

## MCA's Block Party 2026: *Small Works, Big Impact.*

Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA) invites you to join us for our fifth annual **Block PARTY on Broadway** fundraiser at the *Brick City Center for the Arts* — a vibrant celebration of creativity, community, and the powerful impact of the arts.

This year's theme, **Small Works. Big Impact.**, highlights how 12x12" artworks can spark inspiration, fuel opportunity, and strengthen our cultural community. The exhibit will be on view from Friday, May 1 through Thursday, May 21, 2026, featuring original artwork created and generously donated by national, regional, and local artists, designers, local celebrities, students, and emerging creatives.

Each art block may be small in scale — but together, they create a bold and dynamic showcase of artistic expression. More importantly, each piece represents an investment in MCA's mission. Funds raised directly support cultural grants, exhibitions, arts education initiatives, artist opportunities, and year-round cultural programming that enrich Marion County.

The exhibit kicks off with a free and open-to-the-public **Opening & Awards Reception** on *Friday, May 1, 2026 from 5–7 p.m.* This event is free and open to main public.

Guests are invited to purchase tickets for the highly anticipated **Block PARTY VIP Drawing Event**, taking place on **Thursday, May 21, 2026 from 5–7 p.m.**

- One ticket: \$50 (non-MCA members are \$55)
- Two tickets: \$90 (non-members are \$100)
- Three tickets: \$135 (non-members are \$150)

**ONE TICKET = ONE ORIGINAL PAINTING!** Purchase your ticket(s) here: <https://onecau.se/ feqbh1>

Each ticket includes VIP access to the drawing event, hors d'oeuvres, libations, interactive experiences, and one entry into the official drawing. During the live drawing, tickets will be pulled at random, and guests will select their artwork in the order their names are called. By the end of the evening, every ticket holder will leave with an original 12x12" work of art — a small piece with a lasting impact. Remaining blocks will be available for purchase at \$75 each following the drawing.

**Block PARTY** is more than an art exhibit — it is a collective statement about the power of creativity. Small works. Big impact. One unforgettable night supporting the future of the arts in our community.

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### Entry Guidelines

- Artist participation is **FREE**. Each artist may claim up to three (3) 12x12" canvas to be completed in their medium of preference. Open to local, regional, and national artists of all levels and ages. Students and other creative participants are encouraged to participate.

- MCA will provide the blank 12x12” canvases, and these will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at The Brick during gallery hours from *February 14 through April 18*.
- Participating artists must sign a release form and return the completed piece by the established deadline, along with the Artist Participation form (*see last page*).
- All pieces will be **donated** and sold to benefit MCA and will be on display **May 1–21, 2026**.
- This is a juried exhibit. All participating artists will be competing to win up to \$500 in cash prizes awarded in the following categories:
  - *Best of Show* — \$250
  - *First Place* — \$150
  - *Second Place* — \$100
  - *Third Place* — \$50
- Awards & prizes will be presented during the Opening & Awards Reception on **Friday, May 1, 2026**.
- All work must be ORIGINAL. No giclées, reproductions, mass-produced kits, or stencil-based reproductions will be accepted.
- All claimed canvases must be completed and physically delivered (or mailed in) by **Monday, April 27, 2026 between 10am – 4pm**.
- Artists must follow the application process and include a completed & signed *Artist Entry Form* attached to the BACK of each piece (or ID card with contact information)
- By participating in this exhibit, each artist understands they will be DONATING their artwork(s) to Marion Cultural Alliance to raise funds for the gallery, its programs, and initiatives.

