Exhibition Proposal Guide

Anton Art Center of Mount Clemens, Michigan, Since 1969

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About the Anton Art Center

The Art Center was founded in 1969 and remains housed in the original registered historic Carnegie Library building built in 1904, located in the seat of Macomb County in Mount Clemens, Michigan. The nonprofit became known as the Anton Art Center in 2005 following a major renovation, expanding the space with a new addition to the south side of the building. In 2024, the Anton Art Center celebrates fifty-five years as Macomb County's leading nonprofit art organization.

Our mission is to provide access to experiences that enrich all people through creative expression with a vision to be the Center of creativity. The Anton Art Center hosts regular open call exhibitions each year, such as the prestigious *Michigan Annual*, a juried, all-media competition held for Michigan artists, as well as K-12 student art shows that showcase the work of youth artists across Macomb County. The organization also partners with local artist groups, such as the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors, the Lakeside Palette Club of St. Clair Shores, the Birmingham Society of Women Painters, the Mount Clemens Art Association, the Romeo Guild of Art, the Shelby Township Fine Art Society, the Warren Tri-County Fine Arts Association, Inc, and others.

The Anton Art Center serves over 16,000 visitors each year offering a variety of around ten professional art exhibits and over forty youth and adult art classes. We have a network of active volunteers, a hard-working staff, as well as enthusiastic support from our board of trustees. Our primary programs are exhibitions, education, gift shop, and special events.

Admission to the galleries is free and open to the public year-round; donations are accepted and appreciated. Parking is available by street or metered lot, which is free on weekends. Our building is handicap accessible with designated handicap parking and an operating elevator. The building is open for regular business hours, Tuesday through Saturday from 10am-5pm and select Sundays.

Our History

When The Art Center was first established in the historic Carnegie Library Building, the organization's 'founding mothers' (Bea Wright, Gretchen Thompson, and Phyllis Wickens) shared a vision to provide art classes for the community's youth and establish a showcase for work by local artists. Art classes began being offered in the basement without delay, as volunteers worked to renovate the main level and prepare gallery spaces to show artwork. The first exhibit at The Art Center loaned to Macomb County's new artistic venue by the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1970 was titled *Mother and Child*. It was a prolific beginning for what would become one of the community's most ambitious and culturally nurturing institutions, committed to improving quality of life through access to the arts and the life-affirming gifts they have to offer.

Thanks to efforts by Gebran and Suzanne Anton, the facility was expanded through a $1.7 million renovation and addition construction completed in 2005. In appreciation, the Board of Trustees voted to adopt a new name: Anton Art Center. Through the efforts of dedicated community members over fifty years later, the nonprofit has become the largest and longest-standing arts and exhibiting organization in Macomb County. Its programming is designed to appeal to all ages and backgrounds and provides experiences that sustain personal growth through a better understanding and appreciation of the arts. These are the experiences that have the potential to be life changing.

The arts have a strong presence in Macomb County, with the Anton Art Center among the top contributors. Over the last few years, public art programs have grown across the county, new arts commissions have been founded, and greater attention is being paid to the importance of arts in education, health, and wellness. Our programs bring art experiences to thousands of people each year and help local artists earn annually earn income from their work. Considering our annual expenditure in combination with visitor-ship and its positive spillover into

surrounding downtown Mount Clemens, we estimate that the Anton Art Center contributes nearly $1 million to the local economy each year.

When The Art Center was first established, one of its key purposes was to provide arts experiences to the community's youth through classes and summer art programs. We proudly continue this educational tradition today, though we've expanded our offerings to all ages. Increasingly, we can provide access to the arts to minorities, senior citizens, and the impoverished: members of society whose lives are bereft of art and its message of hope. After 55 years, our programming has expanded to include public art projects, musical performances, offsite engagements, greater outreach to partner organizations in the area to increase arts access, and advocacy of art and artists across the region.

Recent projects have brought new murals to downtown Mount Clemens, convened a broad swath of community stakeholders for workshops in creative thinking and problem solving, and engaged new audiences through free and interactive arts experiences. Targeted programs have provided art enrichment in Mount Clemens Schools and throughout our community at a variety of public festivals and gatherings. Today, our mission has evolved to provide access to experiences that enrich all people through creative expression, guided by a vision to be the Center of creativity. More than ever, the Anton Art Center is working to elevate the arts and engage our community in both its appreciation and its creation.

