



Call for Entries Library of Virginia First Fridays Exhibitions – Virginia Stories

The Library of Virginia was created by the General Assembly in 1823 to organize, care for, and manage the state's growing collection of books and official records. The Library houses the most comprehensive collection of materials on Virginia government, history, and culture available anywhere.

VISION: The Library of Virginia will inspire learning, ignite imagination, create possibilities, encourage understanding, and engage Virginia's past to empower its future.

We are proud to announce the Open Call for Entries for the quarterly 2025 First Friday exhibitions- Virginia Stories.

Virginia Stories invites you to explore your experiences, observations, communities, and culture. All Virginia artists, regardless of age or skill level, are eligible to enter 1 to 4 original pieces of 2D art and its story (+/-250 words) for consideration. The first review date will be January 1, 2025 but the call remains open through October 15, 2025. Regular Reviews will occur by the Selection Committee.

Please note that unfinished or wet artwork is not eligible for entry and will not be displayed. Participants are required to have their 2D artwork framed for display with the exception of stretched canvases. Artwork must be ready to hang with a wire and screw hooks or D-rings for heavier pieces (weight limit 35 lbs.), no sawtooth hangers or other hanging hardware. Maximum dimensions, including frame, up to 65" width, 60" height. Artists should label all artwork with name, address, and telephone number.

This exhibition is free to enter. The Library of Virginia is an inclusive, family friendly public space. The LVA Selection Committee reserves the right to select or reject any submitted work. The committee will notify the artists of exhibit approval, date assigned, and installation information. Artists must adhere to scheduled dates for hanging and removing shows. No work is to be removed before the show is over. Each exhibition hangs for 30 calendar days and must be removed by the 37 th day or will be disposed of.

Each exhibiting artist is to provide labels for each piece of artwork with title, artist's name, medium, price, and contact information for customers. Labels should be 2 x 3.5" (business card size). Labels should be affixed to the back of the frame to hang below the picture frame during exhibition. Please contribute a paragraph (maximum 250 words) conveying the Virginia story told by the artwork. This story must be included in your application and the Library will publish via QR code and/or print, if the artwork is selected.

We suggest that the exhibiting artists send out invitations and be present to greet and talk with visitors to the First Fridays Exhibition. All sales are handled solely by the artist. It is the artist's responsibility to provide contact information for sales to the public.

If your artwork is accepted for display, the Library of Virginia reserves the right to use an image of the artwork to promote its First Fridays art exhibitions, now or in the future.

Please contact sarah.falls@lva.virginia.gov with questions for additional assistance