



NEWSLETTER – October 2026

Letter from the President

Hello everyone, we had a lovely meeting in October with Rosemary. She was full of information and very detailed about her journey in art. She answered every question. She had a great sense of humor. She also sent us her finished product, which is included in this newsletter.

Michelle has decided not to be the membership director, so Debi and Joe (who already have a full load) will be filling in. As a result, we are looking once again for a new membership director. The position is not hard, but communication is key. The membership director is responsible for welcoming new members, adding their name and updating the membership directory as needed (which Joe also helps with) and then meeting and greeting people as they come in the door at meetings (which Michelle did very nicely).

We are also looking for someone to be recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary just needs to be at every meeting and write down notes of what we do during the process of the meeting. They then submit their notes to Joe so it can be put on our website and to Mike so they can put into the newsletter.

I cannot begin to say how important volunteering is for our group. We are the sum of the group, and without volunteers there would be no speakers, no shows, no picnics and no group. Volunteering is what keeps us alive and it would be a shame to see our long-lasting group shut down. But that is a risk right now – so PLEASE consider being a part of our board with these positions (and others listed in the Newsletter). It's a great way to make friends and it is fulfilling knowing that you are helping to make the group possible.

I am looking forward to greeting everyone at the painting dropoff at the Friendly Home in a few weeks. It's a pleasure to volunteer for that because I get to see all your lovely work! Also, looking forward to our November meeting See you then!

Margaret Mitchell

Letter from the Newsletter Editor

I was away last month and unfortunately had to miss our meeting, but I have heard from everyone how great our speaker was. Rosemary Pergolizzi was entertaining, educational, and encouraging – all things we hope to see. Please check out the speaker section of the newsletter for some photos. **THANK YOU TO SHARON, MARGIE and DEBI for sending me photos!**

Of course, the end of this month is also the delivery date for paintings for our upcoming show at the Friendly Home. Please check out the section of the newsletter that talks about that.

Finally, we have another great speaker lined up for October. Be sure to read about another great local artist, Jodie Traugott, and join us for the meeting on November 5th. See you on October 31st for Friendly Home dropoff and on the 5th for our meeting!

Mike

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5th: Speaker Jodie Traugott



Our November speaker will be Jodie Marie Anne Richardson Traugott. Jodie holds a BA/Summa Cum Laude in Studio Art/Art History from Elmira College 1984, and a Master of Fine Arts degree with a painting concentration from the Rochester Institute of Technology's Fine Arts College 1986, where she also served as special assistant to the Dean, coordinating exhibition space.

Beginning at Elmira College at 32, with a very supportive husband and two girls at home, she was the first off-campus student to spend her junior year abroad studying art and art history in Florence Italy, as well as the first art student to create a 100-piece, one-woman art show as a senior honors project.

Having lived all over the United States, Jodie has held many different jobs, including executive positions at four non-profit organizations: a YWCA and a Boys and Girls Club in Reading PA, the Arnot Art Museum in Elmira NY, and the Artists League of the Sandhills in Aberdeen NC, while continually working as an active artist. Jodie has been exhibiting and selling her work for over 52 years. Her work is in public and private collections in 15 states as well as Scotland, Italy and Germany.



Jodie uses her wide-ranging creative vision in many artistic mediums, but focuses now on paintings in acrylic, oil, pastel and mixed media. She pushes artistic boundaries to present unique perspectives on design and extreme color. She creates original work, custom portraits of people, pets, homes and reproductions of over 75 Master Artists.

Nature is Jodie's place to go for comfort, inspiration and joy. Painting is her solace, meditation, therapy, distraction, love and need.

"I always start with reality, but I usually can't seem to stay there!" says Jodie. "Since I was a child, I've always wanted to use every crayon in the box and have often colored outside the lines!"

Jodie also reflects that "My art reflects my life. My work can be beautiful, ordinary, disturbing, provocative, calming, and thought provoking. I use a fusion of media to push conventional artistic boundaries which present the viewer with my unique perspectives

on design and often extreme color. I do art because it is my therapy, my meditation, my reason for being. I cannot live without it and yet I cannot do it every day as a job. Welcome to my world!"

