



Inspiration images of bird sculpture with light

OFFICIAL ARTIST GUIDELINES & INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

Creative District | Thomasville, Georgia | April 1–June 2, 2027

An invitation to create something extraordinary.

Thomasville Center for the Arts, in partnership with ASHLEY | 1915 South, invites sculptors to participate in *Due South 2027: Birds of a Feather*, a juried outdoor sculpture exhibition celebrating native birds of the Red Hills region.

This year's competition explores sculpture + light, challenging artists to capture the beauty, movement, personality, and character of our native birds through original three-dimensional works.

Selected sculptures will be exhibited in two downtown Thomasville locations:

- **The UnVacant Lot | 217 West Jackson Street**
- **City Lot | 233 West Jackson Street**

1. COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Artists will create works within one of three exhibition categories: (images of birds on final page of this document)

BIRDS THAT SING
BIRDS THAT DIVE
BIRDS THAT WADE

Each category includes nine designated native bird species.

Applicants should list their **top three bird choices in ONE category** on the application. The jury will determine artist participation; bird species assignments will be based on availability and the order in which we receive completed applications.

Each **$30 application** covers one sculpture entry. Artists wishing to submit more than one sculpture must complete a separate application and pay a separate fee for each entry.

2. GENERAL SCULPTURE REQUIREMENTS

Your bird must be selected from the official *Birds of a Feather* species list.

All selected artists agree to:

- Create an original, handmade sculpture depicting one of the designated bird species native to the Red Hills region.
- Create a sculpture with minimum dimensions of 12" × 36", excluding suspension line or ground platform.
- Create artwork that is three-dimensional, securely constructed, and suitable for an extended outdoor exhibition.
- Use materials capable of withstanding anticipated exposure to sun, wind, rain, humidity, heat, and temperature changes.
- Use paints, finishes, adhesives, and decorative components that are appropriate for outdoor conditions. Please consider heat exposure carefully when selecting glues, adhesives, and other bonding materials.
- Incorporate light as an integral element of the sculpture's design.
- Deliver artwork fully constructed, finished, and ready for installation.

Substituting a substantially different design from the jury-selected proposal requires prior approval from Thomasville Center for the Arts.

3. INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. Installation requirements differ by category.

A. BIRDS THAT SING + BIRDS THAT DIVE

SUSPENDED SCULPTURES

These sculptures will be displayed from overhead supports, creating the impression of birds in flight throughout the exhibition.

Each suspended sculpture must arrive with:

1. Secure, structurally sound hook(s) or attachment points integrated into the sculpture.
2. A **10-foot length heavy-duty, weather-resistant clear suspension line**, securely attached to the sculpture on one end.
3. A hanging arrangement that properly distributes the sculpture's weight and maintains its intended position.
4. A secure secondary safety attachment for use by the Center's installation team.

Important Construction Considerations

- Plan the hanging mechanism **during construction**, not after the sculpture has been completed.
- Make sure the sculpture is properly balanced when suspended.
- Attachment points must be mechanically secure and capable of supporting the full weight of the sculpture.
- Do not rely solely on adhesive, lightweight decorative wire, or fragile components for structural support.

- Consider movement caused by wind. Reinforce wings, tails, necks, and other extended elements as necessary.
- Artists must test the complete hanging system using the actual finished sculpture before delivery.
- Suspended sculptures must be safe for members of the public to walk beneath.
- Final hanging locations will be determined by Thomasville Center for the Arts based on sculpture size, weight, balance, and available structural supports.

Thomasville Center for the Arts will coordinate final hanging locations and installation procedures.

B. BIRDS THAT WADE

GROUND SCULPTURES

Wading bird sculptures will be installed at ground level, allowing visitors to experience these birds within a landscaped setting.

Wading sculptures do not require overhead hanging hardware. However, **every wading sculpture must arrive permanently attached to its own flat, stable ground platform.**

The platform must:

- Measure a minimum of **12" × 12"**. Use larger platforms when needed for stability.
- Be thin enough to be visually concealed with pine straw or other landscape material if desired.
- Be weather-resistant, rigid, and structurally sound.
- Rest completely flat on the ground.
- Be mechanically and permanently secured to the sculpture.
- Keep the completed sculpture balanced and upright under normal outdoor conditions.
- Have no exposed sharp edges, screws, wires, or hazardous projections.
- Be finished appropriately for an outdoor public art exhibition.

Artists must test the completed sculpture and base for stability before delivery.

The sculpture and platform must function as one complete unit. We will not accept a bird sculpture simply placed on top of a separate or freestanding platform.

A finished metal base is acceptable and may remain visible if it complements the artwork. Bases intended to disappear visually may be concealed beneath pine straw or other landscape material during installation.

Tall sculptures, extended necks, broad wings, or other top-heavy designs may require a larger footprint or concealed weighting.

Thomasville Center for the Arts will review each sculpture for stability and public safety before installation and reserves the right to require reasonable modifications when necessary.

Artists who are uncertain about a proposed base design are encouraged to submit the base concept for approval before completing the sculpture.

