

SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM

Art in Bloom 2026 Application Process, Floral Design Policies, and Key Dates

ELIGIBILITY, APPLICATION, AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

This is an open call to St. Louis-area floral designers interested in being considered for the opportunity to create one of a limited number of in-gallery floral arrangements interpreting works of art from the Museum's global collection during the Museum's 20th Art in Bloom festival (February 27-March 1, 2026).

To be eligible Art in Bloom, the applicant's home or business must be located within 100 miles of the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Individuals may not be part of more than one application. If you submit an application for yourself, you cannot also be included as a co-designer on another florist's application.

The application process for 2026 opens on Wednesday, October 15, 2025. The deadline to apply is Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 11:59 pm.

Applications received by the deadline will be reviewed by the SLAM Art in Bloom committee. Images of three work samples are a key component of the application and are reviewed based on the following criteria:

- **Design:** Overall composition and presentation, including the elements of design: balance, proportion, rhythm, contrast, dominance, and scale
- **Materials and Elements:** Selection, use, and organization of materials and components
- **Expression:** Overall creativity

Floral Design Policies

Strict adherence to the following rules is required and will help ensure the safety of your floral design, the artwork, and the people involved. If you have questions or are unsure about any of the requirements below, the Museum staff is happy to review containers, materials, and designs with you in advance by email (ArtInBloom@slam.org).

The Museum reserves the right to refuse or remove any arrangements not in compliance with the policies below.

DIMENSIONS

Arrangements must be no more than 42 inches maximum height, 30 inches maximum width and depth, and no more than 3 inches beyond the pedestal edge. The arrangement should also not extend or cascade more than 3 inches below the surface of the pedestal. Pedestals are approximately 42 by 24 by 24 inches. Museum staff will measure all arrangements at the door and/or in the galleries.

MATERIALS

1. Only sterilized plant material (flowers, foliage, moss, wood, etc.) from a floral supplier may be used—**no materials from a home garden are permitted.**
2. No fresh fruit, nuts, seeds, or vegetables from any source are allowed. Empty and dried seed pods sourced from a floral supplier may be used. If seeds are present in the pods, the seeds or full seed pods will be removed from the arrangement at inspection.
3. Plants must be free of disease and pests. If you or Museum staff discover any diseased and/or pest-infested plants and flowers, they will be contained immediately in sealed plastic bags before being moved through the buildings and disposed of outside the Museum.
4. Soil is not allowed.
5. Candles, including LED/battery powered, are not allowed.
6. Electric- or battery-operated elements, including lights and speakers, are not allowed.
7. Loose gravel, rocks, and sand on the pedestal are not permitted. All small or loose items must be in a container or firmly affixed to the arrangement, container, or pedestal.

8. Pollen-heavy flowers (e.g., lilies, tulips) are only permitted if stamens have been removed. Please remove all stamens prior to arriving. Museum staff will remove any stamens from your arrangement as necessary during the event.
9. Refrain from using any materials with sharp edges or points that could make installation difficult and/or potentially harmful to visitors.
10. Perfumes or other scents (including from natural sources) sprayed on or added to materials prior to entering the Museum, during installation, or after installation are not allowed.
11. Any material that is artificially colored must be water-resistant and not bleed when exposed to water.

CONTAINER

1. The total weight of the final arrangement, including floral materials, the container, water, and any container filler, should not exceed 40 pounds.
2. Containers must be stable and not top heavy or easily tipped. If a container is top heavy or tippy (e.g., martini-glass shaped), it may be rejected at the door. You are welcome to send photographs to the Museum staff in advance for review.
3. Containers with broad pools of easily accessible water are not permitted.
4. All containers must be dry and watertight. Please test your containers prior to installation. If your container(s) leak during the event, we will remove your arrangement, as this is a safety hazard for visitors.
5. Containers must be affixed directly to the pedestal with wax by Museum staff.
6. Container placement must remain within the pedestal footprint and not go beyond the edges on any side.
7. No water containers, including floral tubes, can be suspended within an arrangement. All containers of water must be affixed directly to the pedestal.

