

C H A R L O T T E



IDEAS + MUSIC + FOOD + ART



Invitation to Creative Participation

For more information
visit CharlotteSHOUT.com



APRIL 3–19, 2026
UPTOWN CHARLOTTE

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INTRODUCTION

Charlotte SHOUT! is an aspirational multi-week festival designed to showcase our community by celebrating Charlotte's creativity and innovation through art, music, food, and ideas. Located primarily in Uptown Charlotte, **SHOUT!** will feature exceptionally curated programming from around the corner and around the world.

Join us once again as we transform the streets, parks, and venues into a vibrant tapestry of creativity. Here's what awaits you:

Bigger Canvas: More artists, more installations, and more surprises. We're expanding our horizons, quite literally!

Community Collaborations: Let's co-create! Workshops, interactive exhibits, and collaborative murals — your brushstroke matters.

Cultural Fusion: From local legends to global sensations, our lineup celebrates diversity, unity, and the universal language of art.

Late-Night Revelry: The after-hours scene? Electric. Expect moonlit performances, secret pop-ups, and dance floors that defy curfew.

Your Story: Because every attendee is a storyteller. Share your **Charlotte SHOUT!** moments using #Shout2026.



Our Mission

Charlotte SHOUT! curates a sensory feast that weaves together the inspiring talents of internationally acclaimed and locally-grown artists, musicians, chefs, and thought leaders. We present a creative, inclusive, and innovative arts experience through a series of coordinated festival events designed to bring people together.

Our Vision

Make Charlotte a premier destination for culturally diverse arts, ideas, and experiences.

My CLT

We have dedicated a portion of the festival to highlight and promote local talent in our region. We call this platform **My CLT**. Each My CLT artist will be identified at the festival as well as through our media channels. To be eligible as a My CLT participant, applicants must be living within a 50-mile radius of or working in Charlotte, NC.



Eligibility

Charlotte SHOUT! is a family-friendly event, experienced by people of all ages and backgrounds. We invite artists, designers, creatives, architects, engineers, businesses, and educational institutions to present ideas, designs, energy, and passions to be a part of the festival. All individuals are encouraged to apply, regardless of age, ethnicity, citizenship, physical ability, occupation, race, gender, background, or any other personal characteristics. We want to see your artwork and big ideas! We encourage you to think outside the box and be unique.



ART

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Charlotte SHOUT! seeks transformative art installations from imaginative and inspired story tellers to support the backbone of the event. Proposed works will be temporary installations that should explore an engaging idea or thematic concept. Successful proposals will demonstrate a unique experience of new technology, sustainability, accessibility, and innovative thinking and incorporate the 2025 theme, CURIOSITY.

Art Applications include:

- Poster Competition
- Icons
- Easter Eggs on Parade
- Interactive Art



Poster Competition

Design your own **Charlotte SHOUT!** poster and enter to be selected as the “face” of **Charlotte SHOUT!** 2026! We’re looking for a design that’s creative, vibrant, inspiring, and that encompasses all that **SHOUT!** has to offer.

The contest is open to anyone — regardless of experience. We hope to receive entries from students, seniors, professional artists, and novices. Completed entry forms must be attached to the back of each poster. Entry forms are located under **Poster Guidelines**. **All entries must include (in this order): name, address, email, phone number, artwork title, description (150 words), photo of artist, and how this work represents the SHOUT! Festival (150 words).**

Awards

The winning image will be displayed on the cover of the **Charlotte SHOUT!** program, festival posters, and other promotional collateral.

