

# Department of Cultural Affairs

Town of Harwich, MA

## Plein Air Fest

***Purpose:*** An immersive art experience showcasing local artists as they capture the charm and vibrancy of Harwich in real time.

***Artist Registration:*** Online Registration Form or by email

Registered artists will get their canvas stamped on the back with the Cultural District Logo

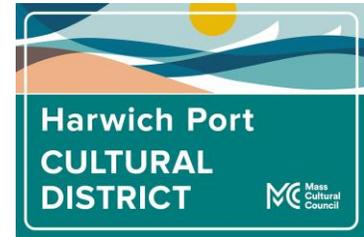
Date: Saturday May 30, 2026

Location: Cold Brook Preserve

Time: 9:00am-3:00pm- Pending light and weather conditions

***Alternative Painting Location Suggestions:***

- Brooks Park
- Wychmere Harbor Overlook
- Red River Beach
- Saquatucket Harbor (deck at dockside)
- Bass River Boardwalk (Dennis line)
- Herring Cove
- Thompsons Field-Conservation Area
- Cranberry Valley Golf Course
- Pleasant Lake
- Whitehouse Field
- Allen Harbor
- Lavendar Farm



**Details:** We encourage a gathering of artists at one location chosen by the Department of Cultural Affairs. However we are open to artists choosing their own location. You will need to inform the Department by May 15, 2026 where they will be painting so we can release the details to the public where they can view and when. Artists will need to send their location and time desired to paint to Kara at [kmewhinney@harwich-ma.gov](mailto:kmewhinney@harwich-ma.gov). This same action can be completed on your form of intent.

**MUST:** Canvases must be 11" x 14" or smaller. These will be provided by the Department of Cultural Affairs unless you have your own preference.

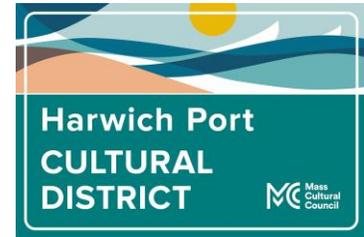
## Preparing for a Plein Air Fest: Artist Details

The light on the Cape leads to so many colors that are clean and clear which make for perfect viewing for beautiful works of art. The strongest shadows happen in the morning and late afternoon and evening, you can still find contrast in the landscape in midday too with various tones of colors. During these times you can find more lavender and peach tones in the sky and the ocean has a cooler blue. Part of the attraction with plein air painting is the challenge of capturing, on-site, the beauty of places that are "off the beaten path." However this means that supplies and equipment that an artist brings must be portable. Choices must be made between what is considered absolutely necessary and what might be a luxury. Some artists can fit everything in a back pack, some use rolling carts. Know your terrain and scope out your location before you go to prepare your bag. We have put together a list of tips and things to know before you go:

**Wind:** It is almost always windy on Cape Cod. Consider how you can secure your supplies, if you use a tripod, plan what you will use to weigh it down for stability.

**Pictures:** Take a before, during, and after photo. This allows you to see progressive change in color and tones that you may want to go back and touch into your work.

**Ticks:** Tick-borne diseases are a problem on the Cape, it is best to be safe and take precautions when going out into areas for long periods of time. Use long sleeves and pants, use repellent with Deet, stay on trails, and avoid uncleared areas such as tall grasses. Always be sure to inspect your clothes and do a tick check when you are finished.



**Sun:** Choose a shady spot to set up to paint or consider shading your palette and painting surface with an umbrella. Direct sunlight will affect your color choices and your finished painting may be too intense in color and very dark. IF you use an umbrella, be sure that it is vented and will not pull everything over in a strong gust of wind. Wear sunscreen and a hat or visor

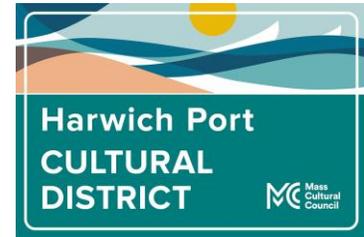
**Personal Safety:** Avoid setting up where you would be interfering with other activities of where you are exposed from behind to unwelcome visitors. Protect your valuable items or lock them in your car. Pay attention to your surroundings, if something seems off or strange leave.

**Weather:** Be sure to know before you go. You don't want to be stuck in a downpour, snow storm, or other weather instances. Be sure to make alternative plans if the weather is going to be terrible, change your day, time, or otherwise paint from the inside of your car. Always practice safety when being out.

Essentials to bring:

- Water to drink
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellant
- A hat or visor
- A trash bag
- Paper towels
- Support for your work such as a gator board something light weight and sturdy
- Attach the canvas to the board, use bungee cords to secure items down etc
- Have a handy first aid kit
- Provide towels for your supplies and materials
- Ensure proper dress, bring an extra layer and plenty to stay hydrated if warm

**We look forward to seeing your work!**



## **QUESTIONS?**

### **Department of Cultural Affairs**

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