WATER

1. During arrival and installation, arrangements should contain little or no water. You may add water to the container only after Museum staff affixes it to the pedestal.
2. You may bring cut flowers in **one** bucket into the galleries with no more than two inches of water to the Museum for arranging on-site during installation and refresh. Additional buckets may be kept in the classroom designated for AIB floral designers use throughout the weekend.
3. You are permitted one gallon of water in a closed container. Please provide your own one-gallon container (milk jug, etc.) with an appropriate lid. You may not refill your water container at the Museum on installation day.
4. You should use a small-mouthed jug or watering can to add water to the arrangement in the galleries. Do not pour water into an arrangement from a large bucket.
5. The Museum does not permit dyed or colored water, and we do not allow dye or any color added to the water in the galleries.

INSTALLATION

1. Museum staff will inspect all materials and arrangements upon your arrival during your appointed time slot on February 26. Museum staff reserves the right to refuse any materials not in compliance with the above rules or that pose a potential danger to visitors or works of art.
2. Museum staff will transport your arrangement to the galleries via cart. All materials must be able to fit on one cart.
3. Museum staff will place, level, and light all pedestals. The placements and lighting in the galleries are final.
4. Museum staff will affix your containers to the platform with wax. Once set, the containers cannot move.
5. You are allowed two hours in the galleries to complete your arrangement.
6. Please use drop cloths during installation to place and secure excess materials and water. Drop cloths are not provided by the Museum. Floral designers must supply their own.
7. You should only complete floral preparations in the designated display area. You should take care to keep supplies and other materials away from adjacent works of art. Any trimming of arrangement materials must be done with extreme care, to avoid the risk of pieces hitting people or art. Please wipe up any water drips immediately. For larger spills, please notify Museum staff. You must keep your working area dry and clean at all times.
8. You may not affix any decor to the art or architecture at the Museum.
9. The Museum does not permit misting, spraying, or painting in Sculpture Hall, Taylor Hall, the galleries, or public areas.
10. Plants and flowers must not cover or obscure any Museum object label.
11. Photography or filming must be carried out according to Museum [protocols](#). The Museum may be filming and

photographing during the installation process.

DESIGN

1. Designs should express the essence or spirit of the assigned work of art and be in scale with the object or the painting. Arrangements should not overpower their subject—do not try to duplicate the art with non-floral material. Remember that you are not making a sculpture; you are creating a floral interpretation.
2. Designers should follow the elements of design (color, texture, form, size, line, pattern, light, and space) to organize their plant material and other components according to principles of design (balance, proportion, rhythm, contrast, dominance, and scale). The impact of the completed design should be unmistakable and memorable.
3. Many interpretations will be viewed from all sides. Consider this when designing your arrangement.
4. Containers should be less than 50 percent of your design.
5. Please submit a list of major floral materials and interpretation description by Wednesday, February 18, 2026.
6. The Museum will provide background information on your selected object, including an image, when available. However, if you are able, we recommend you visit the Museum to view your assigned work of art.
7. Consider visiting the Richardson Memorial Library for more information about your work.
 - The library is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 4:30 pm.
 - The library is located on the third floor of the South Building.

AWARDS

1. The following awards are available:
 - Best in Show: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention
 - Staff Choice: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention
 - People's Choice: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention
 - Presenting Sponsor's Choice Award (if applicable)
2. The judges will make their selection based on the following:
 - Design:** Overall composition and presentation, including elements of design (balance, proportion, rhythm, contrast, dominance, and scale)
 - Materials and Elements:** Selection, use, and organization of creative materials and components
 - Expression:** Overall creative interpretation and dynamic relationship to the work of art
3. It is the at the judges' and Museum's discretion whether to award all available awards in all categories.

ORIENTATION MEETING—Thursday, January 8, 2026, 10:15 am - noon

A **required** orientation meeting for all floral designers who are selected as a result of the application process will be held at the Museum on Thursday, January 8, 2026, from 10:15 am – noon to give an overview of the 2026 Art in Bloom weekend, review floral guidelines, and answer questions. At the end of the orientation meeting, floral designers will draw the work of art they will interpret at random from works chosen by the Museum.

