



2026 Paint Livingston Plein Air Competition & Art Sale

September 29 - October 3, 2026

Livingston, TN

PaintLivingston.com

Participating Artist Prospectus

(Revised 1-25-26)

Our first two years of Paint Livingston were very successful. Last year, 28 featured artists sold over \$55,000 in original art with a take home commission of 70% per artist. Our 2026 event promises to be even bigger and better!

We're working hard to make Paint Livingston into one of the premier plein air events in the Southeastern United States. We've incorporated input from participating artists and patrons, and we've adopted more best practices from other plein air competitions around the country. We're doing this because we want to achieve our nonprofit's two-fold mission of 1) cultivating and promoting the visual arts for the benefit of everyone in our community and 2) offering exceptional art education for the young people of Overton County, TN.

For Paint Livingston 2026, up to twenty-five artists will participate in this five-day event set in the rolling hills of beautiful Overton County, TN and along the shores of legendary Dale Hollow Lake. Proceeds from the event will be used to fund art education teachers and programs in the county. Artists keep 70% of everything they sell. Host housing is available.

New this year:

- \$5,000 increase in prize money, up to \$10,000 total
- New \$2,000 Best-of-Show award
- New \$2,000 Artists' Choice Award
- Open Division for Quick Paint competition

Dates: Tuesday, September 29 through Saturday, October 3, 2026.

2026 Judge: Shelby Keefe

2026 Jurors: TBD

How to apply: The competition is juried. To be considered for our competition, artists must submit an application, a non-refundable \$30 application fee, and three plein air paintings for our jurors to evaluate. Applications and artwork must be submitted online using the CallforEntry.org platform at this link: — .

This is the only way to submit applications and artwork for consideration. Artists can set up an account at CallforEntry.org for free. It's quick and easy. Detailed application instructions and answers to FAQs can be found on this website. If you have additional questions after visiting this site, please email us at info@overtontyarts.org.

Advice about submitting:

- Prepare your jpegs properly. They should be of the paintings only with no frames and no backgrounds. The image should be straight and not blurry. Make sure that you shoot them in the proper light. View them on more than one device before submitting them.
- It is important that you submit digital files that will present well on a computer monitor used by jurors
- Your images should be at least 1920 pixels on the longest side at 72 dpi
- Submit work done in plein air and that reflects the current state of your work (within the last two years). Jurors can tell a plein air painting from a studio painting.
- Submit work that reflects the medium you will be using during the competition

The key milestones and dates in the participating artist selection process are:

1. Artist can submit online applications starting on Monday, Jan 26, 2026.
2. The artist application deadline is 11pm (Central Time) on Monday, April 6.
3. Jurors will start evaluating applications on Tuesday, April 7.
4. Paint Livingston will select participating artists and alternates by Sunday, April 26.
5. All artists will be notified of their standing in the competition on Monday, April 27.
6. Artists must confirm their participation in the event by Friday, May 1.
7. The final field of artists set and confirmed by Paint Livingston on or about Monday, May 4.

We will have approximately 25 featured artists in the main competition. The competition is open to all professional, semi-professional and amateur plein air artists who reside in the United States. We hope and expect to have several participating artists from Middle Tennessee and the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee.

All the artists who are juried into the main competition are required to participate in all scheduled activities, including the Quick Paint mini-competition that will take place from 9am-11am on Saturday morning, October 3, prior to the opening of the main exhibition and art sale Saturday afternoon.

In addition, this year we are introducing a new Open Division for the Quick Paint mini-competition. Any artist who was not selected for the main competition is invited to apply to participate in the Open Division of the Quick Paint. The First Place winner of the Open Division will be automatically invited to be a featured artist in the main competition of Paint Livingston 2027.

The Quick Paint Open Division is open to all professional, semi-professional and amateur artists ages 15 and older. The Open Division will be capped at approximately 50 participants. (Exact cap TBD closer to the date, depending on operational considerations.) There will be a separate application process for this competition. Open Division competition details, the application process and the application deadline will be posted at PaintLivingston.com on or about May 1.

