

THE GREAT NORTHERN CALL FOR ARTISTS — DESIGN THE 10th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL TOTE

The Great Northern Winter Festival – January 27–Jan 31, 2027
Winter is A Verb: Celebrating a Decade of Cold

Call Opens: July 15, 2026

Deadline to Apply: August 15, 2026

Overview

The Great Northern invites Minnesota-based artists to submit concept designs for the official 2027 festival tote bag.

The selected design will become the signature tote for our 10th anniversary season, distributed to festival supporters and available for purchase throughout the event. This year's theme, ***Winter is a Verb: Celebrating a Decade of Cold***, invites artists to explore winter as something we actively shape, not simply endure, and to celebrate a decade of The Great Northern

What We're Looking For

We're commissioning one artist to design the 10th Anniversary Festival Tote. Concept designs should:

- Reflect the theme *Winter is a Verb*, drawing on winter-themed imagery, a sense of place, winter activities, or a nod to our 10th anniversary
- Work as a bold, screen-printable graphic, **four colors or less** (black and white is also welcome)

Selected Artist Receives:

- **\$500** honorarium
- **Two tote bags** and two festival passes

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- **Design credit** in festival marketing, signage, and social media

Eligibility

- Open to artists currently residing in Minnesota
- Designs must be original and must not have been previously published, or produced elsewhere
- Selected artist must be able to submit final, print-ready design files according to the schedule listed under Key Dates

How to Apply

Submit the following:

- 1–2 concept designs for the tote bag
- A short bio (150 words or fewer)
- A link to your artist website or social media handles
- Contact information

Key Dates

- **Call Opens:** July 15, 2026
- **Deadline to Apply:** August 15, 2026
- **Artists Selected:** August 22, 2026
- **Final Design File Due:** September 15 2026
- **The Great Northern Festival:** January 27–Jan 31, 2027

How to Apply

Submit the following [submission form](#) by **August 15, 2026**.

About The Great Northern

The Great Northern unites communities through art, climate engagement, and outdoor experiences, with a bold winter festival and powerful partnerships. We champion climate leadership, celebrate Minnesota's cultural and ecological vibrancy, and invite the world to experience our signature season in meaningful and inspiring ways.