



CALL FOR ARTISTS

2025 EXHIBITION

Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

BACKGROUND

Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to maintain a living museum for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of all people. Our organization will develop **Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden**, a seasonal outdoor exhibit for onsite display in 2025 -2026 that blends tree science with artistic interpretation of the concept of “roots” both literally and figuratively. The exhibit will feature artworks submitted by Illinois-based artists in order to comprise the exhibit itself. The exhibition will include interpretive signs that will combine educational content with narrative expression by artists related to the respective pieces chosen for inclusion.

Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden is funded by:

- The Community Grants Program of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, with support provided by The Dr. Courtney J. and Margaret Hutchins Hamlin Family Fund
- The Creative Catalyst Grant Program of the Illinois Arts Council
- The Smith Charitable Foundation

For more information regarding Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden, please visit www.klehm.org to learn more about the site’s history, facilities, and our 501c3 organization.

LOCATION

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden is 155 acres in size and is located at 2715 S. Main St. in Rockford, Illinois. This location is in the southwest portion of the city, approximately 2 miles south of downtown and 1.5 miles north of US Highway 20. Our organization serves the entire Northern Illinois region, including Winnebago, Boone, Stephenson and Ogle counties in Illinois, while also

servicing as a tourist destination for visitors from across the United States and international countries. It is anticipated that over 30,000 visitors will be served by this project.

PROJECT SCOPE AND REQUIREMENTS of PUBLIC ART

A total of 8 artworks will be selected for inclusion in **Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden**. Interpretive signage will be developed by our organization that will explain and illustrate educational concepts regarding the science of tree and plant roots (“The Science”), in most instances relating to some aspect located within the visitor’s immediate field of view, while also providing content related to artist’s own interpretation of the theme “Roots” and the artwork itself (“The Art”). “Roots” may be interpreted by artists to depict tree or plant based aspects, cultural origins, conceptual beginnings, historical elements or other context of the Rockford community itself, or any number of concepts as put forth by the artist that relate to the theme.

Artworks approved for this exhibition will be displayed outdoors for a period of approximately one year, beginning no later than June 7, 2025 and continuing until May 30, 2026. Artworks shall be installed in select locations along paved, accessible paths at the facility.

Artists shall propose, via submission, to provide artworks from their existing collections or to create original artworks created specifically for this exhibit in relation to the theme “Roots”.

All Artists shall be Illinois-based, and Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden shall require proof of such residency and/or business incorporation status as a component of each submission.

Works are required to be created in any durable media, resistant to outdoor elements (rain, wind, snow, sun, etc) and conditions (heat, cold, humidity, etc). Works must withstand weather elements of the upper Midwest climate and general conditions inherent in an outdoor display. Works will not be stanchioned off from visitors, although protective signage may be installed at the artist’s request (“Do Not Climb”, “Please Do Not Touch”, etc).

Works should not have sharp edges or be an endangerment to the public and subject matter/content must be appropriate for all ages. Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden strives to serve as Northern Illinois’ Top Outdoor Destination for Families.

The Selection & Review Committee and/or Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc staff reserve the right to inspect all pieces and to designate the removal of an artwork piece, if it is determined to present a significant hazard or a threat to life, health or safety.

To accommodate interested parties, all pieces must be available for sale. Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc will collect an industry standard 10% commission on artwork sold during the period of the exhibit if the sale is attributable to **Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden**. The artist’s name, title of art piece, material of piece, year the piece was created, and sponsor of the piece (if any) will appear on the interpretive sign mounted on or near the artwork.

INSURANCE

During the Exhibition Period, the Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc shall maintain insurance coverage on each piece of Artwork for theft, vandalism; damage and loss, for each piece's agreed upon value between Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc and Artist. If no amount is agreed upon, then current market value shall be used. Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc shall provide written proof to the Artist evidencing that such insurance is in full force and effect. The Artist shall be responsible for arranging and paying for the insurance for the Artwork during the transportation, installation and removal of the Artwork to and from the Sites. Said insurance coverage shall be for each piece of Artwork's agreed upon or current market value.

During the Exhibition Period, Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc will maintain from a qualified insurance carrier a comprehensive general liability insurance policy sufficient to adequately protect against the risks associated with exhibiting the Artwork in an amount of at least \$1,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate shall be maintained as well. Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc shall name the Artist and The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County as an additional insured party under the aforementioned insurance policy and will provide the Artist with a Certificate of Insurance evidencing that such insurance is in full force and effect.