To read more about Jodie, check out her web site at: <https://jm-art.com/>



October 31st: Fall Juried Show at the Friendly Home

Mark your calendars for the Fall Juried Show at the Friendly Home! The FULL PROSPECTUS is available (check your email). There are a few changes this year – so be sure to read the prospectus and other material that will be provided. The key changes are:

- **NEW PRICING:** Cost will now be a flat \$15 for up to 3 paintings.
- **NEW AWARDS:** New media and creativity awards will now be granted. Details about awards are listed in the article that follows.
- **NEW OPTIONS for DROPOFF & PICKUP:** This year we have volunteers that will assist if you have trouble being available to pickup or dropoff at the scheduled times. So, don't let that be a barrier!

The Friendly Home has been a great partner with the Pittsford Art Group, so please participate. So far we have over 30 paintings submitted but we need more. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY to both display, compete, and even more importantly – do a good deed for the residents and staff of the Friendly Home that greatly enjoy seeing our original artwork.

Key Dates

Registration Dates	Registration opens immediately and runs until Saturday, October 25 th
Art Dropoff	Saturday October 31st, between 9:00AM and 11:00am.
Art Judging & Hanging	Saturday October 31st, starting at 11:00 AM.
Show Open to the Public	Sunday, November 1st through Tuesday, December 29th, 9:00am to 5:00pm
Awards Ceremony and Reception	Saturday, November 7th, 11:00 AM
Art Pickup	Tuesday, December 29th, between 9:00AM and 11:00am

WE NOW HAVE A JUDGE FOR THE Fall Show!

The Fall show is pleased to announce that we now have a judge for the Fall Show. This year's judge will be **Bill Finewood**.



Bill is a professional artist and educator. He was born, raised and lived most of his life in the small village of Newark, NY. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University and worked in illustration/graphic design for the greater part of his professional life. Bill recently retired as an Associate Professor and former Coordinator of the Illustration program in the School of Art (rit.edu/artdesign/schools/art) at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Inspiration for Bill's work comes from many places including where he lives, works, and plays. Most of his summers are spent in Northwest Montana in the city of Whitefish. There, it's a short 45-minute drive east to the west entrance of Glacier National Park as well as great fishing on the Flathead River. To the west of Whitefish he travels to Libby, MT for fishing on the Kootenai River. You could not find a better location for inspiration!