The 2025 Paint Livingston jurors will be identified soon. Jurors are **not** to be contacted by artists applying to the competition, for any reason related to the competition. Any and all questions about the jury process should be directed to OCAC via email at info@overtontyarts.org.

Total prize money: \$10,000

Best-of-Show: \$2,000

Artists' Choice Award for Body of Work \$2,000

Prizes for main plein air competition:

First National Bank First Place Prize: \$1,500

Second place: \$1,000

Third place: \$500

Honorable Mention: \$250

Prizes for Quick Paint competition, Featured Artist Division:

First National Bank First Place Prize: \$900

Second place: \$600

Third place: \$400

Honorable Mention: \$150

Prizes for Quick Paint competition, Open Division:

First National Bank First Place Prize: \$350*

Second place: \$200

Third place: \$100

Honorable Mention: \$50

*The First Place winner in the Open Division of the Quick Paint will be automatically invited to participate as a featured artist in next year's main Paint Livingston competition.

About Livingston, Tennessee:

Livingston, TN is a small town (population 4,000) located in north central Tennessee and is known for its friendly people, picturesque town square and surrounding natural beauty, including bucolic farms, verdant rolling hills, Dale Hollow Lake and historic Standing Stone State Park. Driving times to Livingston from nearby larger cities are as follows:

- Nashville, TN: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Chattanooga, TN: 2 hours
- Knoxville, TN: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Lexington, KY: 3 hours
- Louisville, KY: 3 hours
- Bowling Green, KY: 2 hours
- Huntsville, AL: 3 hours
- Atlanta, GA: 3 hours and 45 minutes
- Asheville, NC: 3 hours and 45 minutes

Paint Livingston is presented by the Overton County Arts Council (OCAC). Founded in 2024, the OCAC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Our mission is to cultivate and promote the visual arts for all residents and

visitors of Overton County, TN. **We are especially focused on improving art education and art awareness for K-12 students in the county.** We offer events, classes, mixers and exhibitions focused on the visual arts, and more. To learn more about OCAC, visit us online at OvertonCountyArts.org.

2026 Paint Livingston Judge: Shelby Keefe

The judge for Paint Livingston 2026 is nationally acclaimed, award-winning painter Shelby Keefe. She hails from Wisconsin and describes her multi-faceted work as expressive realism.

Keefe has participated in museum shows, top-tiered plein air competitions nationwide, and has attained Signature Status in Oil Painters of America and The American Impressionist Society. She has been published numerous times in well-known art magazines—being featured as the cover artist in both *Southwest Art* and *Plein Air* magazines.

She has become sought after as an instructor, teaching workshops around the country and serving as faculty for the annual Plein Air Convention & Expo. For more information, visit studioshelby.com.

Competition rules:

The main competition is open to all plein air artists. We expect to have both experienced, working artists who have participated in other plein air competitions as well as some amateur artists who have not yet done so.

Paintings in acrylic, oil, watercolor, pastel, and gouache will be accepted. We expect to have approximately 25 participating artists this year. Painting surfaces will be date stamped at the beginning of the overall competition and for the separate Quick Paint event on Saturday morning to ensure compliance with competition rules.

Canvases must be blank at the beginning of the event, but toned canvases are acceptable.

All work to be completed in the tradition and spirit of plein air.

If you cannot commit to participating fully for all of the five days during our event, please do not apply. If you do not participate in the Opening Dinner on Tuesday, 9/29, the Patron's Preview Sale on Friday, 10/2, and the Quick Paint on Sat, 10/3, you will not be eligible for awards and prize money.

Name badge / lanyard should be worn by all participating artists at all times while painting and during organized Paint Livingston events.

Artists will be free to paint in any area in Overton County and any Dale Hollow Lake location that is accessible and open to the public. Artists are expected to use good judgement, respect private property and obtain landowner permission when painting on private property.

Popular painting locations in previous years include the historic courthouse square in downtown Livingston, nearby neighborhoods, The Clark House restaurant and event center, numerous family farms, Roaring River falls, Standing Stone State Park, and Dale Hollow Lake, all within a 30-minute drive of downtown. Organizers will be happy to suggest painting locations upon request. Inclement weather plans will ensure that the event proceeds regardless of the weather.

