

Soteria Pot Luck by Signe and Genna Grushovenko

ARTISPHERE

PRESENTED BY PRISMA HEALTH

2026 ANNUAL REPORT: **THE ART OF IMPACT**









Together, We Create

As we reflect on another incredible year, I am filled with gratitude for the community that makes Artisphere possible.

For the 22nd year, artists, volunteers, sponsors, attendees, and supporters came together to celebrate the power of art in the heart of Greenville. Through visual art, music, culinary experiences, and activities for all ages, Artisphere created opportunities to experience, discover, and connect through the arts.

Artisphere is more than an annual event—it is a celebration that supports artists, strengthens our community, and brings people together. Serving as Board Chair has been a true privilege, and I am grateful to everyone who continues to make this work possible.

Thank you for believing in Artisphere and helping us inspire, engage, and enrich our community. Here's to another year of creating together!

Michelle Seaver

MICHELLE SEAVER
2025-2026 CHAIR

A Community That Chooses the Arts

Every year, Artisphere reminds us what happens when a community embraces the arts as a cornerstone of who we are. This festival is more than a weekend. It's a celebration of the spirit that makes Greenville feel like home.

Tens of thousands of guests filled our streets this year, bringing energy that lifted our artists, our businesses, and our city. The festival's economic impact reached well beyond the footprint — into restaurants, hotels, shops, and the many local businesses that help us bring Artisphere to life. It's a major undertaking, and Greenville always rises to meet the moment.

And none of this happens without you. To our sponsors, donors, partners, volunteers, and guests — thank you. Your generosity, your enthusiasm, and your belief in Artisphere make everything possible. Because of you, the arts continue to thrive in Greenville. Because of you, our festival shines.

We are deeply grateful to share this year with you. Here's to the artists, the community, and everyone who makes Artisphere extraordinary.

Kerry

KERRY MURPHY
PRESIDENT & CEO

$93K

Reinvested in Community Support

Artisphere proudly reinvested $93,000 in the community through artist stipends, awards, and scholarships and support for local arts organizations and nonprofits. These investments help create opportunities, strengthen our creative community, and keep the arts accessible and thriving in the Upstate.



$17M

Economic Impact

Bringing more than art to Greenville, Artisphere brings visitors who support local businesses and generate economic activity throughout the community and surrounding region. Helping strengthen Greenville's economy while showcasing our city as a vibrant destination.



540 LOCAL

Visual and Performing Artists

From the Main Stage to Artist Row and everything in between, Artisphere creates meaningful opportunities for local artists to showcase their talent, reach new audiences, and grow their careers. By putting local talent in the spotlight, we help strengthen the creative community that makes Greenville such a vibrant place to live.



85K

Attendees

(31% Visitors)

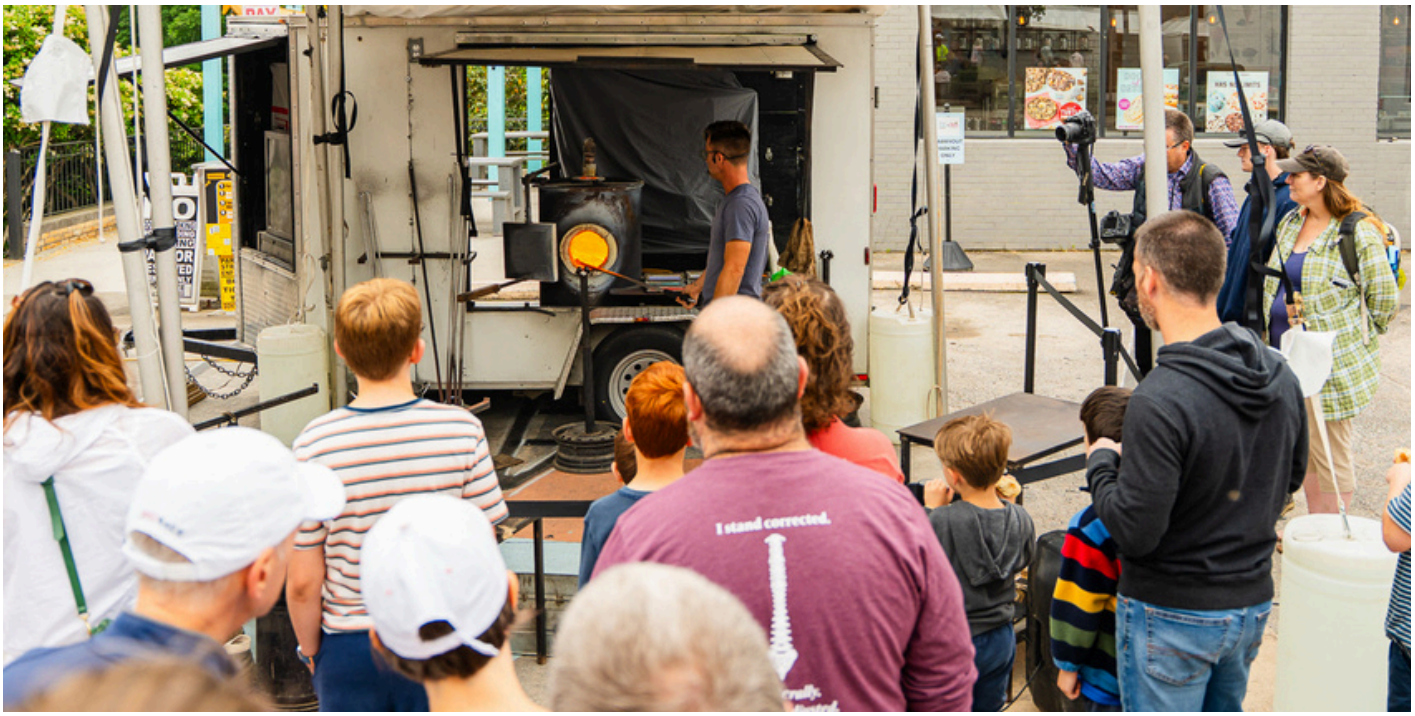
More than 85,000 people came together to celebrate art, artists, and community in downtown Greenville. We're grateful to everyone who made this year one to remember.


