



PROSPECTUS

The Fifth Annual **Paint Laurel Plein Air** will be held on Saturday, May 09, 2026 (rain or shine) in historic Laurel, DE. All artists working *en plein air* in oil, acrylic, pastel, and watercolors are invited to set-up their easels to capture this historic town and surrounding picturesque natural areas in all their charms and beauty on a spring day.

This fun, informal painting event in the morning will culminate with an opportunity for artists to display their finished pieces during a "wet paint" art walk and sale on the grounds of the historic Hitchen's Homestead in downtown Laurel. In the past four years, more than \$12,500 worth of artwork has been sold!

An Artist Reception/Dinner will be held on Friday, May 08 from 6p-8p (site TBD). Afterwards, those wishing to get a head-start on selecting a painting scene are invited to tour the town with local, knowledgeable guides aboard one of Laurel's iconic, painted watermelon buses. Participants say this is one of the highlights of the event!

Artists are asked to pay a \$25 registration fee, which entitles them to take part in the temporary "wet paint" exhibit and sale as well as enjoy the artist reception/dinner on Friday and the artist luncheon on Saturday. Artists may register using Eventbrite; a link will be posted prior to the opening of registration on February 09, 2025

In addition, there will be a total of \$1,800 in cash awards.

AWARDS

1. One Laurel- \$500 (best portrays Laurel's unique community pride/spirit)
2. Grand Old Laurel - \$500 (best depicts Laurel's rich history and tradition)
3. Great Things Come Naturally- \$500 (best features the Laurel area's nature-based assets)
4. Artists' Choice- \$300

Cash awards will be presented to selected winners during the awards ceremony. All work must be created *en plein air* and on location (a boundary map will be provided). The suggested paint times for artists are between 7a.m. - 11 a.m. on Saturday, but early-risers may begin whenever

they wish that day. Each artist may submit up to two pieces for display and judging. The awards will be announced following the community luncheon.

SCHEDULE

Friday, 5/08: Artist check-in begins at 5:30 p.m. (no canvas stamping necessary) with an artist reception/dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. (site TBD). The evening will include a bus tour of the downtown area, neighborhoods and along Broad Creek, which will be hosted by knowledgeable, local guides who can help artists get a “feel” for the town.

Saturday, 5/09: Artist check-in reopens at Hitchen’s Homestead (no canvas stamping necessary) and painting commences. Artists may paint anywhere within the Laurel area identified on the provided map (area includes many natural and historic vistas outside the town’s boundaries). Also, a list of private properties for which access has graciously been permitted will also be provided. Artists are asked to stop painting at 11:00 a.m. and return to the event site. Each submission must be delivered framed, wired, labeled (identification tags will be provided with Title/Artist/Price/Contact Info) and ready for display by 11:30 a.m.

Artists are responsible for providing their own easels or panels on which they will display their artwork. A community art walk featuring the finished pieces will commence at 11:30 a.m. Artists are encouraged (but not required) to remain with their artwork for conversation with community members and other visitors. A catered luncheon for participants will begin at 12:00 noon. Awards will be determined by a select group of community judges following the luncheon. Artists will also have an opportunity to vote for their “Artists’ Choice” favorite. The wet paint exhibit and artwalk will conclude at 1:30 p.m.

SALES

Each artist is allowed to display up to two pieces. Artists are permitted to sell **ONLY** the artwork they produce during the event. Artists are responsible for the manner in which they display their work during the wet paint exhibit. All sales are considered to be a private transaction between an individual artist and the buyer. As such, sales are at the discretion of each participating artist. There is **NO COMMISSION** retained for this event by the host organizers.