

Light Station Plein Air Painting Competition



The White River Light Station (WRLS) and the Arts Council of White Lake – Nuveen Center (ACWL-Nuveen) are co-hosting an exciting new plein air painting competition in West Michigan on July 22, 2022. Fifteen artists, selected from online applications, will be given open access to paint the White River Light Station for a chance to win an overnight stay at the Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington. This unique experience is being offered by the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association (SPLKA) <https://splka.org/> who maintain the WRLS, Big Sable Point, Little Sable and Ludington North Breakwater lighthouses. The four historic lighthouses located along Lake Michigan from Whitehall to Ludington State Park are devotedly cared for and made accessible to the public by the SPLKA. This painting competition will be an opportunity to bring awareness of the significance and graceful beauty of the WRLS interpreted through 15 unique painting and drawing styles. All 15 artists will exhibit one of the plein air pieces they create on site in the light station July 23 – August 27. The artwork on display will then be voted on by visitors to the WRLS and social media followers of the WRLS and ACWL-Nuveen. The artist with the most votes will win the opportunity for the overnight stay at Big Sable Lighthouse station. Other awards will also be given to second and third place artists.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to all U.S. residents, 18 years and older. All painting and drawing media are eligible.

Prizes and Awards

First Prize – overnight stay for artist and guest at the Big Sable Point Lighthouse apartment

Second Prize – two adult non-expiring passes for all four SPLKA lighthouses

Third Prize – assorted plein air art supplies

Applicant Timeline

- Submit up to 5 images online by April 29, 2022
- Entries will be reviewed, and artists notified on May 6, 2022
- Painting date – July 22, 2022, from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
- Exhibition dates: July 23 – August 27, 2022
- Award winners notified August 20th - artwork will remain on display at WRLS until August 27th

Submission Materials

- Submit up to 5 images of paintings or drawings - at least two images should show plein air experience. Artwork should include title, dimensions, medium, and date. Digital images should be cropped to show the painting only - no frame, no background.
- Short Artist Bio
- What interests you about plein air painting and/or lighthouses
- Link to online portfolio (URL) (optional)

Review: The artwork will be reviewed by ACWL-Nuveen and WRLS staff with selections based on quality of artwork and other application materials.

Terms and Conditions:

- The call is open to all U.S. residents, 18 years and older.
- All painting and drawing media are eligible.
- Submissions must be original works of art created by the artist submitting the work. At least two images submitted must have been painted “en plein air”.
- Artists may submit up to five images.
- A non-refundable fee of \$20.00 per artist is required for entry - \$18.00 for ACWL-Nuveen members and SPLKA members.
- All artists will be notified via email by May 6, 2022.

Terms and Conditions once accepted:

- Artists should arrive at the WRLS at 9:00am on July 22 to get set-up and meet with the WRLS Curator, Matt Varnum for a quick tour of WRLS before they open to the public at 10:00am. Artists have until 12:00 noon to work on their artwork on the WRLS grounds. The WRLS is a public park so participants should be aware that they may be fielding questions from visitors to the site. If there are extreme weather conditions, the painting start time may have to be moved to the afternoon.
- The artist must provide a functioning frame with hanging wire for the artwork they create on site at the WRLS. Due to the limited display space in the WRLS the artwork should not exceed 22” in the longest dimension. The artworks will be hung on a prominent wall in the second-floor display area and on small table easels on display cases.
- The artwork created can be for sale with the artist setting their own price. If the artist chooses to sell their artwork the ACWL-Nuveen and the SPLKA will split a 20% commission – Artists will receive 80% of the sale. Please note even if an artist sells their work it needs to remain in the exhibition until August 27th. The artists will receive publicity via various West Michigan media outlets and social media platforms for the ACWL-Nuveen and the SPLKA outlets.
- If the artwork is not sold, the artwork must be picked up during WRLS hours, August 28, 30, or 31. The light station is open from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Artists must pick up their own artwork or arrange to have someone else pick up their work. Please notify Matt Varnum if someone is picking up your artwork by emailing him at whiteriverlight@gmail.com.
- Further details for this event will follow.