FIND YOUR Way
PEACE CENTER
KIDSPHERE




PRISMA
HEALTH




I stand corrected.



Curating Excellence

JURY PANEL

Amy Curlee
Visual Arts Director at CherryArts
Denver, Colorado

Josiah Golson
Founder and Director of the 800 Collective,
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Libby Hodgkins
Founder of Kind History, jewelry designer, and creative storyteller based in Savannah, Georgia

Kevin Kao
Sculptor, ceramic artist, and professor at Furman University from Greenville, South Carolina

Kelly McSharry
Artisphere Visual Arts Chair,
Greenville, SC

Marisa White
Artisphere 2025
1st Place 2D Award-Winner

Celebrating Mastery

AWARD WINNERS

Best in Show
Signe & Genna Grushovenko | Oil Painting | Greenville, SC

1st Place 2D
Clifton Henri | Photography | Chicago, IL

2nd Place 2D
Lisa Telling Kattenbraker | Fiber | Olympia, WA

1st Place 3D
Robert Varela | Metalworks | St. Louis, MO

2nd Place 3D
Nicario Jimenez | Mixed Media 3D | Naples, FL

Award of Excellence:
Amanda Outcalt | Printmaking | Washington, DC

Jeribai Andrew Jaja | Drawing | Houston, TX

Bashar & Roula Jarjour | Ceramics | Shippensburg, PA

LJ Eldolon | Digital Art | Johns Island, SC

ARTISTS OF THE UPSTATE AWARD WINNERS

Best in Show
Hamed Mahmoodi | Acrylic Painting | Greenville, SC

2nd Place
Martha McLeod | Acrylic Painting | Greenville, SC

3rd Place
Barbara Naum | Oil Painting | Greenville, SC

Award of Excellence
Jose Perez | Painting | Greenville, SC

For the 2026 festival, 140 artists were selected from an applicant pool of 1,063 to exhibit on Artist Row. This year, there were 43 first-time exhibitors!

Prisma Health's "Hope Forward" Community Mural reflects resilience, connection and hope

During Artisphere 2026, Prisma Health invited festivalgoers to become part of a community mural led by Fine Arts Center graduate and Atlanta-based artist William Downs.

A nationally exhibited contemporary artist whose work spans drawing, painting, printmaking, and installation, Downs brought a thoughtful, layered approach to storytelling. His work often explores ideas of community, identity, and connection—making him a natural partner for an activation centered on hope.

Throughout the festival weekend, visitors of all ages could add their own mark to the mural, turning individual contributions into a larger, shared work of art. What began as a blank canvas evolved throughout the weekend as hundreds of people added color, shapes, patterns, and personal touches. Each contribution became part of a collective expression—demonstrating how individual voices can come together to create something meaningful and beautiful.

The activation used art as a way to open the door to an important conversation about mental health. Hope Forward highlighted Prisma Health's vision for expanded behavioral health services, including a new inpatient facility designed as a healing, holistic environment for adults, adolescents, and children.

The result was more than a community mural. It was a visual reminder that we all have a role to play in creating a healthier, more connected community. Every contribution helped tell a larger story about belonging and the belief that no one should have to navigate mental health challenges alone.

Through this collaboration, Artisphere and Prisma Health brought together two powerful forces, the arts and community connection, to create a meaningful experience that encouraged conversation and inspired hope.









