primitive Firing Methods, including raku, pit firing, horse hair, etc
- 0806 Other not listed

Novice

- 0851 Wheel Thrown
- 0852 Hand Built and Coiling
- 0853 Cast/Mold
- 0854 Combined Techniques
- 0855 Primitive Firing Methods, including raku, pit firing, horse hair, etc
- 0856 Other not listed

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4409: Glass

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

- 0901 Stained Glass, flat work, 3-D work
- 0903 Fused and Slumped Glass
- 0904 Sandblasted and Etched Glass
- 0905 Lamp work
- 0908 Other not listed, including casted glass and blown glass

Note: Glass Mosaic moved to Other 3-D Arts Division 4417.

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4410: Woodworking

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on upper left corner of back or bottom of item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

- 1001 Carving by Hand
- 1002 Bentwood
- 1003 Scroll Saw – fretwork by hand
- 1004 Scroll Saw – intarsia by hand

- 1005 Wood Turning
- 1006 Furniture
- 1007 Carving by Machine
- 1008 Scroll Saw – fretwork by machine
- 1009 Scroll Saw – intarsia by machine
- 1010 Wooden Inlay
- 1011 Other not listed, including wooden toys and novelties

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4411: China Painting

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on back or bottom of item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

- 1103 Raised Paste, Gold Dresden, and Pen Work
- 1104 All Living Things – animals, birds, wildlife, portraits/figures, florals, fruits, vegetables
- 1105 Scenes

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4412: Paper Art

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

- 1201 Greeting Cards and Tags - Flat – one card or tag per entry
- 1202 Greeting Cards and Tags - Folded – one card or tag per entry
- 1203 Bags, Boxes, and Containers – one card or tag per entry
- 1204 Pocket or Fold Out Card
- 1205 Pocket or Fold Out Book
- 1206 Scherenschnitte or Cut Paper – must be framed and ready to hang
- 1207 Paper Sculpture/Paper Mache
- 1209 Collage – comprised of 100% paper
- 1211 Other not listed – including embroidery on cards, origami, handmade, or decorative paper

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4413: Scrapbooking

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Each entry is limited to the front and back of one page but the page can be any size.

- 1301 Scrapbook Page – Birthday, Wedding, Anniversary
- 1302 Scrapbook Page – School Days and Graduations
- 1304 Scrapbook Page – Vacation, Special Event, or other
- 1306 Scrapbook Album – any type
- 1307 Scrapbook Album – design with online company, publishing company such as Shutterfly
- 1308 Folio Scrapbook

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4414: Beading and Jewelry

Entry description format: The entry description is for identification purposes only.

- For original design classes, use two to four words helpful in identifying the entry by sight.
- For kit/class/pattern classes use both the designers name of the k/c/p plus two to four words helpful in identifying the entry by sight.

Label attached to item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

Original Design - O/D

- 1401 Stringing – bracelet, necklace, earrings, or grouping of these items
- 1403 Bead Weaving – any kind
- 1404 Bead Embroidery – any kind
- 1405 Kumihimo – any kind
- 1406 Polymer Clay Jewelry – any kind
- 1407 Wire Work Jewelry - any kind
- 1408 Precious Metal Clay Jewelry – silver, bronze, copper, brass, any kind
- 1410 Beading on a Loom, 3-D Beading Forms including Ornaments
- 1411 Silversmithing, any jewelry - NEW

Kit, Class, or Pattern - K/C/P

- 1451 Stringing – any kind
- 1452 Bead Weaving – any kind
- 1453 Bead Embroidery – any kind
- 1454 Kumihimo – any kind
- 1455 Polymer Clay Jewelry – any kind
- 1456 Wire Work Jewelry - any kind
- 1457 Precious Metal Clay Jewelry – silver, bronze, copper, brass, any kind
- 1458 Beading on a Loom and 3-D Beading Forms including Ornaments
- 1459 Silversmithing, any jewelry - NEW

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4415: Leather

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on back or bottom of item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

Professional

- 1501 Leather Carved or Tooled Pictures – must be framed and ready to hang
- 1502 Purses, Cases, Wallets, Belts, or Buckles
- 1504 Saddles and Tack – new or restored
- 1505 Attire – costume or wearable item
- 1506 Other not listed

Novice

- 1551 Leather Carved or Tooled Pictures – must be framed and ready to hang
- 1552 Purses, Cases, Wallets, Belts, or Buckles
- 1554 Saddles and Tack – new or restored
- 1555 Attire – costume or wearable item
- 1556 Other not listed

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4416: Other Surface Design Arts

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Note: Barn Quilts do not need to be ready to hang.

