

THE GREAT NORTHERN 10TH ANNIVERSARY MULTIMEDIA ART COMMISSION CALL FOR ARTISTS

Join Our 10th Annual Festival – January 27–Jan 31, 2027
Winter is A Verb: Celebrating a Decade of Cold

Call Opens: July 15, 2026

Deadline to Apply: August 1, 2026

Artist Selected: August 7, 2026

Artwork Development: August–September 2026

Completion of Work: October 1, 2026

Public Presentations:

- **Premiere:** The Great Northern Winter Festival Launch Party | October 2026
 - **Festival Presentation:** The Great Northern Winter Festival | January 27–Jan 31, 2027
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Overview

The Great Northern invites **Saint Paul-based artists** to apply for its **10th Anniversary Multi-Media Art Commission**. As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we are seeking one artist to create an original multimedia short (5-10 min) that tells the story of The Great Northern's first decade.

Founded in 2017, The Great Northern has brought thousands of people together each winter through art, climate engagement, dining, music, and outdoor experiences, celebrating Minnesota's unique winter culture and inspiring people to embrace the season. The commissioned work should capture the festival's impact, spirit, and vision through compelling visual storytelling while interpreting the 2027 festival theme, **Winter is a Verb**, through the artist's creative lens.

The completed work will premiere at a public screening and preview event in October 2026. It will be presented again during The Great Northern Winter Festival 2027 as the official opening short for the Film Series, extending its reach to new audiences as part of The Great Northern's 10th anniversary celebration.

More information about The Great Northern and its programming can be found at thegreatnorthernfestival.com.

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What We Are Looking For:

Applicants should submit a **preliminary concept** and **examples of past work**. In August, **one artist** will be selected to develop the final commissioned artwork. The final piece must be produced in a high-resolution, cinema-ready format designed for large-screen theatrical presentation. For creative inspiration, applicants may reference works such as [Minnesota Made 2026: Restoring Nature, Reviving Hope](#) and [TED-Ed](#) animations.

Selected Artists Receive:

- **\$5,000 commission**
- **Premiere** at the October Festival Preview Event, including professional photography and video documentation of the artist's participation
- **Festival presentation** during The Great Northern Winter Festival 2027 as part of the Climate Film Series, with the commissioned artwork screened before each film.
- **Promotion** through The Great Northern's marketing and media channels
- **Recognition** as the recipient of The Great Northern's inaugural 10th Anniversary Multi-Media Art Commission

Eligibility

- Work in digital media, animation, film, or related disciplines
- Be available to complete the work between August and September 2026
- Be able to deliver a final digital file by October 1st

How to Apply

Submit the following [submission form](#) by **August 1, 2026**.

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.



*This activity is supported, in part, by the **City of Saint Paul Cultural Sales Tax Revitalization Program**.*