

Cycle of Life Plein Air Festival — Official Rules & Regulations

Conservation Garden Park · 8275 S 1300 W, West Jordan, UT 84088 Saturday, September 26, 2026 · 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Free and open to all ages · No entry fee

1. Event Overview

The Cycle of Life Plein Air Festival is a free, family-friendly, first-come-first-served art event. Artists create original work on location at Conservation Garden Park during a 4.5-hour window, then display finished pieces for judging and a visitor popular vote. This is a community celebration, not a juried show or an art market — there is no application, no jury, and no on-site sales.

2. Eligibility & Divisions

Open to artists of any age and any skill level. Divisions:

- **Professional**
- **Amateur**
- **Youth** — ages 13–18
- **Kids** — ages 3–12

Within these divisions, artists may also be recognized as Professional, Amateur, or Student where applicable.

Minors: Artists age 14 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian for the entire event. A parent or guardian must complete and sign the permission section of the registration form and indicate whether they (or another approved adult) will be present the full time, part of the time, or whether another approved adult is supervising.

3. Event Day Schedule

Time	Activity
8:30 AM	Staff and volunteer setup — tables, booths, signage
9:00 AM	Registration opens — check-in, canvas/foundation stamping, and new sign-ups
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Artists choose a spot in the garden and set up
10:00 AM	Creating begins (public opens)
2:30 PM	Artists must stop creating and bring work to the display/judging area
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Judging, with visitor token voting running alongside
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Awards gathering, reception, and artist mingling

Artists have a **4.5-hour creating window** (10:00 AM – 2:30 PM).

4. Registration & Check-In

- Registration is free and available online in advance; same-day, walk-up registration may be available depending on space, but pre-registering guarantees a spot.
 - **All artists MUST sign in and have their canvas or foundation stamped at the check-in table between 9:00 and 10:00 AM.**
 - **Failure to get stamped before painting/creating disqualifies the piece from judging.**
 - The canvas or foundation must be completely blank, with no previous drawing or image. A **base tone/wash is allowed**.
 - Artists supply all of their own materials, canvas/surface, easel, seating, and setup.
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5. Creating the Artwork

- Work must be created **entirely on location, "en plein air,"** at Conservation Garden Park during the event window.
 - Artists **may not work from a photograph.**
 - **Anything within the park may be used as subject matter** — plants, water features, wildlife, people, structures, the season itself.
 - **Subject matter must be family-friendly and non-political.** Objectionable or inappropriate images will not be accepted or displayed.
 - **Medium** may be anything, provided it is:
 - Quiet (no noisy generators or equipment)
 - Manageable outdoors
 - Able to be cleaned up responsibly
 - Able to fit within the event's time and space constraints
 - Nothing that harms plants, turf, or park property
 - **Leave no trace** — artists are responsible for cleaning up their own space completely at the end of the day.
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6. Setup & Conduct in the Park

- Artists may choose their own spot anywhere within Conservation Garden Park.
 - Setting up on grass is permitted — please be mindful of plants and garden beds.
 - Ample parking is available on the east side of the park.
 - Artists may bring a sunshade and/or a wagon or cart to help transport gear from parking.
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7. Displaying Additional Work

- Artists may bring **up to 3 additional finished pieces** to display in the entry hallway near the lunch/refreshment area.
- These display-only pieces are **not part of the judged competition.**
- Artists must bring their own easels or stands for hallway display — tables will be provided, but not easels.
- **No on-site sales or transactions of any kind are permitted** — this applies to both the judged piece and any additional display pieces. This is not an art market. Artists are welcome to hand out business cards and/or QR codes so people can find and purchase their work elsewhere.

8. Judging & Awards

- **Deadline:** Finished work must be brought to the common display/judging area by **2:30 PM**.
- Judging is conducted by **three judges**, plus a **visitor popular vote**.
- Visitor voting uses **tokens dropped into covered jars** next to each piece, so tallies stay hidden until the awards gathering.
- Award categories include:
 - Best in Show
 - Water Wise Wonder — best representation of water conservation or the water cycle
 - Local Plant Love Award — best celebration of native or adapted plants
 - Cycle of Life Award — best expression of growth, change, decay, or renewal
 - Pollinator's Choice — best depiction of bees, butterflies, birds, or habitat
 - Most Joyful Interpretation
 - Best Little World
 - Clouds, Rain & River Award
 - The Rooted Award
 - Most Daring
 - Most Unique
 - People's Choice (popular vote)
 - Young Sprout Award (youth/student)
 - Brave Brush Award (student or amateur creative risk)
 - Judges may also create an on-the-spot award if a piece calls for it.
- Awards are announced at the **awards gathering, 3:00–4:00 PM**.

9. Disqualification

A piece may be disqualified from judging if:

- The canvas/foundation was not stamped at check-in between 9:00–10:00 AM
- The work was not created on location during the event window
- The artist worked from a photograph rather than from life
- Subject matter is not family-friendly, or is political, objectionable, or inappropriate
- The medium used was disruptive, harmed park property/plants, or required prohibited equipment (e.g., a noisy generator)

10. General Conduct

- The event is family-friendly for artists and spectators alike.
- Spectators are welcome at no charge to walk the garden, watch artists work, and cast a People's Choice vote.
- Artists are expected to leave their space as they found it and to be respectful of the park, other artists, and visitors throughout the day.