- 1600 Art Journal, using purchased or handmade book
- 1601 Alcohol Ink on paper – must be framed and ready to hang
- 1602 Alcohol Ink on non-porous surface
- 1603 Batik – must be ready to hang
- 1604 Acrylic Pour
- 1605 Illusion Art - NEW
- 1606 Decorated Eggs or Gourds – group of 3 or more
- 1607 Monochromatic Art – any media - NEW
- 1608 Illustrated Text – calligraphy or printed text – must be ready to hang
- 1609 Prints, including Gelli prints
- 1610 Tole Painting – any kind
- 1611 Barn Quilt – 2x2, 3x3, or other not listed
- 1612 Barn Quilt – 4x4
- 1613 Artists Trading Cards (ATC) & Art Card Editions and Originals (ACEO) - NEW
- 1614 Upcycled Painting using old, thrift store pictures to create a one of a kind project - NEW
- 1615 Class Led 2-D Wall Art – such as offered at paid to paint stores – any media
- 1616 Other Surface Design Arts – not listed

Special Classes – any media accepted. These classes are for very small artwork and entries.

- 1617 Miniatures – 2-dimensional not to exceed 25 square inches (i.e. 5"x5")
- 1618 Miniatures – 3-dimensional not to exceed 125 square inches (i.e. 5"x5"x5")

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4417: Other 3-D Arts

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

- 1701 Basketry – using reed or natural material: baskets made of textile fabrics to be entered in Textile Arts Department
- 1702 Ceramics
- 1703 Taxidermy - NEW
- 1704 Nature Art - NEW
- 1706 Dolls
- 1708 Mosaic – Tile or Glass
- 1709 Polymer Clay – any kind
- 1710 Trash to Treasures – repurposed furniture or pallets
- 1711 Trash to Treasures – all upcycled objects – includes found, recycled, or repurposed objects. Note: any sculptures need to be entered in Division 4406
- 1715 Other 3-D Arts – not listed. Includes painted and/or stacked rocks, macrame

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4419: Senior Adults Ages 75 and older

You are not allowed to enter Division 4420: Senior Living Communities **and** Division 4419: Senior Adults. You must choose one or the other.

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Note: 2-D artwork should be framed and ready to hang for entries from this division to be competitive in the Department Overall Awards

- 1901 Paintings – any kind including pastels

- 1902 Drawings, Prints, Digital Generated Art
- 1903 Clay, Ceramics, China Painting, Sculpture
- 1904 Woodworking, Leather
- 1906 Other Art – not listed

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4420: Senior Living Communities

You are not allowed to enter Division 4420: Senior Living Communities **and** Division 4419: Senior Adults. You must choose one or the other.

The Visual Arts and Textile Arts departments will now include classes (previously offered by the Sr. Living Communities Department) for individuals living in a Senior Living Community. Many senior residents are learning new skills and crafts in organized activities at the communities they live in. Nebraska State Fair values our Senior Living Community exhibitors and enjoy seeing their exhibits each year at the fair.

Guidelines

- Community Coordinators are responsible to read and know the [General Rules and Regulations](#).
- **Each exhibitor may have up to 2 entries in each class.**
- All entries must be accompanied with a label with the name of the Senior Living Community and the name of the resident.

Sweepstakes are awarded for placing and participating in each division in both Visual Arts and Textile Arts. The 1st place community will receive a \$300 grant, 2nd place \$200 grant, and 3rd place \$100 grant.

1 st Place	5 points
2 nd Place	3 points
3 rd Place	1 point

- 2001 Paintings, any kind
- 2002 Drawings, Prints, or Digital Creations
- 2003 Clay, Ceramics, China Paintings, or Sculptures
- 2004 Woodworking or Leather
- 2005 Door Decor
- 2006 Other, not listed, including crafts and mixed media

Division 4426: Senior Youth Ages 15-18

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Note: 2-D artwork should be framed and ready to hang for entries from this division to be competitive in the Department Overall Awards. **Youth 14 and under please enter in the Education Department by July 15th.**

- 2601 Paintings – any kind including pastels
- 2602 Drawings, Prints, Digital Generated Art
- 2603 Clay/Ceramics
- 2604 Sculptures
- 2605 Mixed Media
- 2606 Woodworking and Leather Work
- 2607 Other Art – not listed

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4427: Plein Air at the Fair

All entries in the "Plein Air at the Fair" category must be created as true plein air artwork, meaning the piece must be painted *entirely on-site*, in the open air, during the Nebraska State Fair on Sunday, August 30th. Artists must work from direct observation (not photographs), capturing the scene as it unfolds in real time to reflect the authentic spirit and atmosphere of the fair.

To align with this year's theme, "It All Happens Here" all entries must creatively interpret and highlight the unique character, emotion, and story of the fair through the artist's chosen scene.

Artwork must depict a single scene — *not a collage or montage* of multiple locations or moments — and must be created exclusively within the family fun zone of the fairgrounds. This is located in the Northwest Corner of the Fairgrounds.