> **Creating this mural with the people of Greenville, where I was born, during Artisphere gave me the chance to bring art and community together. Working alongside the public to create a shared image for the Prisma Health clinic made the mural more than a work of art. It became a reflection of the community's people, stories, and collective spirit.**
>
> **- William Downs, Muralist**



In Their Words

Artisphere is made possible by the people who show up, share in the experience, and make it their own. Here's a glimpse of what our community had to say about this year's festival.

> **What has always stood out to me is how much the community and the organizers genuinely care about the artists. The hospitality is exceptional. From breakfast to lunch and dinner, they make sure you're well taken care of throughout the weekend. It's rare to find that level of support at an art festival. When artists feel cared for, they can bring their best to the show, and I think that creates a better experience for everyone.**
>
> **- Jeribai Andrew-Jaja, Mixed Media Artist, Houston, TX**





> **Getting to speak with the artists to hear their individual stories. They were so excited to have been chosen for Artisphere!"**
>
> **- Patron, South Carolina, on what makes Artisphere special**

> **The DIVERSE and HIGH QUALITY art is what sets it apart from so many other typical community festivals. Love that artists come in from out of state, and it draws us in as well."**
>
> **-First-Time Patron, North Carolina, on what makes Artisphere worth the trip**













Mothers, Sisters, Daughters by Lisa Telling Kattenbraker







Emerging Artist, Jenny Foley

The Art of Opportunity

About the Commemorative Poster Artist, Lisa Telling Kattenbraker

Lisa lives and works in Olympia, WA, creating narrative batiks inspired by her experiences, family, and memories. Drawing from her past, ancestors, and roles as a mother and grandmother, she literally sews stories together with ancestral threads.

Her imagery, patterns, and faceless figures explore the emotional landscapes we share while inviting viewers to bring their own stories to the work—sparking conversation and connection.

Primarily self-taught, Lisa has worked with batik for more than 30 years, pushing the boundaries of the medium from craft into fine art. Inspired by her creative parents and a childhood surrounded by fabric, design, and making, batik became a natural medium for her storytelling.

"I'm beyond honored- it was such a special surprise to be chosen. And to have this image chosen-in this time, for this show, and on the weekend of Mother's Day... is specifically special to me. It's a bittersweet day for many- and for so many different reasons. I love that someone found something special in this piece and brought it out."

Lisa Telling Kattenbraker on being selected as the 2026 Artisphere Commemorative Poster Artist

Emerging Festival Artist, Jenny Foley, calls the energy of Artisphere "priceless"

From "That's DOPE!" to "Your work makes me cry," I went into Artisphere this past weekend with no expectations — and what I received was more than I ever could have asked for.

To think that people followed my work online and then came to purchase pieces in person at the show absolutely blows my mind in the best possible way. It's something I don't think I'll ever stop being grateful for. That kind of energy is truly priceless.

I think for most artists, we create work because we love it — but sharing it publicly is a completely different kind of vulnerability. To place something so personal in front of such a wide and diverse audience and then discover that it resonates deeply with others... There really are no words for that feeling.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by, shared kind words, connected with my work, supported my art, or simply shared a moment with me at Artisphere. My heart is so full.

2026 Emerging Festival Artist Scholarship recipient Jenny Foley on her experience at Artisphere. Source: blog post on www.jennyfo.com

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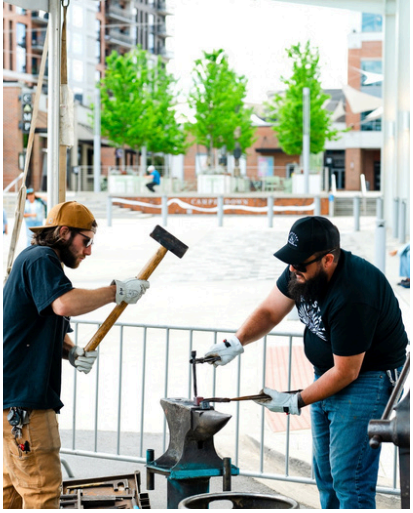
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Artisphere is a Community Effort: Our Production Partners

From artists and performers to production partners, local businesses, volunteers, and community organizations, so many people come together behind the scenes to make Artisphere possible. Their time, talent, expertise, and support help transform downtown Greenville into a vibrant celebration of art, culture, and connection each May.

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Zen

and so many more!



All Photography by Chelsey Ashford Photography

Our Vision

Engage, inspire, and enrich our diverse community by celebrating the arts.

Our Mission

Create a nationally recognized fine arts festival that enhances quality of life and economic vitality in South Carolina.

OUR TEAM

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ROBIN AIKEN
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Scan here for the 2026 Festival Photo Gallery



Art is better together—let's stay connected!

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SAVE THE DATE **May 7-9, 2027**