The selected poster artist will receive:

- Recognition as the official 2026 **Charlotte SHOUT!** poster artist.
- 100 posters
- A \$1,000 cash award*

***Charlotte SHOUT!** will retain possession and all legal rights to the artwork selected, including all reproduction and photographic rights, with credit for the artwork being given to the artist in all accompanying material.*

The selected artist **MUST provide high-resolution, print-ready files (determined by CCCP). Payment will not be granted until the print-ready files are approved by CCCP.*

POSTER GUIDELINES

- The artwork theme is the **Charlotte SHOUT!** Festival.
- Only original artwork submitted by the artist or the artist’s representative will be accepted.
- Posters must be submitted in-person to **Charlotte Center City Partners**, 200 S. Tryon St., Suite 1600, Charlotte NC, 28202, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. by **August 1, 2025**.
- Artists are limited to two entries per artist.
- Artwork must not have been previously exhibited in any City of Charlotte program in the last three years.
- Two-dimensional artwork only.
- Size must not exceed 24” W x 36” H.
- **Do not include the Charlotte SHOUT! logo or name on the artwork.**
- Completed **ENTRY FORMS** (*linked here or on the next page*) must be attached to the back of each poster.

Poster Timeline

June 9, 2025	Poster Drop Off Opens
August 1, 2025, 5PM EST	Poster Competition Closes
End of August 2025	Poster Competition Applicants Notified
September 8–12, 2025	Poster Pick-up (between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.)
April 3–19, 2026	Charlotte SHOUT! 2026

No applications will be accepted via email. Once submitted, applicants will not be allowed to edit their posters. **If you have any questions about the application process, please contact KLORD@CLTSHOUT.COM.**

Note: The poster competition theme is **SHOUT!** and we recommend reviewing the introduction page for festival information. The festival theme **does not apply** to the poster competition.

To apply, you will need to provide:

- A physical copy of your poster turned into our office
- The entry form attached to the back of your submission



Name

Address

Email

Phone

Artwork Title

Description

(150 words or less)

**How does
this work
represent
the SHOUT!
Festival?**

(150 words or less)



ART

Theme

Last year at **Charlotte SHOUT!** we have decided to introduce an overarching theme throughout all aspects of the festival of conservation.

The **2026 Charlotte SHOUT!** theme is **CURIOSITY**.

We ask that your application(s) incorporate this theme and invite you to be as creative as possible in your proposal. As you are creating your application keep in mind the following questions:

- What inspires your curiosity?
- Why is curiosity important in the world today?
- How can curiosity bring people together?
- What role does curiosity play in art + creativity?
- How can communities foster curiosity?
- What's something you've always been curious about?

This theme will be applied to the following applications: Icons, Easter Eggs on Parade, and Interactive Art.

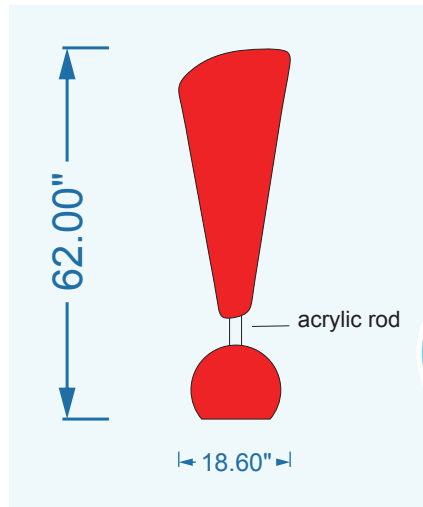


!cons

Charlotte SHOUT! is all about shouting Charlotte's talent. What better way to **SHOUT!** than with our own !con. Giant exclamation points will be located at various venues during the festival. We are looking for 10–12 artists to have their work featured as a **SHOUT!** !con and displayed throughout the festival. Selected artists will receive \$1,000 and be featured on an !con.

!con Details

!cons will be 62 inches tall, 12 inches deep, and made from hard coated Styrofoam. **Applications should only feature 2D designs.** We are looking for bright, creative ideas that will stand out at the festival.



**\$10
Application
Fee**



BUDGET

\$1,000 budget

The budget includes artist fee, all labor costs to build the artwork (from concept to installation on-site), all materials, installation, de-installation, engineering services, testing needed for your artwork, shipping costs, all travel, and accommodations. **Charlotte SHOUT!** organizers will provide security and basic maintenance.

Please note: **Charlotte SHOUT!** owns and keeps the !cons. Artists may remove added pieces to their !con after the festival is over.