***NOTE: Acceptance into the exhibit is solely at the discretion of MCA. We reserve the right to reject work that does not meet the above requirements, submission process and/or gallery standards. Please refer to our FAQ’s, Timeline, and Gallery Standards for additional details.***

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**Timeline - *Please ensure you are available for the following dates:***

- **Canvas Pick-Up Dates:** February 14 – April 18, 2026 (during gallery hours) — *while supplies last!*
- **Deadline to Drop Off Completed Art:** Monday, April 27, 2026 (10 a.m.– 4 p.m.)  
*(If completed earlier, work may be delivered during regular gallery hours)*
- **Opening & Awards Reception:** Friday, May 1, 2026 (5–7 p.m.) — *Free and open to the public*
- **Block PARTY VIP Event:** Thursday, May 21, 2026 (5–7 p.m.) — *VIP ticket holders only*
- **Exhibit Dates:** May 1 – 21, 2026 during MCA gallery hours

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**Location:** The Brick City Center for the Arts (23 SW Broadway St. Ocala, FL 34471)

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Saturday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Closed Sunday & Monday  
*(please contact to confirm availability)*

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**Contact -** Marion Cultural Alliance | [gallery@mcaocala.com](mailto:gallery@mcaocala.com) | 352-369-1500

## Gallery Standards and Requirements to Exhibit at The Brick:

**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.

**Subject Matter:** This exhibit is open to all themes, styles, and media. Please note: 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 piece requires special installation, the artist is responsible for all installation and providing all materials the piece may require.

**Submission Format:** Artists must register in person when picking up blank blocks (canvas). Once the art is completed, artists may deliver the finished piece(s) anytime during gallery hours **before April 27, 2026**. Each finished piece should include an Artist Entry Form (or ID card) in the back with artist's name, contact info, suggested price and medium used. If your piece involves electronics, or an unusual installation that requires unique hardware to hang safely, please include it along with any specific instructions or contact us to discuss options. Missing information may result in disqualification. If you have any specific questions, please contact MCA at 352-369-1500 immediately.

**Limitations:** All 2D work weighing more than provided canvas, must be properly wired to support its weight with suitable hanging mechanisms. All work must be "gallery ready" and must include any hardware and specific instructions required for installation. If work is not gallery-ready, it will NOT be accepted. All 3D work must be assembled by the artist before it is accepted. All work must be original, no giclee's, reproductions or creations using mass-produced kits. 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.

**Selection Process:** Selection of work for participation is at the discretion of the Gallery Director & Gallery Advisory Committee. 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 exhibit. 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. If you wish to discuss further, please make an appointment with staff by sending us an email.

**Shipping:** If shipping your art, please note the artist is responsible for shipping costs to and from The Brick City Center for the Arts by the established deadline. Specific shipping and labeling details can be requested from MCA. Any artwork received past the deadline will be automatically disqualified.

**Art Pick Up (N/A):** There is no pickup date for participating artists. By participating in this exhibit, each artist understands they will be DONATING their blocks (works) to Marion Cultural Alliance to raise funds for the gallery, its programs, and initiatives. All artworks must remain in the Gallery through the end of the show. Unsold or unclaimed artworks will be kept by MCA, unless requested by the artist.

**Liability:** MCA's Gallery Director takes great care in handling artworks for each exhibition. MCA is not liable for any damage that may occur. 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. 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.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) – For Participating Artists

### Q. *Why Should I Participate?*

A. Each participant will be supporting MCA's mission, its programs, and initiatives. Each participating artist will receive an invitation to the opening & awards reception on **May 1<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm at Brick City Center for the Arts** and be a part of the festivities (NOTE: *Artist participation does NOT include a ticket for the art drawing on May 21*). Exhibiting artists will have a chance to win up to \$250 cash prizes and ribbons, awarded by our judge, a renowned local arts leader.

### Q. *How does it work?*

A. MCA will be hosting the Block pARTy VIP reception on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm at Brick City Center for the Arts (23 SW Broadway St) and includes VIP access to the show, a ticket for the drawing, hors d'oeuvres, open bar, interactive art activities, photo ops, and live music. Our supporters will pay to attend the reception; purchase of a ticket entitles each guest to participate in a drawing. Tickets will be drawn at random, and participants will be able to select their artwork in the order their tickets are called. Exhibit sponsors will have first selection during opening night. All artworks are to remain on display through the end of the exhibition. Artworks not sold during the reception will be available for purchase throughout the month at a higher price. The exhibit ends Saturday, June 21, 2025.