Artwork will be limited to any size up to 24" x 24" (or a maximum of 576 square inches) and must be created in the field during the event. There is no minimum required size. Each participating artist must submit at least three paintings and no more than five paintings for the main competition and exhibition. OCAC reserves the right to decline artworks that do not fall within the defined scope of this competition or are deemed inappropriate. Entries that do not adhere to all guidelines will not be judged.

Participating artists will be required to submit a minimum of three and a maximum of five main competition paintings on Friday, October 2, between 10am-12pm. Paintings must be submitted framed and ready to hang at the Joe L. Evins Community Center located at 312 West Broad Street, Livingston, TN 38570.

Artists provide their own museum quality frames with hanging wire already installed and must be prepared for wet paint installation. Artwork must be delivered with proper labels, tags, etc. provided by OCAC during the artist check-in process at the start of the event. No gallery wraps allowed. Event staff will be available to answer any questions about all this before the event starts via email at info@overtoncountyarts.org or during the event in person.

All art will be hung and judged Friday afternoon from 12-4pm, October 2.

There will be a Patron's Preview Sale Friday evening, from 6-9pm, October 2 at the Joe L. Evins Community Center located at 312 West Broad Street, Livingston, TN 38570. **All participating artists are required to attend this event and must wear event name tags.** (Casual attire is appropriate.) All art sold at this event will remain on display through the conclusion of the main public exhibit and art sale from 1-4pm on the following day, Saturday, October 3.

The OCAC will photograph all works of art created during the competition and reserves the right to use photographs of all works of art and all participating artists in its own marketing and public relations efforts.

Participating artists are expected to attend the Opening Reception & Dinner with OCAC members and patrons on Tuesday, September 29, from 5pm-8:30pm, the Friday evening Patrons Preview Sale from 6:00-9pm and the Award Ceremony on Saturday, Oct 5 from 2:00-2:30pm at the Joe L. Evins Community Center. All receptions and dinners are free for participating artists.

The OCAC will receive 30% of all sales of artwork transacted during the event. Transactions will be handled by OCAC staff and disbursements of funds will be made to all artists as within 20 business days via check or common electronic transaction apps like Square, Venmo, etc. Any unsold paintings in the event exhibition must be picked up by participating artists Saturday afternoon by 4pm. The OCAC is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt nonprofit corporation. Selling artists and buying customers should check with their own professional advisors to determine if, and how much of, their 30% commission on transactions may be considered tax-deductible contributions to the OCAC.

It is recommended that artists price their work in the range of \$350-\$2,500, but there are no minimums or upper limits with respect to pricing. All transactions must be handled by event staff.

Artists cannot sell paintings created prior to our event at our event. Any commissions made during our event, or within 30 days of the event, as a direct result connections or requests made at our event, should be disclosed to event organizers and will be subject to the same 30% commission owed to OCAC for all other sales that take place during our event.

If any artist attempts to sell paintings outside of the event's established methods and protocols for handling art transactions, that artist will not be invited back.

Quick Paint Competition:

There will be a separate Quick Paint Competition on Saturday, Oct 3, from 9:00-11:00am. All artists who are part of the main competition are required to compete in the Quick Paint competition. There will be two categories of artists competing in the Quick Paint. All artists juried into the main competition will be in the Featured Artists Division. All other artists who sign up in time will be placed in the Open Division. Our judge will evaluate all works submitted in both Divisions. Winners will be announced at the Award Ceremony at approximately 2pm at the Joe L. Evins Community Center located at 312 West Broad Street, Livingston, TN 38570.

The Quick Paint event will be held on or within easy walking distance of the downtown courthouse square. Together, artists and spectators will be immersed in the creative process during this Quick Paint event. At 11:00am, **immediately following** the end of the Quick Paint, artists should take their paintings to the Joe L. Evins Community Center located at 312 West Broad Street, Livingston, TN 38570. **Artists must make every reasonable effort to turn in their quick paint work by 11:15am. Any work turned in after 11:30am will not be accepted and will not be judged or displayed and will not be eligible for prizes.**

Event volunteers will help intake, record and display all Quick Paint work. The work will be judged and then offered for sale to the general public. Quick Paint awards will be announced at this location at approximately 2:00pm, along with the awards for the main Paint Livingston competition.