PUBLICITY

Artist hereby grants Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc a royalty free, worldwide, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use images of the Artwork, for non-commercial purposes, to market, promote and advertise the exhibition of the Artwork as part of **Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden**. Within fourteen (14) days of the execution of this Agreement, Artist shall provide Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc with high-resolution digital images of the Artwork. Upon the installation of the Artwork, Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc shall provide Artist with high-resolution digital images of the Artwork installed at the Sites. Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc hereby grants Artist a royalty free, worldwide, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use the images of the Artwork provided by Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc to Artist to market, promote and advertise the Artwork. Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc shall promote and publicize the exhibition of the Artwork, which shall include: (i) producing and distributing handouts/brochures with information about and images of the Artwork; (ii) contacting local and regional newspapers and media companies about the Artwork; (iii) advertising the exhibit and Artwork in print, digital, television, and/or radio media formats; (iv) inclusion in Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc promotional materials including on www.klehm.org and across its social media platforms.

Artist shall have the right to determine what attributions, if any, must be included with any image of the Artwork used by Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc. Artist shall provide Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc with written notice to Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc of any such attributions that Artist requires to be used with images of the Artwork.

EXHIBITION

Artworks will be located on public display for approximately one (1) year from June 7, 2025, concluding on May 30, 2026. Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc shall, in its sole discretion,

determine which artworks selected for inclusion in the exhibit shall be installed at each display site, but shall endeavor to recognize any feedback provided by artists in this matter. Artists are responsible for delivery, installation, and removal of their artwork at the conclusion of the exhibit. If artwork is not removed by the removal deadline, it shall become the property of Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc. Details of installation and removal dates will be provided to artists selected for inclusion in **Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden**. The 2025-2026 installation window is expected to start May 12, 2025.

COMMISSION

Artists will receive a \$4,000.00 stipend per piece selected for inclusion in **Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden** for the one-year period. The stipend will be distributed per the following breakdown: 100% to artist upon installation of the artwork. Selected artists are responsible for transportation of artwork to and from the installation site and are required to be on site to oversee installation itself.

SCHEDULE

- Application Deadline: 4:00 PM on Friday, February 28, 2025
- Review and Selection: March 1st– March 14th, 2025
- Artist Notification: No later than March 21st, 2025
- Installation Dates: The installation window is expected to start May 12, 2025 and be completed on or by June 7th, 2025. Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc reserves the right to update or revise the schedule, as necessary.

SELECTION

A selection panel composed of community members and facilitated by Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc will choose the finalists. Artists will be contacted once the decision has been made in a timely fashion to allow for planning of installation of sculpture or artwork. Selection criteria include but are not limited to:

- Appropriateness and fitness for the exhibit theme “Roots”
- Durable media, must withstand all weather elements
- Suitable for an outdoor setting and safe to the public
- Represents diverse materials and perspectives
- Artist reputation, resume, exhibition history
- Overall appeal and aesthetic quality

Upon selection, Artists shall be provided with and required to submit a completed Certificate of Residency Affidavit form that shall be returned to Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Inc. within ten (10) working days upon delivery and receipt of such form in order to confirm inclusion in **Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden**.

APPLICATION

The **Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science - 2025-2026 Exhibit Application Form** (following this page) must be used for submissions, and required supporting information must be included with submissions. All submissions must be received by 4:00 PM on Friday, February 28, 2025.

Email to:

Alex Mills, Executive Director, Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden
amills@klehm.org.

Please indicate “2025-2026 Rooted in Rockford - Submittal” in the subject line.

OR

Mail to: Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden
 Attention: Rooted in Rockford
 1527 South Main Street
 Rockford, IL 61102

Please contact Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden at (815) 420-3887 or email amills@klehm.org with any questions.



**Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at
Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden
2025-2026 Exhibit Application Form**

Artist Information

Name (individual): _____

Name (if business): _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____, Illinois _____ (ZIP)

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Phone Contacts

Business/Studio: _____

Home: _____

Cell: _____

Artwork Proposed for Inclusion

Name of Artwork: _____

Artwork Height: _____ Width: _____ Length: _____

Medium(s): _____ Weight: _____

Equipment required for installation: _____

Additional notes regarding artwork: _____

Value of Artwork (in dollars): \$ _____

Artist Signature _____ **Date** _____

Proposals must include the following:

Compile the below requirements into an Adobe PDF or a Microsoft Word document with attached photos in a jpg or pdf format and e-mail to amills@klehm.org. Incomplete submissions may not be accepted. Please submit separate applications and piece details for each entry.

1. Completed Exhibit Application Form (prior page)
2. Current Artist resume (2-page maximum)
3. Artistic vision statement, to include the reasoning for inclusion in **Rooted in Rockford: Art and Tree Science at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden** (limited to 300 words or less)
4. At least three and up to five (3 to 5) photos or conceptual sketches of different full views of the submitted piece.