### Q. *How do we get started?*

A. Canvases must be **claimed in person** at Brick City Center for the Arts *during regular gallery hours* between **February 14 and April 18, 2026**, while supplies last (100 available on a first-come, first-served basis).

If you are unable to stop by immediately, you may call or email ahead to reserve a canvas and schedule a specific date and time for pick-up during gallery hours.

### Q. *Can I still participate even if I'm not a professional artist?*

A. YES! Anyone can create a block! There is no fee to participate. We are looking for professional artists, as well as emerging artists, students, designers, creators, local celebrities, hidden gems, pleasant surprises, and more working in any artistic medium and style, established anywhere in the US.

### Q. *If I claim a canvas, do I have to submit a painting/artwork?*

A. **Yes**. Please consider that if you claim a canvas and can't make the work by the established deadline, you may be taking the chance away from someone else, therefore the number of people who can participate in this fundraiser. If by any chance you cannot complete your work by the established deadline, please contact us *as soon as possible*.

### Q. *How many works can I submit?*

A. Each participant may claim up to **three (3) blank canvases** and can submit these as separate artworks or as a series. The final size of your piece(s) should be no larger than the block we provided (12x12 inches). Each block will be displayed separately.

### Q. *What other information should be included with the artwork(s)?*

A. All submitted works must be clearly labeled on the back with your *NAME, EMAIL and MEDIUM*, or a completed Artist Entry Form. When picking up your canvas, MCA staff will provide each participant with a copy of the *Artist Entry Form*, which must be submitted along with the finished piece. If submitting abstract work or a series, please indicate which side is up and/or the sequence of the artworks.

### Q. *Should I include hanging instructions and hardware?*

A. Yes – but only if your piece is heavier than 5lbs, involves electronics, or an unusual installation that requires unique hardware to hang safely. If the piece is too heavy and/or requires wiring, please include it along with any specific instructions, or contact us to discuss options. Please note: ***all works should be completed, dry and ready to hang UNFRAMED as one large grid installation.***

### Q. *When is the last day to drop off my art?*

A. Drop off deadline for finished artworks is Monday, April 27 between 10am - 4pm. However, if your artwork is completed before then, feel free to deliver it anytime during gallery hours. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any artworks delivered AFTER this date, unless previously discussed with and approved by the Gallery Director.

### Q. *When is pick-up date?*

A. There is no pickup date. All artworks will have a new home by the end of the month or will be saved for future MCA fundraisers. We appreciate your participation and support!

***For specific questions and/or concerns, please contact MCA at your earliest convenience.***

**MCA ARTIST ENTRY FORM**



ARTIST CONTACT INFORMATION FOR BLOCK PARTY FUNDRAISER

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES / WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

MCA Member? \_\_\_\_\_

**By participating**, you agree to donate a square foot of original art to Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA) to be sold during the Block Party event during the month of May 2026. Participant understands that the art will be used for fund-raising purposes and that it may be photographed in promotional material for the event. 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. \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, I understand.**

\*Signed \_\_\_\_\_ \*Date \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF PIECE (*Optional*): \_\_\_\_\_

\*MEDIUM: \_\_\_\_\_

\*SUGGESTED PRICE: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF ARTIST BIO (*OPTIONAL*):

**IMPORTANT: DEADLINE TO DELIVER FINISHED ARTWORK(S) IS Monday, April 27, 2026 (10AM – 4PM)**

**PRINT & FILL THIS SHEET, AND BRING ALONG WITH FINISHED ARTWORK(s) DURING GALLERY HOURS TO:**

Brick City Center for the Arts | 23 SW Broadway Street, Ocala, FL 34471

Gallery Hours: Tues. – Fri. 10am – 4:30pm, Sat. 11am – 4pm. Sun & Mon: *CLOSED*

(OR EMAIL THIS FORM TO MCA: [gallery@mcaocala.com](mailto:gallery@mcaocala.com))

**Assigned Number:**