



*Sandpiper Art
Gallery & Gifts*

Call for Art: Perfect Shot Tavern in Polson

The Perfect Shot Tavern and the *Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts* invites Flathead County, Lake County, and Missoula County artists to paint murals on the exterior arch of the entrance of The Perfect Shot Tavern, (218 Main St in Polson). This Public Art Project benefits Polson by creating an inclusive, creative environment that fosters a sense of community and appreciation of art.

The artists are invited to take the viewer on a visual journey by creating murals, that shows something like this scene, “A classic Montana Tavern”, filled with the rich scent of pine, woodsmoke, and stale beer. The interior was dimly lit by lanterns and a roaring stone fireplace, casting long shadows across the rough-hewn log walls.

Seated at the bar, a large grizzly bear named Bart was nursing a large mug of honey-infused ale, his massive paws carefully gripping the handle. Next to him, a sleek, agile mountain lion named Sasha was daintily sipping a bright red cocktail, her tail twitching in time with the faint country music playing from an old jukebox. A moose with an impressive rack of antlers, simply known as Buck, was engaged in a tense game of poker with a sly red fox and a grumpy-looking badger in a dark corner booth.

Near the fireplace, a couple of grey wolves quietly conversed, their eyes occasionally scanning the room, while a golden eagle perched regally on a high wooden beam overhead, observing the entire scene with sharp, intelligent eyes. A little beaver, wearing a small leather apron, bustled behind the bar, wiping down the counter with professional efficiency. The air was thick with camaraderie and the distinct, quiet hum of a local watering hole, a place where all of Montana's wild residents could gather for a night of peace and good company.

The Artist chosen will have designs for the walls and ceiling of the entrance space that follows the theme of the project, ‘Basking Brews, Bears and Beavers’. The

selected artist will work with the Sandpiper Research and Development Committee to organize Polson volunteers to help complete the murals.

The artist is responsible for the accurate layout of their designs and facilitating Polson volunteers to help complete the mural in a timely manner so that they will be ready for “Let’s Make Art Week”. Artists are expected to be present during that week of **June 8-13** and will work alongside volunteers from 10am-4pm every day.

TIMELINE

• JANUARY 15, 2026	ART CALL
• APRIL 30, 2026	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
• MAY 6, 2026	SELECTION COMMITTEE JURIES
• JUNE 1, 2026	ARTIST LAYS OUT DESIGNS
• JUNE 8-13, 2026	VOLUNTEERS HELP, ‘Lets Make Art Week’
• JUNE 30, 2026	ARTIST AWARDED \$1000
• JUNE 30, 2026	PROJECT UNVEILED /PROMOTED

Artists Award and Eligibility

- Artists must reside in Flathead County, Lake County, and Missoula County.
- Applicants will be chosen regardless of race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, national origin, familial status, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

Design Criteria

- Designs should follow mural theme “Basking Brews, Bears and Beavers”
- Designs should use colors of an appropriate palette and have a focal point and use diagonals.
- Designs may not include advertisements, business promotion, or trademarks/brands/images of illegal acts.
- Designs compliment the building. Artists should view the building before designing.
- Artists must use high quality exterior matt paint.

Selection Process

- Because public art reflects its community, The Perfect Shot Tavern and Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts expects high quality submissions of concept. The Project Coordinator will ensure durability and safety of paint application.
- The Perfect Shot Tavern and Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts Selection Team will review applications and choose award recipients.

Application Information

- Artists are required to provide proof of medical insurance. Sandpiper's policy covers the first \$15000 of any medical claims.
- Artists must use high quality exterior matt paint.
- Artists are responsible for any materials including a lift rental and/or scaffolding.
- Artists should prepare a graphic design or artwork that:
 - Is colored.
 - Is minimum 32 square inches and accurately depicts the size/proportion of the project.
 - Includes the artist's name, title of work, and contact information on the inside or bottom of the design.
 - Applications should include a brief bio and examples of previous work, particularly showing painting of larger artworks.

Drop off at Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts or Mail or Email to:

Natalie Raffield,
Sandpiper Art Gallery & Gifts
Public Art Committee,
306 Main Street
P. O. Box 1163
Polson, Montana 59860.
nraffield@gmail.com
(303) 945-6325

*Larger files sometimes can't be sent via regular email.
Please use [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) (it is free) to send Natalie larger files*

Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is designated to review, advocate and develop public art projects in the City of Polson. Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts in conjunction with the City of Polson strives to develop a formal structure in which to create, develop and maintain public art as well as further public accessibility to the arts.

The public art project is open to all eligible applicants regardless of race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, national origin, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts Non-Profit reserves the right at any time to supplement, amend or otherwise modify this solicitation and to request additional or supplemental information or proposals from any or all participating artists.

In addition, the City reserves the right to accept or reject, at any time prior to the commissioning of a work, any or all proposals or any part thereof submitted in connection with this solicitation; to waive any defect or technicality; and to advertise for new proposals where the acceptance, rejection waiver, or advertisement would be in the best interests of the City.

The City also reserves the right to negotiate unacceptable provisions incorporated within an otherwise acceptable proposal. A proposal which is incomplete, unclear, conditional or which contains irregularities of any kind, may be rejected without evaluation.

Failure to comply with proposal requirements described in the prospectus will constitute an invalid application.

The Perfect Shot Tavern

