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# UNDER THE **OAKS** ARTS FESTIVAL

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*at* **Whalehead**  
IN HISTORIC COROLLA, NC

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## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Festival

June 23 & 24, 2026

Tuesday & Wednesday Hours:

10 AM – 5 PM

### **IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES:**

Application Deadline: April 30, 2026

Acceptance Notification: May 10, 2026

Artist Check-In: June 22, 2026, Noon – 5 pm

[Signature Events | Northern Outer Banks](#)

#UndertheOaksCorolla

## **ABOUT OUR SHOW**

Under the Oaks Art Festival is an annual juried outdoor festival featuring fine artists, jewelers, and crafters. The festival features the unique talents of quality artists with a wide variety of media, local food concessions, and a silent art auction that benefits Whalehead in Historic Corolla Park. Whalehead was the 1920's residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Collings Knight, Jr., a 21,000-square-foot "mansion by the sea". Hosted by Currituck County Travel & Tourism, the festival provides local and regional artists with an opportunity to display and sell their creative work on the sweeping waterfront grounds of Historic Corolla Park at Whalehead. One hundred-year-old live oaks, open green lawns, and casual breezes from the Currituck Sound make for a perfect location.

## **ENTRY FEES**

**Fine Artists & Jewelry Artists:** Each application must be accompanied either by credit card information or a check made out to ***Currituck County*** with the memo line to include **2026 Under the Oaks**. The exhibitor space is \$150. Competition in the **Fine Artists** or **Jewelry Artists** categories is an additional \$40 for the non-refundable jury fee (total: \$190). The \$150 will be returned if the artist is not accepted. (*Your refund will come from Currituck County Finance Department.*) Once the artist has been accepted by the jury, the exhibitor space fee is non-refundable even if the artist is unable to attend the event.

Application packets must be mailed to **Whalehead in HCP, PO Box 431, Corolla, NC 27927, Attn: UTOAF**.

***There will be no rain dates or refunds. The show goes on, rain, shine or wind, so all artists should be prepared for the weather.***

## **ENTRY MATERIALS**

In order to complete the application process, please send an entry packet which includes the following materials:

1. Completed ARTIST/EXIBITOR AGREEMENT & Under the Oaks Artist/Exhibitor Rules & Regulations forms (pages 8 – 10).
2. Enclose one (1) check or credit card information for the appropriate fee(s). Applications that do not include the appropriate fee(s) will not be accepted.
3. Submit five (5) high quality digital images of your work, one (1) image of your display booth. Digital submissions should be in jpg format. Return work samples to [Nancy.Harvey@currituckcountync.gov](mailto:Nancy.Harvey@currituckcountync.gov). Please include **2026 UTOAF Application** in the subject line of your email. Include date application was mailed.

## **SPACES**

If you have participated in the show in prior years and request the same space, we will try to get you that space. We do not guarantee any placement.

## **ARTISTS**

Artists must be present to display their own work. Proxy exhibitors are not permitted. The work of only one artist may be displayed in each assigned space. Two person teams producing a single product may qualify as a single exhibitor. Artists are responsible for their own tents, tables, coolers, ice, and chairs. Volunteers will be on hand to help man your tent for short periods to allow for restroom and meal breaks. Work that is not appropriate for a family show cannot be displayed. Any artist or crafter who misrepresents the quality or production of their work will NOT be allowed to return to future shows.

***Fine Artists*** – Artist may present work in any medium that does not appear on the “unacceptable” list below.

## **UNACCEPTABLE WORK FOR ANY CATEGORY AT THE SHOW:**

Novelty Items

Picture Frames

Kit Work

Decoupage

Art Supplies

Imported Art

Production Art / Mass Produced Items

Any other items NOT MADE OR PRODUCED by the artists presenting the work.

## **SALES**

Over 100,000 visitors will be on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in June, and they all will be invited to see and buy your work. Most families will have limited space and may request that your work be mailed to them. There are packing and shipping companies located in Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, and Grandy. This is a great option to offer to your customers. We recommend that you inquire about fees for this service before the show to get an idea of what amount to charge.

## **TAX**

The current North Carolina sales tax is 6.75% and charging this is the responsibility of the artist.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Visit [www.northernouterbanks.com](http://www.northernouterbanks.com) for a list of nearby hotels, bed and breakfast establishments, and rental cottages. Our local Visitor's Center is also available to help with your needs at 252.453.9612.

## **CALENDAR**

- **January 1, 2026**  
Applications Available
- **April 30, 2026**  
Applications Deadline  
All applications must be postmarked by this date.
- **May 10, 2026**  
Acceptance Letters  
Notification by email
- **Monday, June 22, 2026**  
Noon – 5:00 pm ~ Artist check-in, pick up information packets, set up tents.
- **Tuesday, June 23, 2026**  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm Show Hours  
11:00 am – Judging Begins  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm – Reception & Awards Dinner
- **Wednesday, June 24, 2026**  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm Show Hours  
5:00 pm – Breakdown Begins **NO BREAKDOWN BEGINS BEFORE 5:00 PM!**

## **AWARDS**

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Judging will begin at 11am on Tuesday and will be completed by 4pm.
- Judging will be conducted by a panel of qualified artists, art historians, art educators, or art gallery owners.
- Artists will be given a separate numerical score by each judge based on skill/technique, creativity/originality, quality of composition or design, consistency, knowledge and mastery of the medium and the overall impression of the artist's body of work.
- The scores will be summed to determine the artist's final score.
- Judges may revisit an artist to reevaluate their work in the event of a tie.
- Artist will be judged on their display works as a whole, but their most outstanding work, chosen by the judges, will be recognized as the winning piece.