4. LIGHTING CONSIDERATIONS

Because **sculpture + light** are important elements of this exhibition, artists are encouraged to think creatively about illumination and how their work will appear after dark.

Any lighting incorporated into a sculpture must be securely installed and appropriate for outdoor use.

Artists should consider:

- Battery access
- Switch access
- Battery life
- Weather protection
- Maintenance requirements
- Ease of replacement or recharging during the exhibition

After acceptance, artists must identify their proposed lighting method as part of the final design.

Thomasville Center for the Arts is happy to review and approve lighting concepts in advance.

Plan. Lighting should be considered as part of the sculpture from the beginning—not added as an afterthought.

5. APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

A juried panel will review applications and select artists to participate in *Due South 2027: Birds of a Feather*.

Sculpture construction may begin immediately following artist acceptance and approval of the proposed design.

Once accepted, artists should provide a design or concept that includes both installation and lighting plans.

Applications should include:

- Artist's name, contact information, and brief biography.
- Selected competition category and top three preferred bird species.
- Two to three examples of previous three-dimensional artwork. Artists who do not normally work in three dimensions may submit examples of work in another medium.
- Proposed selling price, or an indication that the artwork is not for sale.

Images of previous work are not mandatory, but they are strongly encouraged and helpful to the jury.

Artists submitting more than one sculpture must provide a separate application and proposal for each entry.

6. IMPORTANT DATES

Event	**Date**
Application Deadline	November 16, 2026
Selected Artists Notified	November 17, 2026
Final Sculpture Images Due	March 30, 2027, EOD
Artwork Installation	April 1, 2027, 9 AM–Noon
Artist Party + Awards	April 1, 2027, 5:30–7 PM

Exhibition Concludes June 2, 2027

Submit high-resolution images of the completed sculpture by the **end of the day on March 30, 2027.**

All sculptures must be delivered and installed during the designated installation window on **Thursday, April 1, from 9 AM–Noon.**

Artists are also expected to attend the ***Birds of a Feather*** **Artist Party + Awards** that evening from 5:30–7 PM.

7. AWARDS & RECOGNITION

BEST OF SHOW OVERALL — $1,000

1st Place — $400
Awarded in each category

2nd Place — $100
Awarded in each category

Awards will be announced during the Artist Party + Awards on **April 1, 2027.**

8. ARTWORK SALES & PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists may offer their original sculptures for sale throughout the exhibition through the Thomasville Center for the Arts website.

Thomasville Center for the Arts will retain **30% of the sale proceeds**, with the remaining **70% paid to the artist**.

The Center reserves the right to photograph all exhibited artwork and use those images for publicity, promotional materials, social media, exhibition-related communications, and documentation of the exhibition.

9. EXHIBITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Selected artists are responsible for ensuring their sculptures arrive in exhibition-ready condition and comply with all construction, lighting, and installation requirements.

Thomasville Center for the Arts reserves the right to request reasonable modifications to an artwork or its mounting system if safety, stability, or outdoor durability is a concern.

The Center also reserves the right to decline installation of any sculpture that does not substantially match the approved proposal or does not meet the exhibition's safety and installation requirements.

Artwork will remain on exhibition through **June 2, 2027**.

Thomasville Center for the Arts will communicate arrangements for removing or collecting sculptures at the conclusion of the exhibition.

Thomasville Center for the Arts is not responsible for damage to sculptures during the exhibition.

10. QUESTIONS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Thomasville Center for the Arts
600 East Washington Street
Thomasville, Georgia 31792

Darlene Crosby Taylor
Public Art Director
(229) 221-1859

To apply: thomasvillearts.org/call-to-artist

BIRDS OF THE RED HILLS

SOUTH GEORGIA & NORTH FLORIDA

Colorful Birds · Wild Places · A Shared Home

BIRDS THAT SING

Song fills the Red Hills — bringing color, life, and rhythm to woods, fields, and gardens.



Northern Cardinal



American Goldfinch



Eastern Towhee



Indigo Bunting



Eastern Bluebird



Summer Tanager



Blue Grosbeak



Prothonotary Warbler



Red-winged Blackbird

BIRDS THAT DIVE

Masters of the hunt — these birds dive, strike and fish in the rivers, lakes, and marshes of the Red Hills.



Osprey



Bald Eagle



Belted Kingfisher



Barred Owl



Green Heron



Hooded Merganser



Tricolored Heron



Red-shouldered Hawk



Swallow-tailed Kite

BIRDS THAT WADE

Graceful and steadfast — these wading birds bring life to the wetlands of the Red Hills.



Glossy Ibis



Snowy Egret



Cattle Egret



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron



White Ibis



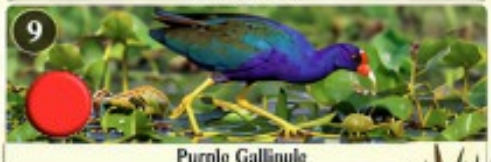
Wood Stork



Limpkin



Roseate Spoonbill



Purple Gallinule