TO APPLY, YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Contact information, artist biography, and social media handles
- A brief written description of your proposal/idea
- A copy of your individual or company credentials and design/work portfolios
- A fully itemized project budget (inclusive of artist fee, construction, installation, etc.)
- One or more photo-realistic renders or sketches of your idea if applicable.
- Include the **Charlotte SHOUT!** 2026 theme, CURIOSITY in your artwork. We recommend reviewing the CURIOSITY theme information on page 8.



!con Timeline

June 9, 2025	Applications Open
August 1, 2025	Application Closes
End of August 2025	Artists Notified of Selections
January 2026	!con Pick-up
April 1–2, 2026	!con Drop off
April 3–19, 2026	Charlotte SHOUT! 2026

Easter Eggs on Parade

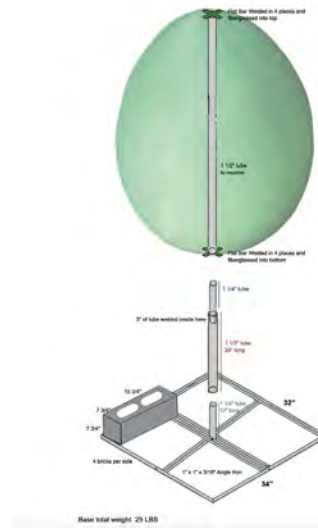
Easter Eggs on Parade has become a **SHOUT!** staple and showcases local artists' talent inspired by famous, bejeweled eggs. GIANT eggs will be placed Uptown for the festival, and we are looking for local artists to decorate an egg. We want to see your artistic take on a GIANT, bejeweled egg, under the **SHOUT! 2026** theme of CURIOSITY (more information on page 8). We are looking for mostly 3D designs but are open to 2D ideas as well. Selected artists will receive \$2,000 to carry out their idea.



**\$10
Application
Fee**

Easter Eggs on Parade Timeline

June 9, 2025	Applications Open
August 1, 2025	Application Closes
End of August 2025	Artists Notified of Selections
January 2026	Egg Pick-up
April 1–2, 2026	Egg Drop-off
April 3–19, 2026	Charlotte SHOUT! 2025



Egg Details

Each egg is made of fiberglass, stands 48" tall, 36" in diameter, and sits on a solid base. The base is 36" by 36". **Charlotte SHOUT!** will provide a small black base and signage for each egg. Please note the egg measurements (left) and a photo of a completed and installed egg to the far left.

BUDGET

\$2,000 budget

The budget includes artist fee, all labor costs to build the artwork (from concept to installation on site), all materials, installation, de-installation, engineering services, testing needed for your artwork, shipping costs, all travel, and accommodations. **Charlotte SHOUT!** organizers will provide security and basic maintenance.

