



Seeking Artists: The One-Hour Arts Challenge

Jeff Public Arts, in partnership with Jeff Parks & Recreation, is seeking performing and visual artists to apply for participation in an upcoming live creative challenge during Steamboat Nights 2026. This event will bring together artists from multiple disciplines to compete in real time, responding to creative prompts, time-based challenges, and audience energy. Artists will showcase their work live in front of a public audience between 3:00–7:00 PM.

This is a family-friendly event. All performances and artwork must be appropriate for audiences of all ages.

Artists are invited to apply under one of the categories below. Final challenge format, timing, and structure will be shared with selected participants. Prizes will be awarded.

Link to APPLY <https://forms.gle/N2c4xYoDGt4ZVtHx5>

How the Challenge Works (Overview)

- Challenges will take place throughout the event window (3:00–7:00 PM)
- Artists will be placed into the category they apply for
- Each category will be assigned an approximate one-hour time block during the event.

The term “One-Hour Arts Challenge” refers to the timeframe allocated to each category, not the length of time each individual artist will perform or create.

For example, a spoken word category may include multiple artists sharing the stage within that one-hour block, similar to an open mic–style format, with each artist performing a shorter set.

Open Challenge Categories

Improv Theater

For improvisational theater artists or teams interested in live, unscripted performance. Challenges may include audience suggestions, timed scenes, or creative prompts that emphasize collaboration, storytelling, and quick thinking.

Spoken Word / Slam Poetry / Rap

For spoken word artists, poets, and rappers performing original work. Performances may focus on storytelling, rhythm, lyricism, emotion, and personal or social themes. Multiple artists may take part within the category’s one-hour time block. All content must be family-friendly.

Street Dance / Dance

For dance artists, crews, or duos working in street, hip-hop, contemporary, or fusion styles. Performances may include choreography, freestyle elements, or face-off style challenges.

Rhythm Battle (Drums / Percussion)

For percussion-based artists using acoustic drums, bucket drumming, body percussion, or rhythm-focused performance. This category emphasizes timing, creativity, and dynamic use of rhythm. All rhythm performances must be acoustic.

Strings Challenge (Acoustic)

I For acoustic string musicians performing live using instruments such as banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, or upright bass. Performances may be solo or small ensembles and should highlight musicianship, creativity, and connection to live audiences. All performances must be acoustic and family friendly.

Who Should Apply

- Individual artists or groups/teams (depending on category)
- Emerging and established artists
- Artists comfortable performing or creating work live in front of an audience
- Artists able to present family-friendly content

Submission Timeline (subject to change)

- Applications Open: Feb. 1, 2026
- Application Deadline: April 1, 2026
- Artists Notified: By April 17, 2026

What to Expect

- This is a live, in-person event with a public audience
- Final challenge format, order, and timing will be shared with selected artists
- Artists applying as individuals may be paired with others in the same discipline
- Prizes will be awarded based on the final challenge structure
- Once artists are selected for the event, more details and structure will be given out.

How to Apply

Applicants will be asked to submit: Link to Apply <https://forms.gle/N2c4xYoDGt4ZVtHx5>

- Selected challenge category
 - Brief description of their work or performance style
 - Links to work samples (video, images, or website)
 - Group size (if applicable)
 - Basic technical or space needs
- Create live. Compete boldly. Be part of a one-of-a-kind creative experience.**

Hosted by Jeff Public Arts in partnership with Jeff Parks & Recreation

Questions: contact Kat Wang, Public Art Administrator, kwang@cityofjeff.net

