

2026 Fall Adult Visual Arts Class Description

www.nashville.gov/mpva

Please be sure to read each class description carefully to ensure you are able to register quickly and easily on your scheduled registration day!

Open Paint Studio

Instructor: MPVA Staff, various

Date/Time: Monday, 9/28 – 11/16 | 9:30am—12:30pm

Fee: \$65 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$5 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

Open to All Levels - Open Paint Studio will allow participants to paint freely with fellow students and artists in a relaxed and non-competitive atmosphere. This segment is perfect for the student that wants more studio time to practice painting skills or for the experienced artist who wants to paint among friends. You bring the inspiration; we will brew the coffee!

Intuitive Watercolor Part I

Instructor: Siri Nadler

Date/Time: Monday, 9/28 – 11/16 | 1:00pm—4:00pm

Fee: \$95 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$5 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

This class provides step-by-step instruction in the fundamentals of watercolor painting along with intuitive exploration and return to play for the student. There is no requirement for an art background. The course enables a student to build more confidence and mastery and to enjoy the process while creating nonobjective work. Students will learn about color theory, composition, value, and expressive techniques as they gain further understanding of how to manipulate the medium. Throughout the course, each student will develop her/his own abstract creations. Individual guidance and support will be provided at each stage, working side-by-side with the students. This class can be taken multiple times.

Acrylic Abstract Painting

Instructor: Sandy Spain

Date/Time: Monday, 9/28 – 11/16 | 5:30pm—8:30pm

Fee: \$95 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$5 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

Intermediate/Advanced - Abstract art is driven by expressed feelings and a sense of balance creating interest and discovery as the painting evolves. In this abstract class, you will follow structured lessons with exercises in organic and geometric styles. The fundamentals that make up this style of art will be discussed. & methods to develop your creativity will be given. This is not a beginner painting class. Artist-grade acrylic paint only.

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Hand-building Functional Pottery

Instructor: Brooke Gillon

Date/Time: Centennial Art Center - Tuesday, 9/29 – 11/17 | 9:30am—12:30pm

Old Hickory Community Center - Wednesday, 9/30 - 11/125 | 9:30am—12:30pm

Fee: \$125 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$30 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

Discover the magic of using techniques like pinching, coiling, slab building, and a variety of other processes to create functional and decorative pottery pieces. Through teacher led projects students create vessels including but not limited to bowls, mugs, dishes, vases, etc. Explore surface decoration with texture, carving, small sprigs, and glazes. In the last weeks of the session, students learn about glazing and apply to their works created in class. All levels are welcome to attend. ***Pottery classes are limited to 25lbs (1 bag) of production per student*** **Finished pieces will not be available for pick up until at least 2 weeks after the final class**

Overcoming the Fear of Drawing

Instructor: Sue Mulcahy

Date/Time: Tuesday, 9/29 – 11/17 | 9:30am—12:30pm

Fee: \$95 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$5 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

Do you enjoy drawing but feel that you need help? Do you want to try something new. Does taking a class seem too intimidating? This class is designed to lead both beginners and those with some experience to develop a range of creative and technical skills. We focus on mark making, observation and confidence building. Projects are geared to your individual needs in a classroom environment. Basic drawing tools such as graphite and charcoal are used. A materials list will be provided.

Intuitive Watercolor Part II

Instructor: Siri Nadler

Date/Time: Tuesday, 9/29 – 11/17 | 1:00pm—4:00pm

Fee: \$95 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$5 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

Part II will build on painting skills and special techniques learned in Part I. Taking Part I Intuitive Watercolor is a prerequisite for taking Part II. Project explorations may be more complex and longer in scope. They may involve collage, mixed media, 3-D, and abstracting objects and people. Older explorations may be introduced with new techniques and tools along with expanded color mixing and color palettes. Individual guidance and support will always be provided at each stage. We will continue to emphasize play and creativity as part of the ongoing discovery process.

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Pottery 101: Beginning Wheel Throwing

Instructor: Wade Zolla

Date/Time: Centennial Art Center- Tuesday, 9/29 – 11/17 | 6:00pm—9:00pm

Old Hickory Community Center- Thursday, 10/1 - 11/19 | 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Fee: \$125 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$30 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

This introductory level course is a survey of basic wheel-throwing techniques with a focus on centering clay to create functional forms. Demonstrations will cover cups, bowls, plates and more. Students will also learn basic techniques for glazing pottery to complete work--one color, one dip per piece. Beginning to Intermediate students welcome. ***Pottery classes are limited to 25lbs (1 bag) of production per student***

Watercolors that Sing! (Beginner/Intermediate)

Instructor: Christopher Huffman

Date/Time: Tuesday, 9/29 – 11/17 | 6:00pm-9:00pm

Fee: \$95 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$5 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

In this class students explore what goes into creating a satisfying watercolor. Technical skill can be learned, but a big part of the secret of painting a successful watercolor lies in cultivating the capacity to see. With a little practice, some practical knowledge and a willingness to learn, almost anyone can learn to be a successful watercolorist. Come explore the possibilities of what can be done with this rich and luminous medium!