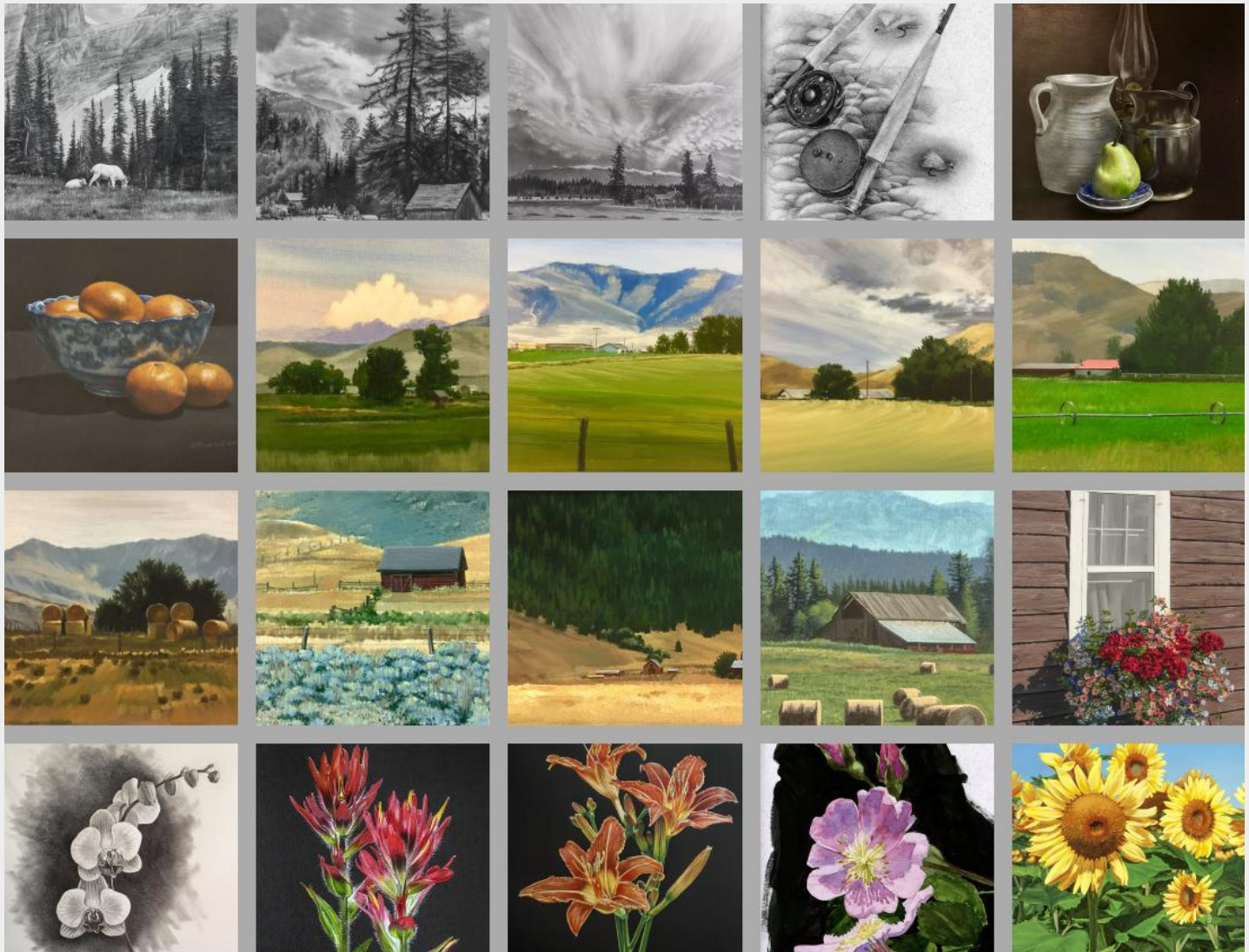
Bill's work has been commissioned by clients including: Xerox, Mobil, DuPont, Holt Rinehart and Winston, Citibank, Federal Reserve Bank, Dunn and Bradstreet, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Nalge Company, Time, Fly Rod & Reel,

Flyfisherman, Habitat for Humanity and Fisher-Price Toys and his dimensional illustrations have been exhibited in shows including the Society of Illustrators, Dimensional and Digital Illustrators Awards Show and American Illustration.

Bill has also served as a member of the board of directors for ICON4 (The Illustration Conference 4, San Francisco) and served as a member of the Board of Directors of Wayne County Council for the Arts, Inc.

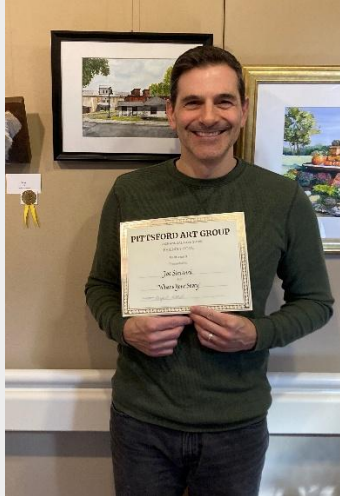
You can learn more about Bill at <https://billfinewood.com/>

Some of Bill's work from his web site:



Some photos from last year's Fall show:





GROUP LEADERSHIP 2026 – 2027

Current Positions

Executive Board Officers

- President, Margaret Mitchell
- Vice-President, Mike Kamish
- Treasurer, Debi Bloom
- Recording Secretary, OPEN (Acting Mike Kamish)
- Corresponding Secretary, OPEN (Acting Joe Sirianni)

Standing Committees

- Membership
- Refreshments, Paula Fahey
- Rotating Exhibits, Joanne Andrews & Laura Davis
- Sunshine, Sylvia Ball
- Website, OPEN (Acting Joe Sirianni)
- Publicity, OPEN
- Newsletter, Mike Kamish
- Speakers, Margie Mitchell
- Shows: Mike Kamish, Debi Bloom, Paula Fahey, JoAnne Andrews, Nina Varon

Open & ‘Ready for a Change’ Positions

We are seeking new Board and Committee Members to replace leaders, to fill open positions, and to give a break to members that have been at it for years. This is your group – please be part of it by participating on the Board or a Committee. Available positions are listed below. Current leaders will “show you the ropes” so we can make this very easy. Everyone who has participated in this way says they get a lot more out of the group – and make new friends – when they actively participate in this way. Please participate!