Interpretation description and materials list—due Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Please submit an interpretation description that is 100 words or less.

1. Also submit a list of major floral materials you plan to use in your arrangement.
2. Please submit both of these via email to ArtInBloom@slam.org

DAY OF INSTALLATION—Thursday, February 26, 2026

1. The following supplies are recommended for all designers and required for those assembling arrangements in the galleries: towels to wipe spills, a plastic bag for trash, a large plastic worksheet or drop cloth, and a dustpan and brush.
2. Museum staff will receive designers on a staggered schedule starting at 9 am. Florists will sign up for an arrival time in advance during the orientation meeting in January. Please arrive promptly on installation day.
3. **If you arrive before or after your scheduled time, you will have to wait until Museum staff is available to escort you to the galleries.**
4. **Enter via the South Auditorium entrance (behind the Museum on Valley Drive). Museum staff will greet you there and provide a cart for transportation of your arrangement.** Be sure to park your car in one of the parking spaces, not at the curb.
5. **Your container must be thoroughly checked by Museum staff. The Museum does not accept responsibility for your container.**
6. **All arrangements must be completed and setup materials removed from the Museum by 2:30 pm on Thursday, February 26, 2026.**

7. We will have space available in one of the Museum classrooms to store materials. The rooms will be locked overnight; however, leave your materials at your own risk. The Museum is not responsible for loss or damage.

WATERING AND REFRESHING ARRANGEMENTS

The Museum reserves the right to remove dead flowers and/or entire arrangements if they are not refreshed each day, kept looking their best, and if the container leaks. Be sure to provide the Museum with a number to reach you in case of an emergency. Museum staff will greet you at the South Auditorium entrance and will be in the galleries during watering and refreshing at the following times:

- Friday, February 27: 7–8 am
- Saturday, February 28: 7–8 am
- Sunday, March 1: 7–8 am

Watering and refreshing materials must be removed from the galleries by the time the Museum opens (8 am on Friday and Saturday, and Sunday). You will not be permitted to take supplies to your arrangement, including water, while the Museum is open to the public. This is an intrusion and a safety hazard to our visitors. Please refresh only during the designated times listed above. Please be mindful of overwatering conditions and allow yourself enough time to make sure you clean up any water from the pedestal before you leave. If you need to contact anyone by phone, call Amanda Thompson Rundahl at 314.655.5196 (office) or 763.438.7081 (mobile). The Museum's main number is 314.721.0072.

****FAILURE TO REFRESH ARRANGEMENTS ALL THREE DAYS MAY LEAD TO DISQUALIFICATION FROM FUTURE ART IN BLOOMS.** Florists are welcome to coordinate with other AIB florists to refresh each other's arrangements, if they wish. Please let us know if this is the case, so we are aware that someone else is refreshing for you and on which day(s).**

PICKING UP YOUR ARRANGEMENT—Monday, March 2, 2026

Arrangements must be picked up on Monday, March 2 between 10 am and noon at the South Auditorium entrance. If someone else is picking up for you, we must have their name in advance. Any containers or arrangements left at the Museum after noon on Monday will be discarded.

KEY 2026 ART IN BLOOM DATES AND DEADLINES

- Art in Bloom applications due: Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 11:59 pm
- Selected participants notified: Early December
- Orientation and Art Selection Meeting (**in-person attendance required for all selected participants**): Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 10:15 am
- Materials checklist and interpretation description due for display: Tuesday, February 17, 2026
- Gallery Installation: Thursday, February 26, 2026 by appointment (timeslots between 9 am and 12:30 pm)
- Art in Bloom Preview Party: Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 6-9 pm (**Each floral arrangement** – including group entries – qualifies for **two** complimentary Preview Party tickets and the option to purchase additional tickets.)
- Art in Bloom Festival Weekend: Friday, February 27–Sunday March 1, 2026
- Cleanup: Monday, March 2, 2026