Fundamentals of Drawing

Instructor: Christopher Huffman

Date/Time: Thursday, 10/1 – 11/19 | 9:30am—12:30pm

Fee: \$95 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$5 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

Learning to draw is really about learning how to SEE! During this 8-week class, discover how and practice looking at objects and shapes as you record what you see with soft graphite pencils. Begin to understand how values of light and dark give 3 dimensionality to an object drawn on flat paper. Each week the teacher will provide an exercise and guide participants with demonstrations and helpful feedback. Learning the basic fundamentals of drawing improves your painting, too.

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Guided Open Paint Studio

Instructor: Sandy Spain

Date/Time: Thursday, 10/1 – 11/19 | 1:00pm—4:00pm

Fee: \$65 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$5 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

This class is for beginner and intermediate painters who want a laid-back atmosphere to practice painting skills. Get assistance and tips from the instructor, enjoy the comradery of fellow painters, share your progress and receive feedback from the group. Must have taken a painting course before.

Pottery: Wheel Throwing (Intermediate/Advanced)

Instructor: Becca Floyd

Date/Time: Thursday, 10/1 – 11/19 | 6:00pm—9:00pm

Fee: \$125 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$30 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

THIS IS NOT A BEGINNER CLASS! Challenge yourself in this intermediate/advanced class! Students work on strengthening wheel throwing skills with class practice. Try new, more complex forms and save only the best work. This is a wheel-throwing, demo-driven class. Time to try creations of personal interest will also be available. ***Pottery classes are limited to 25lbs (1 bag) of production per student*** **Finished pieces will not be available for pick up until at least 2 weeks after the final class**

Beginning Painting in Gouache

Instructor: Erica Feinberg

Date/Time: Thursday, 10/1– 11/19 | 6:00pm—9:00pm

Fee: \$95 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | \$5 studio fee (*paid via Eventbrite link*)

Learn the foundations of traditional gouache, a versatile medium known for its ease of manipulation, rich opacity, matte finish, and fast drying time. In this beginner-friendly class, we'll cover what gouache is, you'll learn essential tools and materials, plus core painting techniques. We will explore color mixing and basic color theory to help you create harmonious palettes, followed by guided practice in building depth, shadow, and light to give your artwork dimension. We'll focus on traditional gouache, not acrylic gouache, though the differences between the two will be explained. Perfect for new painters or anyone curious about this expressive medium (will not include acrylic gouache).

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Beginner Pottery Experience: 4-week mini course

Instructor: taught by various pottery instructors

Date/Time: please see the Fall 2026 Adult Visual Arts Class Schedule for dates/times

Fee: \$70 class fee (*register on Eventbrite.com*) | **price includes all supplies**

Ever wanted to try using a potter's wheel? Now is your chance with this 4-week mini-course designed to introduce the mechanics of throwing on the wheel to those curious about clay! During these 4 weeks, participants will begin to learn: prepping the clay body, centering on the wheel, creating an opening, pulling consistent walls, and then practice-practice-practice! The goal with this course is to **learn basic throwing skills and practice them**. The emphasis will be on learning the skills—not producing pots to keep. Participants come away with up to 6 successfully thrown pieces that will be glazed by staff in the glaze color chosen by the student. **Finished pieces will not be available for pick up until at least 2 weeks after the final class**

Guidance for Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Pottery Programs

- New Beginner Students will not be permitted to attend Intermediate or Advanced Level classes.
- Intermediate and Advanced Students will not be permitted to attend Beginner Level classes.
- Required skills for Intermediate and Advanced Classes: Students must be able to demonstrate consistency in throwing 4" cylinders, apply *score and slip* techniques to assemble multi-part constructions (pots), and glaze with consistent results.



Metro Parks Visual Arts follows state and federal laws that prohibit discrimination based on disability.

Metro Parks Visual Arts is committed to assuring that we include people with disabilities in all aspects of employment and that they can fully participate in all programs, services, and activities.



In addition to the 8-week class offerings listed above, our partnership with **Creative Parks Nashville** now provides dozens of supplemental class opportunities and visual arts programs throughout the year for youth, seniors, and communities of all levels of abilities and experience.