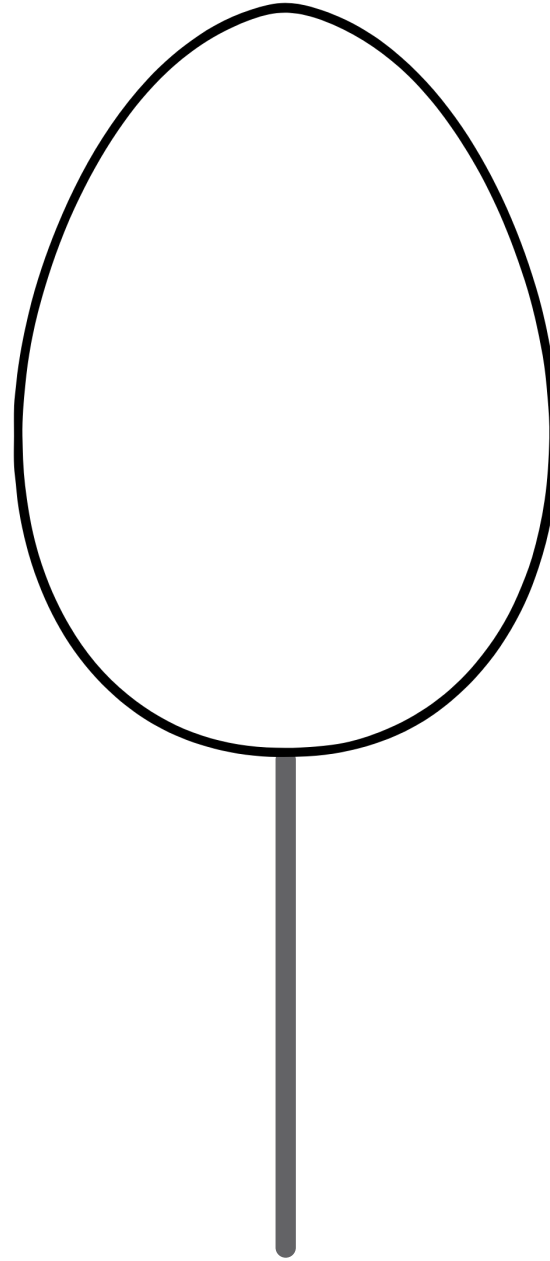
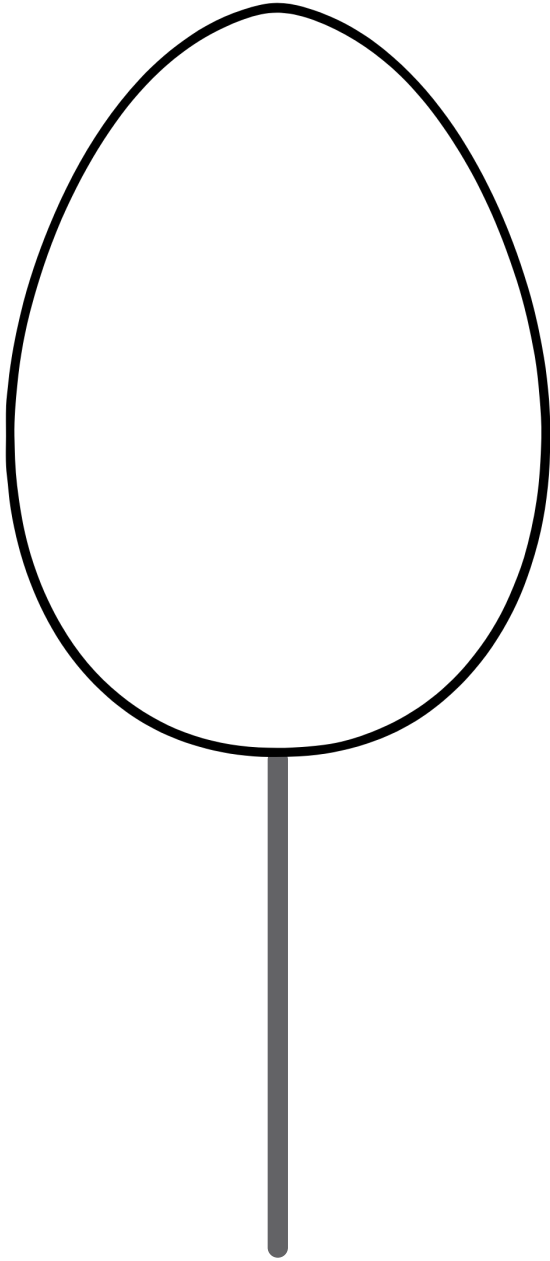
Please note: **Charlotte SHOUT!** owns and keeps the fiberglass eggs and bases. Artists may remove added pieces to their egg after the festival is over.

TO APPLY, YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Contact information, artist biography, and social media handles
- A brief written description of your proposal/idea
- A copy of your individual or company credentials and design/work portfolios
- A fully itemized project budget (inclusive of artist fee, construction, installation, etc.)
- Include the 2026 theme, CURIOSITY, in your artwork. We recommend reviewing the theme information on page 8.
- One or more photo-realistic renders or sketches of your idea; you may use the template on page 11 as a guide.