Available Positions

- President (Currently: Margie Mitchell)
- Vice-President (Currently: Mike Kamish)
- Recording Secretary (Open)
- Corresponding Secretary (Currently: Joe Sirianni)
- Website (Currently: Joe Sirianni)
- Publicity (Open)
- Membership (Open)
- Speakers (Currently: Margie Mitchell)

REMINDERS

Check the PAG website for a list of all upcoming events and meetings. <https://pittsfordartgroup.com/>

Guest Policy

GUESTS interested in joining are welcomed and encouraged to join us at our monthly meetings to hear and see what’s going on and to watch our wonderful demonstrators.

Sunshine Committee

Sylvia Ball will send occasion-appropriate cards to members or their families. If you know of someone who is ill or a member that has passed, please contact Sylvia.

ROTATING EXHIBITS

Check with Laura about assignments and location and availability for the Rotating Exhibits.

The current venues are:

PITTSFORD TOWN HALL (8-10 paintings)

FRIENDLY HOME (20-30 paintings)

STAR PHYSICAL THERAPY (12 paintings)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (16 paintings)

LILY BROOK (12-15 paintings)

RECENT EVENTS

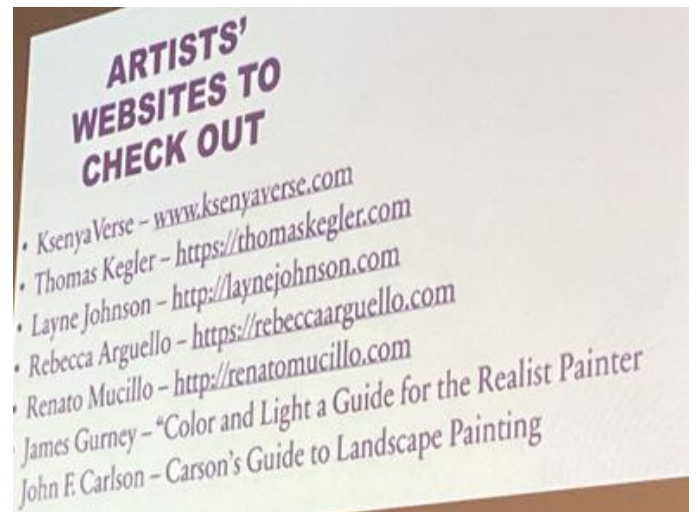
PAG **October** Regular Meeting at The Pittsford Community Center **Speaker Rosemary Pergolizzi**

The completed work provided by Rosemary:



Other photos from Rosemary's presentation:







Official Meeting Notes

Pittsford Art Group
Spiegel Community Center
36 Lincoln Avenue
Pittsford, NY 14534

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 1st, 2026

Details not available as our temporary secretary Mike Kamish was not present, but typically follow the pattern of initial business content, followed by our monthly speaker, in this case Rosemary Pegolixzi

Show Awards: What do they mean?

Art Show Judging Guidelines

General Judging Philosophy

The judge should evaluate each artwork **on its own merits**, considering the artist's apparent intent, the quality of execution, and the overall impact of the work.

The judge should not favor a particular style, medium, subject matter, or level of realism. A highly realistic painting and an abstract or experimental work should be judged according to how successfully each accomplishes what it is trying to accomplish.

Considerations include:

- **Overall visual impact** – Does the work immediately engage the viewer?
- **Composition** – Are the elements arranged effectively and intentionally?
- **Use of color, value, light, and/or contrast**
- **Technical skill and craftsmanship**
- **Creativity and originality**
- **Expression and emotional impact**
- **Successful communication of the artist's intent**
- **Cohesion and completeness** – Does the work feel resolved?
- **Distinctive artistic voice** – Does the work demonstrate individuality?

The judge should avoid allowing personal preference for a particular subject or style to outweigh the quality of the work.

Awards

Several types of awards are given – with very specific criteria for each. They are described below.

