

Submit Your Artwork to our Annual Call for Artists

Shining Through...Connections that Define Us Art Show & Auction

The 2026 Shining Through Art Show & Auction celebrates the power of connection — the people, places, and experiences that shape who we are. This year's theme honors the relationships that lift us in moments of challenge and the steady foundations that keep us grounded in gratitude and grace. It's a reflection of how we rise — not alone — but supported, strengthened, and deeply connected to one another. The show features artists with lived experience of mental health challenges—including, in some cases, severe and persistent mental illness—and we highlight this perspective in our promotion of the event.

Artist Guidelines

- Up to **five pieces** of artwork per artist.
- Maximum size 24" x 36" (unframed).
- All artwork must be **labeled with its title and signed** before submission.
- Artwork should be **original** (please no prints or reproductions) and created within the last three years.
- Acceptable media includes painting, drawing, photography, mixed media, sculpture and other visual artwork.
- **Accepted pieces will be reframed**, so we suggest turning in artwork unframed.
- Submissions do not need to follow the annual theme unless you wish to be considered for Theme Artist.
- A completed **Art Submission Form must accompany all artwork**.
- **Absolutely no late entries will accepted.**

**Art entries
due by
Tuesday,
June 10, 2026**

**Turn in artwork at the
Mental Health Foundation
of West Michigan offices:**

160 68th St. SW, Suite 120
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Theme Artist Opportunity

Artists who choose to create work inspired by this year's theme, "Shining Through... Connections that Define Us," may be considered for the role of Theme Artist. The selected Theme Artist's work will serve as the signature image for the 2026 Shining Through Art Show & Auction and will be featured prominently in event promotions, marketing materials, and throughout the exhibition.

Participation in the theme is optional and does not affect eligibility for the exhibition.

Art Drop Off Days

Please drop off your artwork during one of the times below.

June 1 - June 4
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

June 8 & June 9
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Artists will be notified whether their artwork has been accepted into the exhibition on or around **June 30**. Artwork that is not selected for the event must be picked up by July 31.

Any artwork that is accepted into the exhibition but not sold during the auction may be collected by the artist following the event.

Additional details regarding the event will be provided to participating artists.

Questions? Or if these days/times do not work for you please contact us to make other arrangements:

Larissa (LarissaPayton@benice.org)
or call the MHF offices at (616) 389-8601

Save the Date

Shining Through Art Show & Auction
Thursday, October 15, 2026

Accepted artists will receive a complimentary ticket for them and a guest at our 2026 event. Shining Through is a committee-selected art show and auction that celebrates the creative talents of artists with lived experience of mental health challenges. Artists whose artwork is accepted for Shining Through and sold at the auction will receive 51% of the final sale price. Proceeds from the night help fund **be nice.**, the flagship program of the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan.

Shining Through Art Show & Auction

Connections that Define Us

2026 Art Submission Form

Artist Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Names of Art Pieces

Please list the titles of your artwork below. The artwork must also clearly labelled with its title.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

By submitting artwork for the Shining Through Art Show & Auction, I confirm that:

- The artwork I am submitting is **my original work**, and I have the right to enter it into this exhibition.
- If my artwork is accepted into the show, I understand it **may be reframed for display**.
- I understand that accepted artwork may be **offered for sale during the Shining Through Art Show & Auction**. The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan will determine the sale price, and I will receive **51% of the final sale price** if my artwork sells.
- I give permission for the **Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan to photograph and use images of my artwork** for promotional, marketing, and auction purposes, including the event website, online auction platform, social media, printed materials, and media coverage.
- If my artwork is selected as the **Theme Artist piece**, I give additional permission for the artwork to be **featured in promotional materials for the event**, including the use of the full image or selected portions of the artwork.

Artist Signature: _____

This form must accompany art when submitted!
All artwork is due by: Wednesday, June 10 at 3 p.m.