

FACTS AND QUESTIONS

What is the Community Artist in Park program?

The Community Artist in Park program was created in 2025 as a way to highlight the connection between local artists and the landscapes contained within The Colorado National Monument. The program gives park visitors opportunities to witness the results of artistic inspiration derived from the desert canyons, and to interact with the artist.

What are the program dates?

The Community Artist in Park program begins July 2025 and continues through November 30, 2025.

What is the minimal time commitment?

Some mandatory training and orientation will take place before the artist's season begins. Twelve hours of creating in-the-field are required per month, July–November, of which 8 hours must be in front and/or backcountry locations. Artists are encouraged to engage with visitors. One event in the city is also required.

Will I be compensated?

Yes, there will be a \$1500 compensation for the artist. The Community Artist may have the opportunity to sell items through the CNMA bookstore.

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Who can apply?

Any resident of Mesa County (*CNMA employees are ineligible.*)

Why can't artists outside of this location apply?

The programs intent is to build connections between the local community and their nearby park (and visitors). Additionally, park housing is not available.

How are artists selected?

A three-person panel representing the National Park Service (NPS), Colorado National Monument Association (CNMA), and a former community artist will review submitted application materials and criteria. View Application criteria.

Are there restrictions on where I can perform my hours?

The program is designed to have visitors encounter an artist, but not impose the art experience on visitors. Choose locations with this in mind. The NPS representative can help you choose appropriate locations or answer specific location and activity questions. When in doubt—just ask.

Is there mandatory training?

Yes, you will be required to attend an orientation session of NPS history, safety, interpretive skills, and resource information training.

What is the purpose of the community event?

Each artist is required to offer at least one event in the city of Grand Junction during their term that connects back to the local, non-visitor community.

Do I wear a uniform?

No, there will be information boards with your name and a photo so visitors can identify you in the park.

How are the schedules written?

The Community Artists prepares and proposes draft schedules to the NPS representative a month in advance. (Quarterly forecasting is even better.) Once the schedule is published online, changes or cancellations should be rare; notify the NPS representative as soon as possible.

How is the program advertised?

Community Artist information and activities are posted on the CNMA website, Instagram, and Facebook page and on park website. The NPS representative will provide the artist with information boards to display when they are in the parks (one for the visitor center and one for the trailhead).

Are there limitations on what I can do in the parks?

You must follow all NPS regulations. As an NPS VIP (Volunteer in the Park) you are a representative of the National Park Service. During your orientation you will receive an overview of specific policies in regard to working with visitors and within park sites.

Can I volunteer more hours?

Absolutely! Work with the NPS representative to schedule your park activities.

Can I participate in personal art endeavors in the community while serving as the Community Artist?

Yes, you can participate in gallery shows, sell your artwork, and participate in events as a citizen and community member. If you plan to use your sandwich board or plan an activity as the Community Artist, work with the NPS representative to ensure there is no conflict of interest or other issue.

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What is Colorado National Monument Association (CNMA)?

The Colorado National Monument Association provides financial support to Colorado National Monument through a variety of community engagements and sales from our gift shop. This support fosters knowledge, passion, and dedication to enable stewardship and preservation of Colorado National Monument.

Do I need to create items to sell in CNMA outlets?

Ideally yes, providing an opportunity for visitors to take home a tangible reminder of their experience with art, artists and the landscape is an important goal of the Community Artist in the Park program.

What can I sell?

CNMA is open to you selling different types of product. They want it to be successful for you so they are interested in items that will be unique and not compete with their current inventory.

How much space do I have to exhibit my work in the store?

Unfortunately there is not a lot of sales space available. CNMA cannot accommodate large pieces of work. Small to medium-sized prints work best. Anything in the 5 x7 to 11 x 14 range is fine. There is not a lot of counter space if your medium cannot be hung, but some space can be made available.

How do I get my product to CNMA?

The initial delivery will need to be to the CNMA main office at the visitor center. This will need to be coordinated with their representative.

Can I sell directly to the public?

While you are serving in the capacity of the Community Artist (in the park, presenting your community program, or joining park staff at events) you may not sell directly to the public. In the park or at NPS events, sales can only be made through CNMA. You can maintain your personal art business as normal and sell outside of this program. Visitors will ask you where they can purchase your work, so we suggest you carry business cards so they may contact you later and/or direct them to the park bookstore.

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If you have additional questions, please reach out to:

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