### **Prizes:**

#### Fine Arts

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Best in Show | \$1,000 |
| Second       | \$400   |
| Third        | \$200   |

#### Jewelry Arts

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Best in Show | \$1,000 |
| Second       | \$400   |
| Third        | \$200   |

## **CHECKLIST**

- ARTIST/EXHIBITOR AGREEMENT & Under the Oaks Artist/Exhibitor Rules & Regulations**, Completed and postmarked by April 30, 2026
- Credit card information or one (1) check payable to ***Currituck County*** for **Exhibit Space - \$150**  
**Jury Fee - \$40**
- Five (5) high quality digital images, one (1) image of your display booth. Digital submissions should be in jpg format. Return work samples to [Nancy.Harvey@currituckcountync.gov](mailto:Nancy.Harvey@currituckcountync.gov). Please include **2026 UTOAF Application** in the subject line of your email. Include the date application was mailed.

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All Application and Materials should be mailed to:

**Whalehead in HCP**  
**ATTN: UTOAF / Nancy Harvey**  
**PO Box 431**  
**Corolla, NC 27927**

**\*If you wish to donate a piece of artwork for the annual silent auction to benefit the Whalehead, please deliver it at check-in on Monday, June 22, 2026.**



## Under the Oaks Arts Festival

**DATE:** Tuesday & Wednesday, June 23 & 24, 2026

**LOCATION:** Whalehead in Historic Corolla Park

**EVENT TIME:** 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

**ARTIST SETUP:** June 22, 2026, Noon – 5:00 pm

### **ARTIST/EXHIBITOR APPLICATION/AGREEMENT**

#### **WAIVER AND ACCEPTANCE INFORMATION (*Signature Required*)**

I/We (below named artist/exhibitor) agrees to hold harmless Currituck County and its agents, representatives, and employees from and against claims, damages and losses and expenses including reasonable attorneys' fees in any case where it shall be necessary to file an action: (1) arising out of the performance of the work herein which is one for bodily injury, illness or death or for property damages including loss of use; and (2) caused in whole or in part by the vendor/exhibitors negligent acts or failures to act or that his agents, employees, contractor(s), or subcontractor(s) or anyone employed by them for whose act the artist/exhibitor may be liable.

I/We understand that emails will be the preferred method used for notifications and that all pages of the application/agreement must be completed and returned to be considered for the Under the Oaks Art Festival.

I/We (below named artist/exhibitor) have read and agree to the waiver information above and will abide by the rules and regulations below for the 2026 Under the Oaks Art Festival.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person assisting with your booth: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Artist/Exhibitor Rules & Regulations**

I acknowledge that by signing this Artist/Exhibitor Application/Agreement, I will adhere to the following rules and regulations (please initial after each):

1. **Under the Oaks Arts Festival** hours are Tuesday, June 23, 2026, and Wednesday, June 24, 2026, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. **(NO BREAKDOWN BEGINS BEFORE 5:00 PM, JUNE 24, 2026)** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Check-in & Set-up time will be Monday, June 22, beginning at Noon (NO EARLIER) until 5:00 pm. Artist/Exhibitor will be allowed to drive vehicle up to their booth during scheduled set-up time and scheduled tear-down time ONLY. At all other times, vehicles must remain in the designated parking area. **NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED ON SHOW SITE DURING SHOW HOURS.** This is to ensure the safety of customers and spectators as there will be excessive foot traffic in the park. Site assignments will be given upon arrival at your set-up time. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Booth size is 12' x 12'. Tents will need to be staked in the ground. Sites are located outside, area on and off of the North & South Lawn. Artist/Exhibitor must provide their own tents, tables, and chairs. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Whalehead staff will be available throughout the day Tuesday and Wednesday. Local law enforcement is periodically on the property. However, displays left out overnight are done so at the artist/exhibitors risk. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Trash receptacles are located throughout the park for artist/exhibitors and our visitors' convenience. However, any bulk trash must be placed in the dumpster located at the public boat ramp area. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Each Artist/Exhibitor is asked to donate one item for the silent auction. This is a request, at the Artists' discretion; all profits are used to support Whalehead in Historic Corolla Park. \_\_\_\_\_
7. All booths must be manned by the primary artist/exhibitor or designated assistant during show time. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*PLEASE NOTE: Failure to comply with these rules and regulations may result in the termination of UTOAF participation.**

**Brief description of your work:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Jury Category** (please check one if wanting to be juried):  Fine  Jewelry

**How did you hear about us** (please check any that apply):

Friend  Website  Returning Artist  Other

**Artist & Crafter Donation:**  Yes  No

Yes! I would like to donate a piece of artwork for the annual Whalehead benefit auction. The work will be a current piece that is a quality representation of my artistic talent.

- Name of work donated: \_\_\_\_\_
- Medium & Description: \_\_\_\_\_
- Estimated Value \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**R.S.V.P. Reception & Award Dinner (Tuesday, June 23, 5:30 – 7:30):**

Yes  No

**Booth/Jury Fees Payment:**

Check

Credit Card

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ (*please print legibly*)

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

CVV #: \_\_\_\_\_ (*3 digits on back of card*)

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Charged: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO:** Whalehead in HCP  
Attn: UTOAF/Nancy Harvey  
PO Box 431  
Corolla, NC 27927

**CONTACT INFO:** Phone: 252-722-6321  
Email: [Nancy.Harvey@currituckcountync.gov](mailto:Nancy.Harvey@currituckcountync.gov)