

2025/2026 EXHIBITING MEMBER APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications for Exhibiting Membership are reviewed by a committee appointed by the Boca Grande Art Center Board of Directors. When there are openings, the Art Center will accept applications from qualified candidates. The admissions process includes the application, an interview, and a portfolio review.

Eligibility for application highlight

- Be a member of the Boca Grande Art Center.
- Reside or own property or a business on Gasparilla or Cole Island, and spend sufficient time in Boca Grande to meet Exhibiting Member obligations.
- Be proficient in an art medium beyond a student level.

Eligible medium/processes:

- drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, mixed media, jewelry, textiles, ceramics, glass, wood *etching, woodcut etching, engraving, lithography, silkscreen, monotype.

Portfolio Review Criteria

Work by the applicant:

- Balances, compliments and expands on existing work shown by members.
- Shows original, inventive ideas.
- Has been executed wholly by the artist (not assisted by an instructor or produced in any part by another person).
- Demonstrates visual intelligence – the communication of a clear expressive and formal intent, such as strong design, a sense of meaning, message, story, etc.
- Demonstrates skillful and creative use of media.

Other Criteria we consider

- Exhibit experience
- Experience with arts organizations
- Ability and willingness to collaborate with others and work on shows and events

Exhibiting Member responsibilities

Exhibiting members:

- Contribute time and talents to further the mission of the Art Center.
- Attend at least two member meetings each year (Exhibiting Member and Annual meetings).
- Serve on at least one BGAC committee each year - see descriptions of committees below.
- Show work in one or more Exhibiting Member shows each year.
- Work on show coordination at least once every two years.
- Pay member dues at the Exhibiting Membership level or higher.

SHOW POLICIES

Guidelines for Exhibiting Member shows ensure that there is adequate space and staff to install and manage them.

- All exhibitors must help as needed with installation, staffing and breakdown of shows, and attend the opening reception.
- 2D work must be framed or gallery wrapped, dry and ready to hang.
- Artists exhibiting 3D work may need to provide bases and pedestals.
- Some shows restrict or prohibit exhibition of multiples, production pieces, or reproductions.
- BGAC takes a 15% commission on all sales.

The Application Process - Interview and Portfolio Review

- Send or drop off your application to the art center. Applications and portfolios are reviewed as they are received. If you are eligible, the selection committee will contact you to schedule an interview before the portfolio review.
- Portfolio: Bring 5 examples of **current, original** work (not reproductions) to the interview. This should be what you consider your best work. You will leave them at the art center for the portfolio review by a Jury appointed by the Board of Directors. You will be notified when you can pick the work up, usually within two days of your interview.
- Optional: You may submit images (digital or print reproductions) of additional work.
- You will be notified of the selection committee's decision by the Exhibiting Member committee, by email or phone, within one week of the review.
- If accepted, you will be eligible to participate in the next scheduled Exhibiting Member show.

Application - please submit on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Contact information

Name, Address, including your summer address if different
Email, Phone numbers
Website if you have one

2. Please describe:

- The range of media and/or artistic processes you have worked with
- Your current or past involvement in and support of BGAC -- membership, classes, volunteering, teaching, committee work, etc.
- Previous participation in other art organizations or activities
- Exhibit experience including BGAC shows
- Other relevant work and/or life experiences, skills, interests, etc.

Boca Grande Art Center Committees

All committees are directed by the BGAC Board and the Executive Director to act on recommendations from the board and make recommendations to the board. The committees are responsible for implementing and oversight of programs, events, exhibitions, art education and finances of the art center.

ART & EDUCATION - Develops programs for educational activities such as workshops, children's programs, guest artists, special exhibits, etc.

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS - Develops special events for fundraising each year.

MEMBERSHIP - Oversees the annual membership renewal process, tracks membership trends and develops initiatives to increase membership. A subcommittee oversees the Exhibiting Member program for admission and other Exhibiting Member issues such as compliance with policies.

SHOW COMMITTEE - Oversees the exhibition program, including the show schedule, themes, coordination and staffing, equipment and supplies

Boca Grande Art Center Mission:

The mission of the nonprofit Boca Grande Art Center is to promote education and awareness of the visual arts and enhance the cultural opportunities in the community.

BGAC was founded as the Boca Grande Art Alliance in 1986 by a small group of artists living in the village. Membership has grown to more than 400 members at various levels, in addition to exhibiting members. The membership actively supports the programs of the art center, including art exhibits, workshops, tours and other events that celebrate the local culture and promote visual arts in the community. The center wishes to ensure that talented artists residing on Gasparilla and Cole Islands have a venue to exhibit their work to the public and contribute to the cultural life of their community. Artists are encouraged to get involved in the many activities of BGAC, such as enrolling in or teaching workshops, volunteering to help with shows and other events, or working on committees. Exhibiting members form a supportive community of artists who provide friendship and encouragement to one another in their artistic growth.