Galleries & Exhibitions

Exhibitions at the Anton Art Center are held in three indoor gallery spaces: the Level 1 Gallery, History Gallery, and Level 2 Gallery. Outdoor artwork may be exhibited outside the building adjacent to the center in the Richard & Jane Manoogian Art Park. Additionally, we often partner with other local public locations for limited exhibition programs.

The first level is home to two gallery spaces: the Level 1 Gallery consists of a collection of four open rooms with the History Gallery in an adjoining wing. The second level is home to our third gallery space, Level 2 Gallery. Proposals may be for one or a combination of the galleries.

The exhibition committee accepts exhibition proposal submissions for review year-round. If selected, the committee will reach out to set plans. Applications are kept on file for an array of exhibition and artist opportunities that may arise. The exhibition space is limited and scheduled between one to three years or so in advance. Exhibitions are on display between 4-8 weeks, depending on the seasonal schedule. The first level and history wing displays typically run at the same time, though the exhibits are not required to be thematically paired.

Notable recent exhibit partners include: the Michigan League of Handweavers, the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors, Mighty Real/Queer Detroit, Birmingham Society of Women Painters, Michigan Silversmith Guild, Colored Pencil Society of America, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Michigan Water Color Society, N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Turning Point Macomb, Sculptors Guild of Michigan, Great Lakes Pastel Society, and more.

Exhibit Philosophy: We welcome all media to our space, with advance notice required on all site-specific works (electrical, installation, new media, kinetic, works larger than 50 inches, etc.). We do not exhibit work that has a strong, harmful, or offensive scent and/or fumes; toxic, radioactive, leaking, or wet components; or any otherwise damaging or hazardous materials deemed unsafe to handle and/or observe within arm's length for our staff and the public. Auditory work must have accessible volume control. The Anton Art Center reserves the right to final interpretation to these rules at any time.

First Level Floor Plan

Level 1 Gallery: ‘St. Aubin’ (#108), ‘Jeannette’ (#109), ‘Kiwanis’ (#112), ‘Willey’ (#107)

History Gallery: ‘Boll’ (#106)

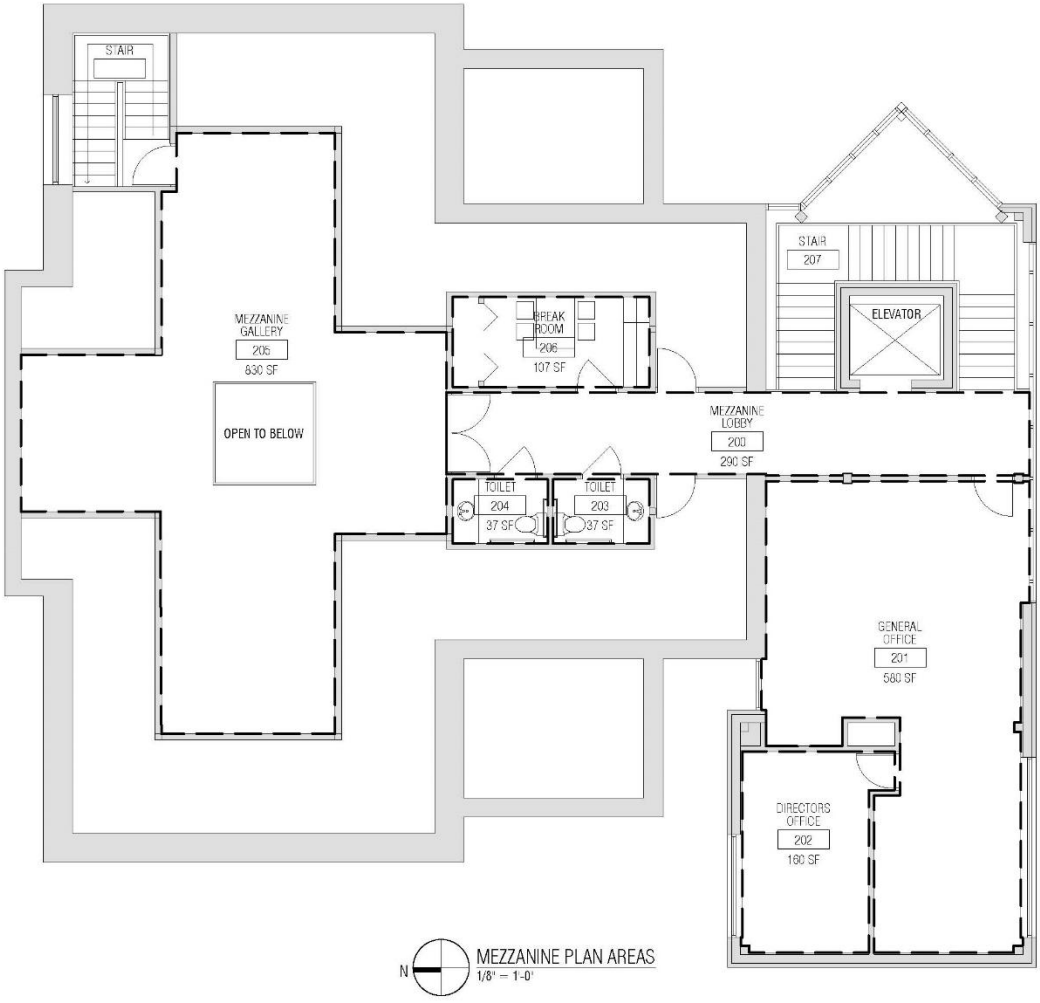
Notes: Square footage is noted per room. Ceiling heights vary by room between 9 to 15 feet.



