



Cultivate and Preserve the Quilting Arts in Virginia

2025 Exhibition Proposal Guidelines

The Virginia Quilt Museum is accepting applications for exhibitions for the 2027 calendar year. Proposals may be submitted until 11:59 pm Eastern Time on Monday, September 15, 2025. Proposals will be reviewed by the VQM Exhibition Committee and decisions will be sent to applicants by November 1, 2025. Please read the below requirements carefully, along with the VQM Exhibition Policy, and the [VQM Artistic Freedom Policy](#). The Exhibition Policy lays out VQM's criteria for exhibitions, this document details what to include in your exhibition proposal and how to apply.

If you have any questions you may reach out VQM Curator, Kate Read, at curator@vaquiltmuseum.org or (540)-433-3818. Please give VQM staff at least two days to respond and know that staff generally work Tuesday - Saturday.

Who May Apply

- A solo artist
- A group of artists
- A guild or other organization
- An independent curator

How to Apply

Applications are accepted via email or mail. Emailed applications are strongly preferred and should be sent to curator@vaquiltmuseum.org. Mailed applications can be sent to:

Virginia Quilt Museum
2328 Silver Lake Rd
Dayton, VA 22821

Application Fee

There is a \$25 non refundable application fee per application. Application fees can be [paid online here](#) or a check can be mailed to the museum at the above address. If mailing a check please include a note with the name of the person submitting the application and the title of the proposed exhibit so that we can make sure to apply the fee to the correct application, this is especially important if the application is from a group or guild.



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All Applications Must Submit the Following:

- Application fee
- Contact Information of artist or exhibition contact
 - Email
 - Phone number
 - Mailing address
- Availability of exhibition during 2027
- Exhibition concept description
 - 200 words maximum
- Digital Images
 - 10-15 images of full artworks
 - 5-10 detail images where the quality of the craftsmanship can be examined
 - Images should have the title of the artwork as the file name
 - abbreviated titles are also acceptable ie Shenandoah National Park Celebration could be abbreviated as Shenandoah NPC or similar
 - Images should be at least 300 dpi
 - Images can be sent via email, dropbox, wetransfer, or other file transfer site
 - For information about how to take good photographs of quilts please [refer to this article from SAQA](#).
- Reference list of images
 - Including titles, size, media, techniques, and artist if a group or guild proposal
 - Images and the reference list may be combined into a slideshow/powerpoint or other presentation that can be viewed with ease on both pcs and macs
- Educational offerings
 - Listing of classes, workshops, or lectures that are available with the exhibition, if any
- Artist process statement
 - Description of how and why you work as an artist
 - If a group or guild, how and why your group exists and how this exhibition came to be
- Delivery method of exhibition
 - Will the exhibition be delivered to the museum or shipped
 - If shipped, estimated shipping costs
 - VQM strives to cover one way shipping or delivery costs



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For Solo Artists

- CV and/or resume
- Biography

For Groups of Artists or Guilds

- Listing of each artist included in the exhibition with
 - Name
 - Number of pieces included
 - 2 - 3 highlights of their artistic career
- Full CV/Resume of exhibition contact

For Independent Curators

- CV and/or resume
- List of proposed artists
 - This is not expected to be a full or final list at the proposal stage but should give VQM an idea of what types and caliber of artists you expect to include
- Sample of wall text and label copy

Optional Items for all

- Press articles about the artist(s) or previous exhibitions
- Professional letter of reference

Deadline for Applications for 2027 Exhibitions

- Monday, September 15, 2025 by 11:59 pm Eastern Time

All applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal by November 1, 2025.

All successful applicants must enter into an exhibition contract with the Virginia Quilt Museum. The Virginia Quilt Museum must approve any deviation from the original exhibition proposal. The name Virginia Quilt Museum will not be used in any grant or sponsorship application without the written approval of the Executive Director. Artwork is covered by insurance while on the premises.



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Exhibition Policy

The Virginia Quilt Museum (VQM) provides public access to a diverse selection of rotating quilting and fiber arts exhibitions. The Virginia Quilt Museum will present exhibitions from the museum's collections and exhibitions that originate from outside sources that support the museum's mission to cultivate and preserve the quilting arts in Virginia. The Virginia Quilt Museum's goal is to inspire and engage a diverse community by building and preserving quilt collections, sharing historical and contemporary exhibitions, and providing education opportunities for all ages.

Purpose of Exhibition Policy

This policy serves to outline the Virginia Quilt Museum's exhibition philosophy. This policy describes the criteria that are used to develop in-house exhibitions and to evaluate exhibition proposals from outside artists, groups, and curators.

Criteria for Exhibitions

Exhibition theme

Exhibitions should have a clear theme and point of view that is relevant to the times and the museum's mission.

Quality of work

Exhibitions are composed of significant works of art that demonstrate a high level of aesthetic quality and craftsmanship.