1. Best of Show

Best of Show is the highest overall award in the exhibition. It should be given to the **single artwork** that the judge considers the strongest and most accomplished work in the entire show. The Best of Show artwork should demonstrate an exceptional combination of:

- Artistic excellence
- Technical execution
- Strong composition
- Originality
- Effective use of the chosen medium
- Emotional or intellectual impact
- A clear and compelling artistic vision

The work should stand out from the entire exhibition as the piece that the judge believes represents the **highest overall level of achievement**.

Important distinction

Best of Show is awarded to one individual artwork, not necessarily to the artist who submitted the greatest number of strong pieces.

Question for the judge:

"If I could select only one artwork from this entire exhibition to represent the show, which would I choose?"

2. Body of Work

Body of Work recognizes the **artist**, rather than a single artwork. It should be given to the **artist** whose **collection of works demonstrates the strongest overall artistic achievement, consistency, and individual voice**. The judge should consider:

- Consistency of quality across the artist's entries
- A recognizable artistic voice or vision
- Strong composition and execution throughout the body of work
- Evidence of creativity and originality
- Range within the artist's style or subject matter
- Cohesion among the works
- Evidence of artistic growth, exploration, or mastery
- Whether the collection as a whole is stronger than its individual pieces might suggest

An artist does **not** have to have the single best painting in the show to win Best Body of Work.

Important distinction

Best of Show = strongest single piece. Best Body of Work = strongest collection of pieces by one artist. For example, Artist A may have the single most spectacular painting in the exhibition, while Artist B has four or five consistently excellent works. Artist B could appropriately receive Best Body of Work while Artist A receives Best of Show.

Question for the judge:

"Which artist demonstrates the strongest and most compelling body of work across all of their entries?"

3. Juror's Award

The Juror's Award gives the judge an opportunity to recognize works that **particularly resonate with them**, even if they do not necessarily rank highest according to the more objective criteria used for Best of Show. **This is the most personal of the awards** as it reflects the judge's personal feelings, rather than technical/objective criteria. The Juror's Award could recognize:

- Unusual creativity
- Risk-taking
- Original concept
- An unexpected or unconventional approach
- Strong emotional impact
- Exceptional storytelling
- An innovative use of the medium
- A work that challenges conventional expectations
- A piece that the judge simply finds particularly memorable

It may be awarded to works that are not technically perfect but possess **something distinctive or compelling that deserves recognition**.

Important distinction

*The Juror's Award is **not necessarily the "third best" artwork**. This award gives the judge some latitude to recognize artistic qualities that may not be fully captured by the primary judging criteria. It is an opportunity for the judge to say: "There is something about this particular work that I want to recognize."*

4. Merit Award

A Merit Award recognizes a work that demonstrates a **high level of artistic accomplishment** but does not receive one of the major awards. A Merit Award might recognize:

- Excellent technical skill
- Strong composition
- Effective use of color or value
- Excellent craftsmanship
- Successful execution of an artistic concept
- Strong use of the chosen medium
- Overall quality and professionalism

The work should clearly demonstrate **above-average achievement** and merit special recognition.

Important distinction

*A Merit Award is primarily an acknowledgment of **excellence within the work itself**. Unlike Best Body of Work, it does not evaluate the artist's entire submission. Unlike the Juror's Award, it doesn't necessarily represent a particularly personal or unconventional choice by the judge.*

Question for the judge:

"Which additional works demonstrate a level of accomplishment that deserves special recognition?"

5. Most Creative Award (New)

A Most Creative Award recognizes a work that demonstrates a **high level of uniqueness, creativity or innovation** but does not receive one of the major awards or may not even be technically or artistically excellent. It simply is the most unique and unusual. A Most Creative Award might recognize:

- Unique combination of media
- Unique subject or composition
- Unique use of color, texture, framing, or substrate
- Unique use of common media

The work should clearly demonstrate **creativity** that merits special recognition.

Important distinction

*A Most Creative Award is an acknowledgment of **creativity within the work itself**. Unlike the other awards, it does not evaluate the technical or artistic nature of the work.*

Question for the judge:

“Which works demonstrate creativity that deserves special recognition?”

6. Media Award (New)

The Media Award recognizes a work that demonstrates a **high level of accomplishment and technical achievement in using a particular media** but does not receive one of the major awards or may not even be technically or artistically excellent.

