

Call to Artists – My Dream Community

At the Arizona Housing Coalition, we know the path to ending homelessness and obtaining safe, affordable homes for all Arizonans requires innovation, connection, community, and creativity. We are calling on visual artists within the Coalition community to participate in an art exhibit during the Coalition’s 2023 Annual Conference at the Mesa Convention Center on February 28 and March 1, using visual art (e.g., clay, oil, acrylic, photo, textiles, etc.) to depict your dream community.

What’s in it for you?

You get to share your talent and **Dream Community** with more than 500 housing advocates at the Annual Conference, with an invitation to speak about your piece at a special reception on day one of the conference, February 28.

Artists selected for the exhibit will receive a \$100 gift card to purchase materials. The exhibit will include a silent auction, and any proceeds above \$100 from sale of a piece will go directly to the artist. This exhibit will be curated by Art Advisor Meera Norris. Artist submissions will be reviewed by Meera and the Arizona Housing Coalition.

Timeline

November 28	Applications due
December 1	Selected artists notified
February 1	Art pieces due
February 28/March 1	Exhibit

Criteria for Selection

- Artists with lived experience of homelessness and/or serving those experiencing homelessness
- Excellence of work
- Ability to communicate the exhibition theme
- Diversity of projects (geography within Arizona, media, organization, etc.)

Link to Application: azhousingcoalition.org/artists

Questions can be directed to Ashleigh Towse: ashleigh@azhousingcoalition.org

"If you asked a stadium full of people to close their eyes and imagine what the American Dream means to them, a large percentage of the crowd would be thinking of a home. Different homes, no doubt. A ranch house in the suburbs, a fortieth-floor condominium in Manhattan, a one-bedroom apartment in a new country where the kids will get a shot that the parents never had. A home is rarely just a roof over our heads. It's a roof in a bright city, or a neighborhood near work and family, close to a freeway or train stop, with parks and a stretch of water, maybe a street full of shops and restaurants. A good school, a field to plow, a welcoming church, a Sunday drum circle. Home is a private space, and yet it's the community of work and social life that determines where we want it. It's the dream of being as close as possible to the lives we wish to have."

---From *Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America*, by Conor Dougherty