Balance of exhibitions

VQM presents a balanced calendar of exhibitions, demonstrating diversity in audiences served, artists represented, and themes of the exhibitions. Exhibitions will include historic, traditional, contemporary, modern, and art quilts. Exhibition proposals may come from solo artists, independent curators, or local, regional, or national groups and guilds.

Education potential

VQM looks for exhibitions that can include educational opportunities for audiences of all ages. These opportunities can range from artist talks, lectures, classes, and workshops. Educational programs can be offered both in-person or virtually. Other educational opportunities are also welcome including interactive elements included in the exhibition.



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Cost of exhibition

VQM considers the cost of the exhibition and balances that with the other criteria listed in this policy. VQM also considers the potential for sponsorships of exhibitions to offset the costs. VQM covers the cost of printing exhibition labels, title boards, and supplementary items such as price lists. VQM strives to cover one way shipping or delivery costs of exhibitions, but this is dependent on the museum's budget for the exhibition year.

Staff time required of the exhibition

VQM considers the needed staff time for each exhibition. As a small institution VQM must balance the staff time required for exhibitions with the other projects of the museum.



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Gallery Information for Exhibitions

The Virginia Quilt Museum has two floors of gallery space that can be configured in many different ways for exhibitions. This document provides basic information about each gallery. All gallery spaces in the museum are fully accessible. The Virginia Quilt Museum is located in the historic Silver Lake Mill. As a historic building we have things to work around in galleries such as windows and beams that are not a problem in more modern gallery spaces or spaces built to specifically be museums.

General Information for all Gallery Spaces at VQM

- 9-foot-high ceilings which can accommodate artwork up to 96 inches (2.4 meters) height
- All walls are either wooden or painted [Sherman Williams Honied White](#)
- VQM has off-white fabric that matches the walls that can be hung to divide the gallery spaces into smaller areas or provide a backdrop in the open areas of the galleries
 - This is often advisable when displaying smaller pieces so that the artwork has a backdrop as opposed to appearing to float in the middle of the space
- All galleries have adjustable LED lighting to highlight the artwork
- All windows are covered with UV blocking shades or inserts

Hanging System

- All galleries are equipped with the [AS Hanging System XPO rail Track](#)
 - The hanging system is installed so that all pieces are hung at least 5" away from the wall, this ensures the artwork is not in contact with the walls
- VQM has [AS Hanging System Cables](#) in Stainless Steel in both 48" and 72" lengths
- VQM has [200 Safety Hooks](#) and [40 Secure Gripper Hooks](#)
 - Artwork should include a sleeve to hang from a rod or slate with eye hooks at the end, or should include fasteners or wire that the above safety or gripper hooks can easily attach to
 - Saw tooth hangers will not work with our hanging system
- VQM does not attach any artwork to the walls
 - All pieces must utilize the hanging system



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Main Floor Gallery

- The main floor gallery is an L shaped space and can be divided into different exhibitions or all used as one space
- The main floor gallery space has a total of 180 linear feet (roughly 54.8 meters) of hanging space
 - This amount of space is not continuous and is generally divided into sections of 6 or 12 feet (roughly 1.8 or 3.6 meters)
- [Please see photos of different exhibitions installed in this space here](#)
- The full main floor gallery can display up to approximately 40 smaller wall hanging size quilts, or up to 15 bed size quilts if the entire quilt is shown

Second Floor Gallery

- The second floor gallery is smaller than the main floor gallery and is generally not subdivided
- The second-floor gallery has 120 linear feet (or roughly 36.5 meters) of hanging space
 - This amount of space is not continuous and is generally divided into sections of 6 or 12 feet (roughly 1.8 or 3.6 meters)
- [Please see photos of different exhibitions installed in this space here](#)
- The second floor gallery can display up to 25 smaller wall hanging size quilts, or up to 10 bed size quilts if the entire quilt is shown



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Artistic Freedom and Expression Policy

The artwork our museum exhibits may awe, illuminate, challenge, unsettle, confound, provoke, and, at times, offend viewers. Freedom of speech is the foundation of our community and our nation. We believe in the freedom of individuals to create content and exhibit work as they envision, and we recognize that personal freedom to create work is a constitutional right.

To exhibit a work of art, or present a program, is not to endorse the work or the vision, ideas, and opinions of the artist. It is to uphold the opportunity for all to experience diverse visions and views of artwork associated with our museum.

If or when controversies arise from the exhibition of an artwork or program, we welcome discussion and debate regarding that controversy. It is not the museum's intention to censor exhibitions in response to political, religious, or ideological pressure as that would constrain an artist's freedom to create. In all matters related to the exhibit, sale, or raffle of an artwork or the content of a scheduled program or the use of museum space for activities, final decisions as to these uses remains the responsibility of the Board of Directors.