

Call to Artists: April 2026

“UpCycled 4: Reclaimed & Remembered – Honoring Veterans Through Recycled Art”

Presented by: **Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA)**

Sponsored by: **Florida Express Waste & Recycling**

Description of Exhibit: Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA) invites local and regional artists to participate in **UpCycled 4: Reclaimed & Remembered**, a special exhibition celebrating *America’s 250th Anniversary* through sustainable art and patriotic storytelling.

Artists are encouraged to create original works using repurposed, recycled, and/or found materials that reflect themes of patriotism, service, resilience, remembrance, and the American spirit. This one-month exhibition honors our veterans while highlighting the transformative power of creative reuse.

Reclaimed & Remembered will serve as both a creative celebration of sustainability and a meaningful tribute to those who have served our country, featuring artist statements that contextualize materials and message.

Upcycling: Upcycling, also known as creative reuse, transforms waste materials, unwanted items, and discarded objects into new creations of higher artistic and environmental value. Through this process, artists breathe new life into materials while encouraging environmental awareness and innovation.

Medium Requirements: There is no restriction on media type. All artwork must incorporate reusable, repurposed, recycled, or reclaimed materials—human-made or organic—including, but not limited to wood, metal, stone, glass, paper, fabric, and plastic.

Work may be 2D or 3D, including but not limited to painting, drawing, photography, mixed media, textiles, sculpture, assemblage, pottery, collage, metalwork, installation, or functional art.

All work must be structurally sound, and suitable for gallery display.

Who’s Eligible: Open to MCA Artist Members. (New members may join online at mcaocala.org/membership) Veterans, military families, and underserved artists are especially encouraged to apply.

Entry Guidelines:

- All entries must be submitted digitally through <https://MCAupcycled4.artcall.org> no later than **[Monday, March 23]** at midnight. No physical or mailed submissions will be accepted.

Artists must complete the online application and include:

- Artist’s Contact Information (Name, phone, address, email, social media/website)
- A brief statement for each submitted piece, including materials used and how the work relates to the exhibit theme
- High-resolution images in JPG, PNG, or PDF format showing the full piece, including frame

- Each artist may submit up to two (2) pieces for consideration. All work must be original. No giclée prints or reproductions will be accepted.
- Suggested size per piece is up to 48" in any direction. Oversized 2D work may be limited to one (1) submission.
- All 2D work must be gallery-ready, properly wired, framed, or on gallery-wrapped canvas. All 3D work must be fully assembled prior to acceptance.
- All accepted work must be for sale. Sales are split *70% to the artist and 30% to MCA*. MCA's proceeds support its mission to Champion, Convene, and Create opportunities for the arts in Marion County.
- Selection of work is at the discretion of the Gallery Director and Gallery Committee. MCA reserves the right to reject work that does not meet exhibition requirements or align with the intent of the exhibit.

IMPORTANT: Please review full Submission Guidelines & verify availability for listed dates before applying to this call.

Deadline for Submissions: Monday, March 23 (before midnight)

Status Notification: Friday, March 27 by 6pm (via ArtCall email)

Exhibit Dates & Location: April 3 – 25, 2026 at Brick City Center for the Arts (23 SW Broadway St.)

Drop-Off Date: Monday, March 30 (10am – 4pm)

Opening Reception: Friday, April 3 (5 – 6 pm: Artists' Reception* with local dignitaries and veteran speakers (*RSVP – Members, Artists & Invited Guests Only | 6 – 7 pm: Open Gallery for general guests (no RSVP required after 6pm))

Pick-Up Dates: Saturday, April 25 (11am – 4pm) & Monday, April 27 (10am – 4pm)

Contact: gallery@mcaocala.org or 352-369-1500 (during gallery hours)

Submission Guidelines for MCA Exhibits:

Calls to Artists: MCA will issue Calls to Artists 30-60 days prior to the deadline for submission. Calls will be issued through MCA's ArtCall platform, and posted on our website / social media accounts. Artists may also visit www.mcaocala.org/calls-to-artists to learn about upcoming shows and opportunities.

Subject Matter: All submitted pieces should not be offensive or controversial and must be suitable for a family-friendly gallery audience and public City building.

Media: MCA's exhibits are open to any media including, but by no means limited to traditional drawing, glass, printmaking, digital/new media, photography, sculpture, painting, installation, etc. If a piece requires special installation, the artist is responsible for all installation and providing all materials the piece may require.

Submission Dates: Submission dates are indicated in the *Call to Artists*. If you have questions, need clarification regarding dates or if you can't make any of the listed dates, please contact the Gallery Director immediately to establish alternatives.

Submission Format: Artists must register their work via ArtCall, along with *contact info, title of artwork, dimensions, price information and any additional required info*. Once approved by MCA, artists may bring in only pre-approved pieces of original art on the date listed in the Call to Artists. All pieces should include an Identification Card in the back with name, contact info and title of the piece. Suggested size per piece is up to 48" in any direction. However, if 2D artwork is oversized, please contact Gallery staff directly. Only one (1) submission will be considered (for group shows).

Limitations: All 2D work must be properly wired with suitable hanging mechanisms, and must be "gallery ready", either framed or created on a gallery wrapped canvas. If work is not gallery ready, it will *not* be accepted. All 3D work must be assembled by the artist before it is accepted. Artist is responsible for installing their 3D piece unless otherwise specified by Gallery Director. All work must be original, no giclee's or reproductions. Please do not re-submit work that has already been shown in a previous exhibit at The Brick City Center for the Arts Gallery or anywhere around Ocala. All work must be completed before submission. Any work that is not yet dry or incomplete will not be accepted.

All work that is shown must be for sale, split 70% to the artist and 30% to MCA. All work that is shown at 'The Brick' MUST be for sale, no exceptions.

Copyright: In order to promote the sale of art in the gallery, Marion Cultural Alliance requests your permission to use images of your art placed in our newsletter, website, social media sites, or any other promotional material including posters, banners, brochures, invitations, and postcards. The title of your work and your name will be included with each use of your image. Protection of intellectual property rights in the arts is of paramount importance to every artist. Therefore, Marion Cultural Alliance, Inc. MCA). reserves the right to reject and return

any piece that in the sole discretion of MCA would potentially infringe on any existing copyrights, trademarks, and trade dress.

Liability Notice: While every effort is made to handle all artwork with care, MCA and its staff/volunteers are not responsible for any damage or loss to artwork while on display, during installation, or in transit to/from/at Brick City Center for the Arts. Artists acknowledge to exhibit their work at their own risk and are encouraged to carry personal insurance for their pieces.

Shipping & Artwork Handling: MCA does not handle shipping of artwork unless specifically requested by the buyer. Artists are responsible for the timely delivery and pick-up of their work by the established dates. If an artist is unable to do so personally, they must arrange for a representative to handle it on their behalf. MCA is not responsible for storing, packing, or shipping artwork outside of these arrangements.

Post Show Pick Up: Accepted artwork must remain in the Gallery through the designated end of the show and must be picked up by the date established by the Gallery Director. If an Artist cannot make the pick-up dates, arrangements must be made with Gallery staff before the end of the show. Any work left at 'The Brick' for over 30 days without prior consent from the Gallery staff will be considered a donation and will become property of the Marion Cultural Alliance.

Exhibition Selection Process: Selection of work is at the discretion of the MCA Chief Arts Officer & the LILAC Foundation team. We reserve the right to reject work for the exhibition that does not meet the above requirements or does not match the intent of the exhibition. Artists will be notified via email after submission. If you wish to discuss further, please make an appointment by emailing gallerystaff@mcaocala.com.