Failure to follow these requirements may result in disqualification from judging.

2701 Plein Air – 20 spots available – Entry Fee \$30

An exhibitor letter with more information will be mailed or emailed to each exhibitor after the entry fee is received. Check-In will be Sunday, August 30th from 8am-9am in the Visual Arts area in the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse. Exhibitors will then be released to go and set up in your painting location. Your artwork must be checked in the Visual Arts area before the building closes at 9pm.

Artwork will be judged during the fair and will be on display for the remainder of the fair. All Plein Air artwork is required to be offered for sale with the Nebraska State Fair receiving a 20% commission. Payment to the artist will be made at the conclusion of the fair. If your artwork is not sold you are free to pick it up at the conclusion of the fair or you may choose to donate it to the fair. The Nebraska State Fair reserves the right to use the winning entry for marketing and promotional materials.

Division 4428: Tattoo Design – Art Competition

Show off your ink-spiration! This category is for tattoo artists and designers to exhibit their original tattoo artwork. Exhibitors must submit a colored photo of a tattoo they personally designed.

- Photo must clearly show the finished tattoo (on skin).
- **Photograph must be printed and matted to 8"x10"**.
(*Mat size should be 8"x10" with the photo securely mounted inside; no frames, please.*)
- Exhibitor must be the designer of the tattoo; tattoos applied by someone else are allowed as long as the design is original.
- Tattoos may be in any style (traditional, realism, tribal, illustrative, etc.).
 - **Photograph must be printed and matted to 8"x10"**.

2801 Tattoos

Division 4431: Recycled Nebraska State Fair Ribbon Challenge

Each year the Nebraska State Fair awards hundreds of ribbons to winning exhibitors. Inevitably, there are leftover ribbons. To ensure that these ribbons do not go to waste, we are offering the Recycled Ribbon Challenge. Each participant can receive up to 250 State Fair ribbons. The ribbons are various sizes and colors.

The State Fair ribbons can be cut, sewn, painted, ripped, burned, or manipulated in any way that allows the desired effect, and they can be used to create any item imaginable. The ribbons may be made into a quilt, soft or hard sculpture, painting, mask, collage, or anything else! Materials used should be covered in ribbon. This does not include the poster board used for mounting, if applicable. Outside materials (additional ribbons, wood, flowers, etc.) should be only 20% of the piece. Entry may not exceed 30 inches in any direction. If an entry is a two-dimensional hanging item, it should be ready to hang.

Ribbons will need to be picked up from the Nebraska State Fair office or can be shipped at an additional charge to the exhibitor. Note that the exhibit must be created prior to the fair so be sure to have your ribbons on hand with plenty of time to create your masterpiece.

3101 Recycled Ribbon Challenge

Division 4433: Chalk Art: America 250

Put your creativity on the pavement! In this one-day chalk art event, artists will be given a 5'x5' space to create original chalk artwork inspired by the theme "America 250".

- Competition to be held Saturday, August 29th between 10am-4pm.
 - South Side of 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse. If inclement weather, we will relocate.
- Artwork must be completed by 4 PM.
- All materials must be family-friendly.
- Artists to bring their own chalk/materials.
- Limited spaces available – 12 spots

3301 Chalk Art

Division 4434: America 250

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

- 3401 Patriotic Greeting Cards and Tags
- 3402 Scrapbook Page – Famous Places in the USA
- 3403 Scrapbook – America from 1776-2026
- 3404 Old Glory – Our flag reimagined using natural materials
- 3405 2-D – any media – Famous American Places and/or Faces
- 3406 Collage – 250 pieces – Celebrating our Country's Monuments

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Sites

For Non-Perishable Exhibits

Please package each department's exhibits separately. For example, if you are entering both textile arts and photography, which belong to different departments, package them separately. Ensure a copy of your entry form is taped to the top of each package.

Important: We will not accept exhibits that are not properly packaged. We will make an effort to return your exhibits in the same packaging used for drop-off. To make transportation easier and safer, we recommend packaging your exhibits in a box.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Locations:

This year, exhibits can be dropped off and picked up at the following locations during the Extension Office's business hours:

Drop-Off Dates:

- Thursday, August 13th and Friday, August 14th, 2026

Pick-Up Dates:

- Monday, September 14th and Tuesday, September 15th, 2026
 - Must be picked up no later than September 15th.

Location Hours:

- **Lincoln/Logan/McPherson County Extension Office:**
348 West State Farm Rd, North Platte, NE 69101
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- **Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office:**
8015 West Center Rd, Omaha, NE 68124
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- **Seward County Extension Office:**
322 S. 14th St, Seward, NE 68434
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Reminder: Please bring a copy of your entry form(s) when dropping off your exhibits.