



Gateway National Recreation Area, Jamaica Bay Unit Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY

Gateway Seeks Artists to Exhibit

Gateway National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) seeks artists to create exhibits for its gallery at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (JBWR). The gallery is a large open room with two long walls (one, 27 feet by 80" high, the second, 25 feet, by 80" high). These walls have a hanging system that must be used for the display of two dimensional works; no nails, screws fixtures or devices may be attached to the walls. A third wall, 26 feet, by 3'11" feet, with a bulletin board surface may be used for smaller works, where push pins may be used for hanging. The gallery is well lit.

Location

JBWR is located at 175-10 Cross Bay Boulevard, Howard Beach, Queens. It is accessible for all and served by the MTA Buses Q52 and Q53, and the A train, open daily from 9 to 5.

Works of art, photographs, paintings, sculpture; other media, including digital

Works on paper, canvas, board including photographs, paintings, (oil, acrylic, watercolor, mixed media) are appropriate for display. Three dimensional works of sculpture in various media are also suitable. Exhibits in other media, including digital and hi-tech, may be used. All works displayed need to be of size and dimension to be appropriate for the space. This clip shows the space with a show: <http://queens.ny1.com/content/news/175955/exhibit-to-show-gateway-national-park-before-and-after-sandy>

Subject matter, themes and stories

Exhibits should tell the story of Gateway National Recreation Area and its interpretive themes:

Please see details of these themes below.

- The Natural Wonders, Dynamics and Challenges of an Urban Estuary
- Two Centuries of National Defense
- Maritime Heritage
- Recreation and Education: Quality of Life for All Visitors

In addition to these main themes told by the park other themes and stories are possible, including:

- Birds, mammals, sea life, critters and botany of Gateway: Nature against the backdrop of New York City
- Visitors enjoying and exploring Gateway, or other National Park units, especially demonstrating cultural ethnic mix.
- Communities surrounding the park, especially demonstrating cultural and ethnic mix
- Sustainable design, meteorology, cartography and geographic information will also be considered

Other stories and themes may be told following these guidelines. Each proposal will be considered individually, and may be submitted to the committee for approval. Proposals for abstract works may be submitted.

Note that the NPS seeks shows that tell a story, have a coherent theme, and hang together as a unit. Collections of works of any media that are "snapshot albums," notebook sketches, or collections of "Sunday paintings" are not permitted. Also, the exhibit space is for families, so any images or works referring to off-color or controversial ideas, have profanity, nudity or violence in the subject matter will not be approved. All works for exhibit must be of the highest caliber and standard, such as would be created for a senior, graduate or professional show. We are looking for significant work that has a theme and is visually striking and memorable.

How it works and what to do

Artists who are interested in exhibiting must present an abstract with five to ten representative images/works including the interpretive theme or story to be told, to the committee. Upon review the NPS will indicate whether it wishes to proceed with a full exhibit. Solo presenters or groups may apply. If the show is accepted all works must be reviewed and are subject to the prior approval of the NPS (smaller images may be submitted) to exhibiting in the NPS space. The NPS does not pay for any materials for the creation, mounting, framing or display of any works. All costs for the exhibit, and its production and promotion as well as a reception, if desired, must be borne by the artists.

The NPS will provide hanging mechanisms for the display of two dimensional works, but all frames, mounts, pedestals and the like are to be provided by the artists.

Exhibit period will be approximately two months, and the installation and removal must be done during regular working hours of 9-5. The installation and removal dates will be arranged for each exhibit. All works must be removed at the conclusion of the exhibit period. The NPS will not acquire any works of art whether by gift, sale or purchase.

Exhibitors may have an opening reception on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon for a period of two or three hours but everything must be cleaned up by 5pm. Refreshments may be served; all food and beverage (no alcohol is permitted) must be provided by the artist as well as all clean-up which must be completed by 5pm.

The sale of works on NPS property is prohibited. The presentation of a show does not include the sale of any works. Prices of works may not be exhibited. Exhibits are presented as interpretive, educational, experiences presented for the visiting public Artists may leave business card and/or flyer with contact information for visitors who may wish to contact with the artist.

Marketing and promotion of the exhibit

The NPS will assist with the marketing and promotion of the exhibit and opening, but the artists need to do promotion and bring their audience and following. The use of social media, Facebook and Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, is appropriate and the artists are encouraged to make full use for promotion.

The exhibitors who are chosen will receive:

- New York City exhibit for two months at public gallery
- Exhibit presented by the National Park Service
- No fees for gallery for exhibiting
- Marketing and promotion for the opening and show; possible media exposure
- Opening event and reception
- Many great photo opportunities
- Great addition to any resume

Who should apply?

This is a great opportunity for a first exhibit outside of a student's institution. Artists wishing to present works prior to juried shows will find this a useful venue. Photographers and photo journalists wishing to try their hand at telling a story and find their voice will profit from this experience. Artists experimenting with new or different media may wish to apply. And it is a great opportunity to work out a show from start to finish, exploring a theme or story, create, mount and display all the work, and promote the opening and show and take it down. Great resume builder. Applicants need have no formal affiliation with a school; we are looking for work of significance and merit that tells a story that is compatible with our mission as an NPS unit.

How to apply

Initial query by email: Contact: Charles.Markis@nps.gov, Committee Lead, for more information. Please provide exhibit concept, medium, with theme or story to be explored, five digital images, your resume and contact information.

Interpretive Themes for Gateway NRA (Stories told by the park's resources and history)

The Natural Wonders, Dynamics & Challenges of an Urban Estuary

The natural resources of Gateway are remarkably diverse given their location in the nation's most densely populated urban area. The mosaic of coastal habitats is a refuge for both rich and rare plant and animal life intrinsically governed by the rhythms, processes and cycles of nature, yet, continually shaped by people and the surrounding build environment. These resources provide unique and surprising opportunities for experiencing the wilderness of the natural world while within the nation's largest metropolitan region, and a model for studying, managing and restoring urban ecosystems.

Two Centuries of National Defense

For over two hundred years, places in Gateway were critical to the defense of New York Harbor and played a significant role in the development of the military technologies and strategies used to protect our nation. The changing nature of our national defense reveals stories of triumph, struggle, and everyday life, as well as the contrast of innovation and obsolescence. Today the remaining fortifications, structures and historic landscapes are a visible reminder of the importance of preparedness and defense then and now.

Maritime Heritage

Since the days of European exploration and colonization, Sandy Hook has played an important role in facilitating navigation and commerce in and out of New York Harbor. Its maritime resources illustrate the evolution of navigational aids and coastal rescue, in part via the oldest lighthouse in the US, one of the original life-saving stations built by the federal government, historic United States Coast Guard structures, and a relatively safe natural harbor that has provided refuge to generations of mariners. Dedicated and heroic individuals ensured that this beacon served to guide ships in all seasons under all conditions.

Recreation & Education: Quality of Urban Life for All Visitors

The human need for recreation and renewal has resulted in an evolving history of traditional and innovative uses of the park's lands and waters to improve the quality of urban life. Intrinsically connected to the diverse population of the New York metropolitan area, Gateway's resources provide unique opportunities for outdoor recreation and rejuvenation in a densely populated and largely impacted metropolitan area. It is an outdoor laboratory for learning and discovery, where academic facts and knowledge can be observed in real settings. The park's open spaces and wide horizons offer opportunities for source based recreation as well as contemplation and reflection.