Second Level Floor Plan

Second Level Community Gallery: 'Petitpren' (#205)

Notes: Gallery measures 830 square feet. Ceiling height varies between 7 to 8 feet.



History Gallery (Boll)

Level 1

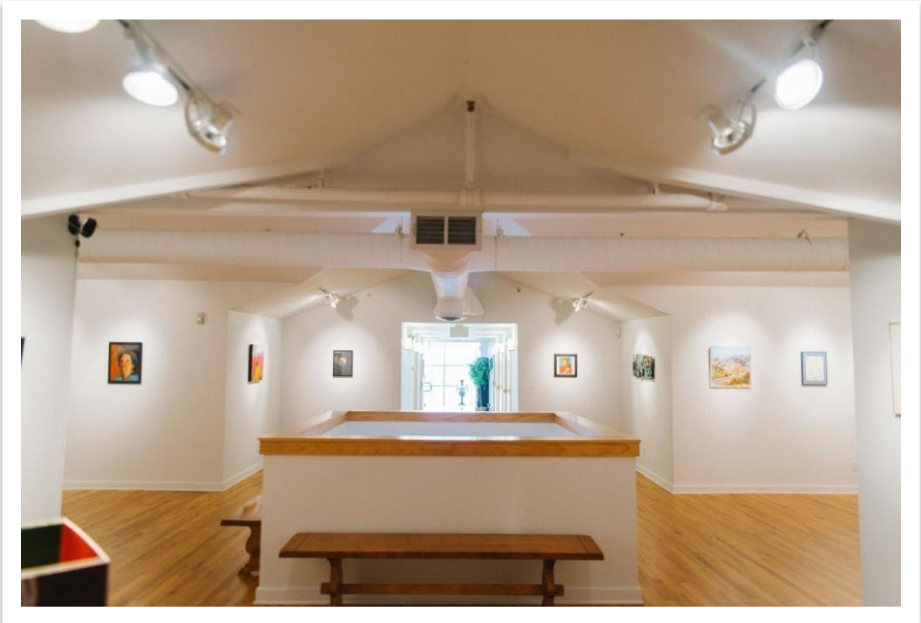




Second Level Gallery (Petitpren)

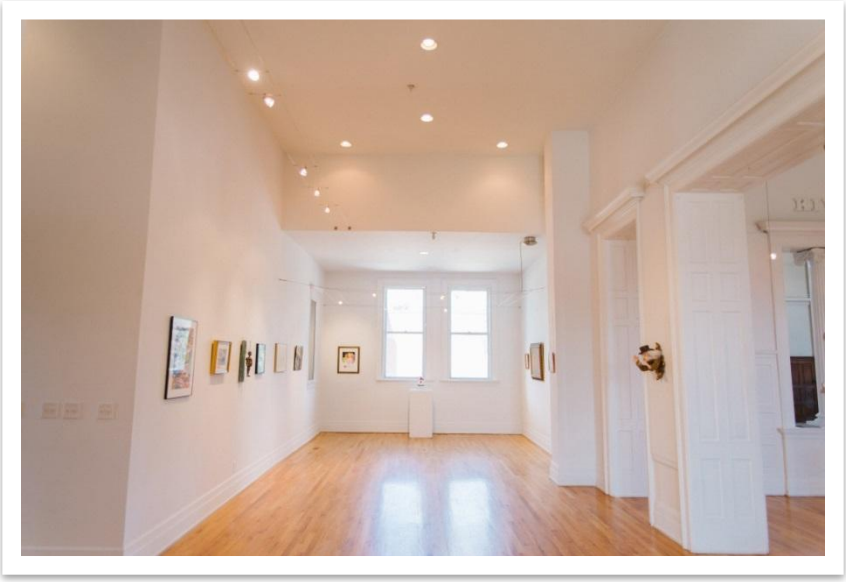
Level 2





First Level Gallery (Wiley)

