CALL FOR ARTISTS

Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Artists

Request for Proposals: Indigenous Artwork for the Thousand Springs Visitor Center Permanent Exhibits

The National Park Service and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with the Shoshone-Paiute and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, invite Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute artists to submit proposals for original artwork to be incorporated into the permanent exhibits at the Thousand Springs Visitor Center in Hagerman, Idaho.

The Thousand Springs Visitor Center serves as a gateway for visitors exploring the natural and cultural history of southern Idaho. Bringing together multiple agencies and perspectives, the permanent exhibits explore the region's diverse stories, from the influence of water and the area's unique geology to Pliocene-era fossils and the shared human history of the landscape. Together, these exhibits highlight the interconnected relationships between people, water, wildlife, and the natural environment, spanning millions of years and continuing into the present day.

For millennia, Indigenous people have maintained deep cultural, spiritual, and practical connections to the Snake River and its surrounding landscapes. These connections are reflected in traditional knowledge, stories, relationships with the land and water, and ways of life that continue today.

The goal of this project is to bring Indigenous perspectives into the visitor experience through original artwork that reflects these relationships and helps visitors develop a deeper appreciation for the cultural significance of the Hagerman Valley.

Selected artwork will be digitally incorporated into permanent interpretive exhibit panels throughout the visitor center. Artists are encouraged to consider how their work can complement interpretive content, contribute to the overall exhibit experience, and provide visitors with a meaningful visual connection to Indigenous perspectives.

Artist Opportunities

Two artists will be selected to contribute original artwork to the permanent exhibits:

- One artist who is an enrolled member or descendant of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.
- One artist who is an enrolled member or descendant of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

Each selected artist will receive **$1,250 in compensation** for their completed artwork.

Proposal Ideas and Considerations

Artists are encouraged to propose original artwork that reflects Indigenous perspectives, cultural connections, and relationships with the Hagerman Valley region. Proposals may include, but are not limited to:

1. **Landscape and Place-Based Artwork:** Artwork inspired by the Snake River, Thousand Springs, Hagerman Fossil Beds, surrounding landscapes, native plants, wildlife, and the cultural significance of these places.
2. **Cultural Connections and Traditional Knowledge:** Visual representations of Indigenous relationships with the land and water, traditional lifeways, seasonal practices, food gathering, fishing, travel, and other cultural connections.
3. **Contemporary Indigenous Perspectives:** Original artwork that expresses the continuing presence, identity, experiences, and perspectives of Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute people.
4. **Patterns, Designs, and Visual Storytelling:** Artwork incorporating traditional or contemporary artistic styles, patterns, symbolism, or storytelling elements that contribute to the interpretation of Indigenous connections to the region.
5. **Other Creative Approaches:** Artists are welcome to submit other concepts that support the goals of the project and contribute to a meaningful representation of Indigenous perspectives.

Exhibit Design Considerations

Because selected artwork will be incorporated into permanent interpretive panels, proposals should consider the following:

- Artwork must be suitable for digital reproduction and integration into exhibit panel designs.
- Artists should describe the artistic style, medium, and overall theme of their proposed work.
- Artwork should be designed with space available for interpretive text, photographs, maps, or other exhibit elements. Artwork does not need to fill the entire panel.
- Artists should consider composition, color, scale, and placement to ensure their work complements written interpretive content without competing with it.
- Artists should explain how their proposed artwork could be digitized, reproduced, or adapted for use in the exhibit panels.

Artists working in traditional or contemporary mediums are welcome. The final artwork must be available in a high-quality digital format suitable for large-scale reproduction.

Who May Apply?

Visual artists and creatives age 18 and older who are enrolled members or descendants of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes or Shoshone-Paiute Tribes are invited to apply.

Artists working in any medium or style are encouraged to submit proposals, including but not limited to painters, illustrators, graphic artists, photographers, printmakers, and mixed-media artists.

How to Apply

Proposals must be received no later than **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**.

Selected artists will be notified by **Monday, December 7, 2026.** Selected artists should plan to submit their completed artwork in **early January 2027**. A specific submission deadline will be established in coordination with the selected artists.

Please include the following:

- **Artist Statement/Cover Letter:** A brief introduction describing your artistic background, connection to the region, and interest in participating in this project.
- **Proposed Artwork Concept:** A description of the style, theme, medium, and subject matter of your proposed artwork. Explain how your concept reflects Indigenous perspectives and supports the goals of the Thousand Springs Visitor Center exhibits.
- **Exhibit Integration:** A description of how your artwork could be digitally reproduced and incorporated into interpretive exhibit panels. Please consider composition, available space for text and images, and any potential adaptations needed for exhibit use.
- **Work Samples:** Examples of previous artwork. Applicants may submit up to 10 images of their work in JPEG or PNG format.
- **Resume or Artist Biography:** A brief overview of your artistic experience, background, and relevant qualifications.

Selection Process

Two artists will be selected through a review process conducted by a panel of National Park Service and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation staff. One artist will be selected to represent the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and one to represent the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Artistic merit and originality.
- Connection to Indigenous perspectives and the cultural significance of the Thousand Springs region.
- Appropriateness of the proposed artwork to the goals and interpretive themes of the permanent exhibits.
- Suitability of the artwork for digital reproduction and integration into exhibit panels.
- Overall quality and feasibility of the proposed concept.

Applicants will be notified of selection decisions following the review process.

Compensation and Artwork Use

Each selected artist will receive $1,250 for their completed artwork. Selected artists will coordinate with project representatives to ensure the final artwork meets the technical and design requirements for incorporation into the permanent exhibits.

The selected artwork will become part of the Thousand Springs Visitor Center's permanent interpretive exhibits and will be used to help visitors understand and appreciate Indigenous perspectives and cultural connections to the region.

The artists of the selected artwork will retain copyright to their original artwork while granting the National Park Service, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe permission to reproduce and display it in physical and digital exhibits and publications used for the Thousand Springs Visitor Center and for tribal educational and interpretive purposes.

For More Information or to Submit a Proposal

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We look forward to receiving proposals that celebrate the creativity, perspectives, and enduring cultural connections of Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute artists.