Housing:

If you are an artist interested in being hosted by a Livingston-area resident during the competition, we will work hard to match you with one of our generous host families. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to make host family accommodations for all artists who request it, but we will do so to the best of our ability.

If you would like for us to try to find a host family for you, please email us at info@overtontyarts.org shortly after receiving notice that you've been juried in. We will get additional information from you and try to find a suitable host. Upon matching an artist and an accommodation, we will provide the artist the contact information for the person providing the accommodations for the artist to coordinate with directly.

In addition, some limited discounted Airbnb accommodations may be available to participating artists on a first-come, first served basis. Discounts TBD and will be specific to each property. Standing Stone State Park, just twenty minutes from downtown Livingston, may have cabins and camp sites available to rent. Learn more at tnstateparks.com/parks/standing-stone. There may also be some cabins, RV sites and campsites available at Deep Valley Campground in nearby Allons, TN, also just twenty minutes from downtown. Learn more at deepvalleycampground.com. Waterwheel RV Camp is in Livingston as well. Learn more at waterwheelrvcamp.com.

In addition to all the lodging available in Overton County, there are good hotels and many more AirBnB properties in nearby Cookeville, TN, too. For more information about and assistance with lodging, contact us at info@overtontyarts.org.

Food & Beverages:

Artists are invited to eat and drink at all OCAC sponsored receptions and dinners for free, provided that RSVPs are made by Tuesday, September 8. OCAC will provide a free lunch to all artists on Saturday, October 3, immediately following the Quick Paint competition at the Joe L. Evins Community Center. Other efforts will be made to ensure that all artists are provided with coffee, water and snacks throughout the event.

Event Schedule

Tuesday, Sept 29:	12-4:30pm	Artist welcome & check-in at the Livingston-Overton County Chamber of Commerce, located at 222 East Main Street, Livingston, TN 38570. Canvases will be stamped at check-in.
	6:00-8:30pm	Opening Reception & Dinner at The Clark House, located at 1010 North Oak Street, Livingston, TN 38570. Meet & greet with OCAC patrons and members. Artists are encouraged to attend and must RSVP by Sept 8.
Wednesday, Sept 30:	8-9am	Coffee, bottled water and to-go snacks available for artists at the Chamber.
	All day	Painting throughout Overton County and at Dale Hollow lake.
Thursday, Oct 2:	8-9am	Coffee, bottled water and to-go snacks available for artists at the Chamber.
	All day	Painting throughout Overton County and at Dale Hollow lake.
Friday, Oct 3:	8-9am	Coffee, bottled water and to-go snacks available for artists at the Chamber
	7-10am	Painting throughout Overton County and at Dale Hollow lake.
	10am-12pm	Turn in 3-5 competition paintings at the Joe L. Evins Community Center, located at 312 West Broad Street, Livingston, TN 38570.
	12-4pm	Paintings hung and judged. Artist free time.
	4-5pm	Artist to pick up and transport two of their paintings to the Patron's Preview Sale location, TBD.
	6-9pm	Patrons Preview Sale, location TBD.
Saturday, Oct 4:	8:00-9:00am	Coffee, bottled water and to-go snacks available for artists at the Joe L. Evins Community Center, located at 312 West Broad Street, Livingston, TN 38570.
	9:00-11:00am	Quick Paint competition on or near courthouse square.

- 11-11:15am All Quick Paint work turned in, framed and ready to hang at the Joe L. Evins Community Center, located at 312 West Broad Street, Livingston, TN 38570.
- 11:30-1:00pm Lunch provided for artists at Joe L. Evins Community Center.
- 2:00-2:30pm Main competition and Quick Draw winners announced at Joe L. Evins Community Center.
- 1:00-4pm Public exhibition and art sale for competition paintings and Quick Paint paintings at Joe L. Evins Community Center.
- 4pm All sales completed. Artists pick up unsold works. Settlements made within 20 business days.

For more information, please visit PaintLivingston.com or contact Overton County Arts president Tim Richardson at info@overtoncountyarts.org