A Media Award might recognize:

- Skill and technical excellence in use of a media
- Unique use of a media
- Understanding of the unique features of a media and how it is applied, manipulated, mixed, blended, etc. to achieve a desired artistic outcome.

The artwork should clearly demonstrate that the artist has **demonstrated a degree of skill in a certain media that deserves special recognition**.

Important distinction

*A Media Award is an acknowledgment of **achievement with a specific media within a single work**. Unlike the other awards, it does not evaluate the technical or artistic nature of the work.*

Question for the judge:

“Which works demonstrate mastery of a media that deserves special recognition?”

Quick Summary of Awards

Award	What is being judged?	Primary emphasis
Best of Show	One artwork	Highest overall artistic achievement
Body of Work	One artist's collection	Consistency, artistic voice, and overall quality
Juror's Award	Individual artworks	Artworks that are personally compelling, distinctive, memorable, innovative, or compelling <i>to the judge</i>
Merit Award	Individual artworks	Artworks that are objectively high-quality artistically and/or technically and deserving of recognition
Most Creative (NEW)	One artwork	The Judge's opinion of the most unique, innovative, unusual, creative work.
Media award: Oil (NEW)	One artwork	The Judge's opinion of the most technically and objectively accomplished Oil painting
Media award: Acrylic (NEW)	One artwork	The Judge's opinion of the most technically and objectively accomplished Acrylic painting
Media award: Pastel (NEW)	One artwork	The Judge's opinion of the most technically and objectively accomplished Pastel painting
Media award: Watercolor (NEW)	One artwork	The Judge's opinion of the most technically and objectively accomplished Watercolor Painting
Media award: Special Media (NEW)	One artwork	The Judge's opinion of the most technically and objectively accomplished Painting that does not fit in with the other media categories. It may include Casein, Gauche, Mixed Media, Pen and Ink, Collage, or other media.

A simple way to think about the awards

Best of Show: "This is the best individual work in the exhibition."

Best Body of Work: "This artist has presented the strongest overall collection."

Juror's Award: "This particular work really caught my attention for something special or distinctive."

Merit Award: "This is an excellent, accomplished work that deserves recognition."

Most Creative Award (New): "This work is especially unique, creative, innovative in some way that made it stand out"

Media Award (New): "This work demonstrates excellent, accomplished use of a media and worthy of recognition."

Shows & Openings

Summer 2026 has been a busy time for many PAG members! There were several member openings and several shows in which members participated.

Have you displayed your work at a show or venue? Are you displaying your work at one of PAG's partners? The Friendly Home? The Pittsford Town Hall? Star Physical Therapy? Any other PAG partner?

Please send info and photos to Mike Kamish for inclusion in an upcoming Newsletter and share your experience with the group. Your friends at PAG will enjoy seeing what you are up to – and for newer members, seeing the displays of others will encourage them to give it a try as well. So, please share!

Can you Guess?

Which members created the paintings below? See if you can guess. (Paintings from the PAG web site)



Did you Know?

Did you know that the City of Rochester has a “Painting Division”?

Roc Paint Division is a youth employment and development program. Designed for high school-aged artists of all skill levels, the program offers hands-on training in researching, designing and producing large-scale public murals.

Through a supportive artistic environment, youth participants develop creative skills and build critical life competencies — including teamwork, time management and accountability. Whether participants go on to pursue careers in the arts or other fields, Roc Paint Division fosters pride, confidence and a lasting sense of community impact.

Since its inception, Roc Paint Division has employed more than 60 youth muralists and produced 48 public murals throughout the city. Each mural represents a unique collaboration between young artists, lead staff and guest muralists from across New York State and beyond.

ROC Paint Division is made possible in part with funding by the New York State Council on the Arts

To find out more or help a student apply, check out the web site:

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/departments/departments-recreation-and-human-services-drhs/roc-paint-division>

Hiring

Applications for season 12 are now open!

Application deadline: October 23 at 5 p.m.

Interviews: November 10 and 12, from 4–6 p.m.

Eligibility requirements

To apply, you must:

- Be 16–19 years old
- Live in the City of Rochester
- Be currently enrolled in high school
- Be available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4–7:30 p.m.