**Apply
here**

Easter Eggs on Parade Template



Interactive Art

We are looking for interactive installations that are more than just touch. Proposed works will be temporary installations that explore an engaging idea or thematic concept while also having an interactive component.

Our hope is for participants to interact with your work multiple times throughout the festival with different impressions after each visit. Successful proposals will demonstrate a unique experience, new technology, sustainability, accessibility, and innovative thinking.

We are also looking for artists to incorporate the overall festival theme of CURIOSITY into their artwork (more information on page 8).



BUDGET

\$15,000 budget

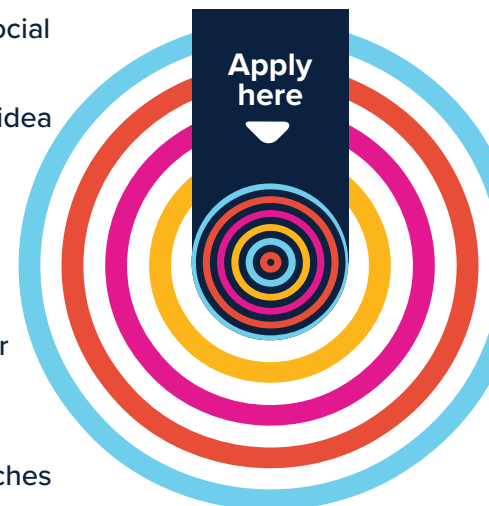
The budget includes artist fee, all labor costs to build the artwork (from concept to installation on site), all materials, installation, de-installation, engineering services, testing needed for your artwork, shipping costs, all travel, and accommodations. **Charlotte SHOUT!** organizers will provide power, security, and basic maintenance.

Interactive Art Timeline

June 9, 2025	Applications Open
August 1, 2025	Application Closes
End of August 2025	Artists Notified of Selections
April 1–2, 2026	Interactive Art Install
April 3–19, 2026	Charlotte SHOUT! 2025
April 20, 2026	Interactive Art Removal

TO APPLY, YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE:

- Contact information, artist biography, and social media handles
- A brief written description of your proposal/idea
- A copy of your individual or company credentials and design/work portfolios
- A fully itemized project budget (inclusive of artist fee, construction, installation, etc.)
- Include the 2026 theme, CURIOSITY, in your artwork. We recommend reviewing the theme information on page 8.
- Two or more photo-realistic renders or sketches of your idea.



MUSIC

Charlotte **SHOUT!** seeks to highlight local musicians across multiple genres. We invite both emerging and established artists to apply to perform at the 2026 festival.





Music Showcase Timeline

June 9, 2025	Applications Open
August 1, 2025	Application Closes
End of September 2025	Artists Notified of Selections
April 3–19, 2026	Charlotte SHOUT! 2025

Music Showcase

Charlotte SHOUT! will program several stages throughout the festival footprint. The Music Showcase slots are open to solo artists or full bands performing music from all genres. **Charlotte SHOUT!** will select a few artists or bands to perform showcase slots in advance of headline talent. This is a very competitive process, and we strongly recommend artists put their best foot forward. We are looking to highlight the best of our region. Original music and creative performances and content will have a better chance of being selected. Music Everywhere CLT will manage the Music Showcase selection process and onsite coordination.

IMPORTANT DETAILS;

- Sets will be a maximum of 40 minutes.
- Selected artists will be guaranteed one performance.
- All production and basic backline equipment will be supplied.

PERFORMANCE STIPEND:

Selected artists will receive a performance stipend payable upon completion of their set. Bands will receive \$150 per person with a max payout of \$1,500.

TO APPLY, YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE:

- Contact information
- Complete biography that includes genre, experience, background, etc.
- A sample of your music. Audio files are acceptable, but video is preferred.
- A link to an electronic press kit (EPK)
- A reference
- Marketing materials, if available, including social media, promotional photography, etc.

\$10
Application
Fee

Apply
here

APPLICATION





Application Details

Charlotte SHOUT! is looking for big ideas and invites you to be as creative as possible in your proposal.

