



Statewide Traveling Consumer Art Show 2025-2027

Exhibition Conditions and Entry Rules

The Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) is sponsoring a two-year, statewide traveling art show featuring the work of artists who use CMH services. The tour has two goals: 1) to help de-stigmatize mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities and addictive disorders by showcasing the talents of people who use CMH services; and 2) to highlight the recovery potential of the arts. We will kick off the tour at the CMHA summer conference in 2024.

Exhibition rules and conditions:

1. To participate in the CMHA art show, the artist must be a current recipient of community mental health services.
2. The CMHA is requesting up to two (2) pieces of artwork from each CMHSP within a PIHP in Michigan by artists who use CMH services in their region. CMHSPs may use any selection method of their choosing, e.g., an art show/competition from now through February, a request for submissions, selections made by your art facilitator if you run an art program, executive decision, etc. The CMHA can provide advice and assistance on the selection process if necessary.
3. The CMHA will tour only 2-dimensional art works, such as oil, acrylics, watercolor, pastels, pen and ink, drawings, photography and fabric art. No sculpture, please.
4. The artwork must be original and produced by the named artist. It can be no larger than 36 inches wide or tall; no smaller than 11 inches wide or tall.
5. The artwork must be appropriate for family audiences and consistent with community standards of good taste.
6. The art show subcommittee of the Public Relations Committee of CMHA reserves the right to refuse any work of art it deems inappropriate. The committee will be the ultimate arbiter of any issues of dispute beyond the rules and qualifications addressed here.
7. CMHs or PIHPs hosting the traveling show are welcome to augment the work with pieces by its own consumers. Every effort should be made to keep the quality of the work consistent with the traveling show.
8. CMHs are responsible for coordinating the pick-up and return of the art show amongst each other when picking up or handing off to another agency.
9. For an additional amount, yet to be determined, the CMH may enlist a speaker from the art subcommittee to discuss the relationship of art to recovery and to overturning stereotypes associated with mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance use disorders, and have artists attend the opening to discuss their work.
10. Targeted display areas include: Universities, Convention Centers, Art Museums, etc. The show may be used within a PIHPs region for up to a month.
11. Members will be responsible for promoting the event in their local areas.
12. Members will be responsible for securing sites – multiple if desired – display easels for the art are provided by CMHA. At the completion of the tour, the pieces may be auctioned off and all proceeds raised will remain in the project to purchase future pieces and framing for the regularly changing display.
13. CMHA will purchase each artwork piece for \$100. It will frame the pieces for the show.
14. Art from the traveling show can be sold on the tour. Each picture will be priced individually.
15. Audience members attending the shows, who are interested in purchasing other artwork from exhibiting artists, will be encouraged to call CMHA. CMHA will coordinate payments and any delivery if need be.
16. CMHA may hold an auction to sell the work at the end of the 2-year show. If it does, all proceeds will be used for future statewide art projects through the association.
17. What you need to submit to CMHA: The art as described above. For each artist, please submit the information requested on the “Release of Biographical Information” – a photo or self-portrait of the artist, age of artist, hometown or county, statement of what art means to the artist, how the artist would like his or her name to appear in public relations material and the signed release of information form. Please include a title for the art.