Level 1



First Level Gallery (Kiwanis)

Level 1



First Level Gallery (Jeannette)

Level 1



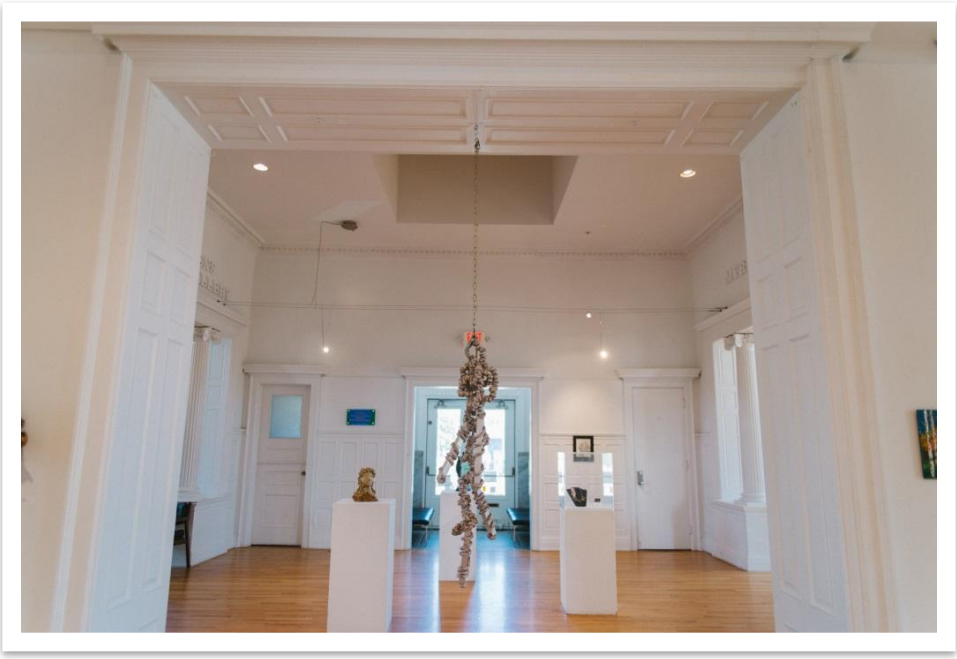
First Level Gallery (St. Aubin)

Level 1



First Level Gallery (Jeannette)

Level 1



Exhibition Proposal/Portfolio Submission Form

Group Name (if applicable):_____

Exhibit Title (if applicable): _____

Contact Name: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Other: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Desired Date(s): _____ or ☐ Open to available dates

Desired Location(s): ☐ On site indoors ☐ On site outdoors ☐ Offsite indoors ☐ Open to available space

Artwork media, sizes, etc.: _____

Approximate number of available artworks: _____ or ☐ Open to meet gallery capacity

Brief exhibition description, summary, and/or other: (☐ Check here and attach additional pages, if needed)

_____

Artist name(s): (☐ Check here to attach additional pages, if needed)

_____

Please select exhibit type: ☐ Juried and/or Members ☐ Curated ☐ Solo ☐ Other: _____

Please attach additional pages, if available (check all that apply):

☐ Artist Statement(s) ☐ Artist Biography(s) ☐ Artist CV(s) ☐ Website(s) ☐ Artist/Member List

☐ Artwork Image(s) ☐ Group History and/or Description ☐ Additional Contact Information

☐ Exhibition Description/Summary ☐ Other: _____

Thank you for your interest! Submit to Anton Art Center Exhibition Manager, Stephanie Hazzard, at sahazzard@theartcenter.org or Anton Art Center, Attn. Exhibitions, 125 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens, MI 48043

(586) 469-8666 | www.theartcenter.org | GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00AM-5:00PM
ADMISSION: Free and open to the public. Donations are accepted and appreciated.
PARKING: Metered parking via kiosk or ParkMobile app at 50 cents/hour. Free after 6pm and weekends.
ACCESSIBILITY: Our building is handicap accessible with designated handicap parking and elevator.