Applications must be submitted through the online portal, SlideRoom, by August 1, 2025. No applications will be accepted via email or physical copy, except the poster competition. See page 19 for the list of application fees. Once submitted, applicants will not be allowed to edit their proposals. Charlotte Center City Partners takes no responsibility for access or connection issues. If you are having trouble accessing the application form or have any questions about the process, please contact [**KLORD@CLTSHOUT.COM**](mailto:KLORD@CLTSHOUT.COM)

Applications must be received through the online portal, SlideRoom, by August 1, 2025.

Benefits

Participating in **Charlotte SHOUT!** provides several benefits, including:

- Showcasing your talents to a large-scale audience and increasing your brand awareness
- Marketing support for your installation through integration with the wider **Charlotte SHOUT!** program and marketing campaign. This includes a listing on the **Charlotte SHOUT!** website and inclusion in the **Charlotte SHOUT!** digital marketing program.
- Networking events with other program participants.
- Further support, such as investment in the event, venue or talent may be possible subject to negotiations and conditions.

Sponsor Activations

This Invitation process is not applicable for industry or corporate hospitality events, brand activations, or product launches. Please get in touch with the **Charlotte SHOUT!** team (email below) if you would like to discuss opportunities to align your brand with the festival and become a sponsor.

[**MPONCE@CHARLOTTECENTERCITY.ORG**](mailto:MPONCE@CHARLOTTECENTERCITY.ORG)



Selection Process

This Invitation to Creative Participation is being undertaken to enable **Charlotte SHOUT!** organizers to identify the most qualified artist(s) for this opportunity. A selection committee, including Charlotte Center City Partners and community stakeholders, will review eligible proposals, determine a shortlist of finalists, and select applications for the 2026 **Charlotte SHOUT!** festival.



Apply for
**Easter Eggs
on Parade**



Apply for
!cons



Apply for
**Interactive
Art**



Apply for
Music



FAQs



FAQs

When is SHOUT!?

Charlotte **SHOUT!** Will take place in Uptown, Charlotte **April 3–19, 2026**.

When is the deadline to submit your applications?

All proposals must be completed and submitted through the online portal, SlideRoom, by **August 1, 2025**.

For the poster competition, all posters must be completed and dropped off in-person to 200 S Tryon St., Suite 1600, Charlotte, NC 28202, by **August 1, 2025 by 5 p.m. EST**.

The quick link is not working for my computer. How do I access the applications?

Copy and paste the links below in your browser.

- **Apply for Easter Eggs on Parade:** [HTTPS://CHARLOTTECENTERCITY.SLIDEROOM.COM/#/PERMALINK/PROGRAM/83986](https://charlottecentercity.slideroom.com/#/PERMALINK/PROGRAM/83986)
- **Apply for !cons:** [HTTPS://CHARLOTTECENTERCITY.SLIDEROOM.COM/#/PERMALINK/PROGRAM/83985](https://charlottecentercity.slideroom.com/#/PERMALINK/PROGRAM/83985)
- **Apply for Interactive Art:** [HTTPS://CHARLOTTECENTERCITY.SLIDEROOM.COM/#/PERMALINK/PROGRAM/83988](https://charlottecentercity.slideroom.com/#/PERMALINK/PROGRAM/83988)
- **Apply for Music:** [HTTPS://CHARLOTTECENTERCITY.SLIDEROOM.COM/#/PERMALINK/PROGRAM/83987](https://charlottecentercity.slideroom.com/#/PERMALINK/PROGRAM/83987)

Can multiple artists work on one proposal?

Yes, artists can apply together, but the funds will stay the same as if it was one project.

Can you submit proposals for multiple categories?

Yes, applicants may apply to participate in multiple categories. However, do not submit the same application to multiple categories.

How much does it cost to submit a proposal?

Application Fees

Poster Competition	\$0
!cons	\$10
Easter Eggs on Parade	\$10
Interactive Art	\$25
Music Showcase	\$10

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please email KLORD@CLTSHOUT.COM

