

# DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

2026 Call for Commissions

Denver Botanic Gardens' *La Lotería Botánica* Art Exhibit  
September 13 – October 11, 2026

## About the Project

Denver Botanic Gardens invites artists to participate in *La Lotería Botánica*, a reimagining of the traditional Mexican card game of *Lotería* through a botanical lens. This project celebrates the plants, landscapes, and ecological relationships between people, food and history found throughout Denver Botanic Gardens.

Presented as part of the Gardens' *Yo Soy*, a year-long series uplifting the multifaceted aspects of Latino cultures locally and globally, this project continues a commitment to a community-centered storytelling through art, nature and identity.

**The exhibition will be on view** during Hispanic Heritage Month (September 13 – October 11). Installed in the Freyer – Newman Center, the experience will feature 54 *Lotería*-inspired cards, inviting visitors to explore the intersection of nature, culture and identity through a range of artistic interpretations.

## Artist Opportunity:

Selected artists will each create 5 to 10 original designs, contributing to a complete 54-card *Lotería* deck.

Artists are encouraged to draw inspiration from:

- Southwest flora
- Iconic Mexican and culturally significant plants
- Pollinators
- Ethnobotany
- Cultural relationships to land, migration and identity

While thematic alignment is important, artists are expected to bring their own distinct artistic voice and interpretation to the work. Artists will be

## Eligibility Criteria

- Open to Colorado-based artists
- Open to artists 18 years or older.
- Final selection will be made through a curated/invitational review process

## Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted via [Microsoft Forms](#) and include:

- Artist bio and headshot
- 3-5 samples of current/representative work
- Website or social media handle
- Proposed concepts and sketches for 1-2 card designs (optional)
- Short statement outlining interest in the project and how your current work aligns with the themes of *La Lotería Botánica*

**Application Deadline:** Friday, June 19, 2026

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## Final Artwork Specifications

Accepted Formats:

- Digital illustration only

Digital Requirements:

- File types: .TIF, .SVG or .AI
- Minimum resolution: 600 DPI

## Additional Guidelines

- Work must be original
- No nudity, explicit violence or offensive language
- Strong preference for illustration, drawing or graphic design formats
- AI generated artwork will not be accepted.
- **Card subjects/themes will be assigned following artist selection to support a cohesive final deck.**

## Selection & Review Process

- There is no entry fee.
- Late or incomplete submissions may not be considered.
- Applications will be evaluated based on:
  - Creativity and originality
  - Technical quality
  - Conceptual alignment with project themes
  - Ability to contribute to a cohesive series
- Applications will be reviewed by Denver Botanic Gardens staff.
- **Selected artists will work collaboratively with Gardens staff to ensure visual cohesion across the full 54-card deck.**

## Artist Honorarium

Each selected artist will receive:

- \$2,000 stipend (upon completion of all deliverables)
- (1) Denver Botanic Gardens Friends & Family membership
- (4) General Admission tickets
- (4) Tickets to Evenings al Fresco
- (4) Tickets to Blossoms of Lights

2026 Project Timeline
<b>June 1:</b> Call for artists opens
<b>June 19:</b> Call for artists closes
<b>June 22-26:</b> Status notification and Rules & Guidelines sent to selected artists
<b>June 29:</b> Welcome meeting with selected artists
<b>July 20:</b> Halfway checkpoint – 10 draft design due for review
<b>August 7:</b> Artists submit final designs
<b>September 13:</b> Exhibit opens
<b>October 11:</b> Exhibit closes

## Questions

Email: [community@botanicgardens.org](mailto:community@botanicgardens.org)



### **Permission for Publicity & Exhibition Promotion**

By submitting your entry form and upon acceptance of your artwork into the exhibition, as sole owner of the copyright and intellectual property rights in and to the artwork and any images submitted thereof, you agree to irrevocably authorize Denver Botanic Gardens, without compensation to yourself or any third party, to reproduce, distribute, transmit, communicate, display and perform images of your artwork and any related images and materials provided by yourself, privately or publicly, in whole or in part, throughout the world by means of any device or process (examples include but are not limited to online, print, film and television), and authorize others to do the same, without contacting you, for nonprofit, educational, artistic, publicity and related purposes or for the purpose of promoting Denver Botanic Gardens or the exhibition. This non-exclusive license, which does not transfer ownership of your copyright to Denver Botanic Gardens, shall endure for the entire term of the copyright in and to said images and shall survive all assignments of copyright, Gardens or the exhibition.

### **FAQs**

#### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Colorado-based artists 18 years or older.

#### **What kind of artwork formats are accepted?**

Accepted Formats:

- Digital illustration only

Digital Requirements:

- File types: .TIF, .SVG or .AI
- Minimum resolution: 600 DPI

#### **Where and when will the exhibit be displayed? Will my artwork be promoted publicly?**

At Denver Botanic Gardens (York Street location) from September 13 to October 11 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. By submitting your artwork, you grant Denver Botanic Gardens permission to use images of your work for promotional purposes.

#### **Is the \$2,000 stipend per artist or per artwork?**

The \$2,000 stipend is paid to each selected artist upon completion of all deliverables.

#### **How many final card designs will each artist create?**

Each selected artist will create 5 to 10 original card designs contributing to the full 54-card deck.

#### **Will artists be assigned specific card subjects/themes, or can they propose their own?**

Card subjects/themes will be assigned following artist selection to support a cohesive final deck.

#### **Will selected artists receive feedback during the process?**

Yes. Artists will collaborate with Denver Botanic Gardens staff and participate in a midway review checkpoint.