



# PAINT the FAIR: BENCH MURAL COMPETITION

Competitive Exhibits Office  
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**ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1, 2026**  
**ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION CLOSES JUNE 15, 2026**  
**BENCH PICK-UP DATE at the ERIE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
**June 19, 2026, 9AM-4PM**  
**ENTRY DROP OFF August 8, 2026, 2PM-6PM GATE 1A**

***\*All entries are property of the Erie County Fair and are not eligible for removal***

**Entry Fee:** \$25.00 allows entries throughout Departments in Creative Arts, Ag-Grange, and Environment and Sportsman. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

**Ages:** 18 & Up

**Prize Checks:** Available Tuesday, August 18, 2026, between 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM at the Creative Arts Info Desk along with satin ribbons earned. Checks not picked up by Sunday, August 23, 2026, will be mailed.  
**\*Checks are VOID 60 days from issue date and WILL NOT BE REISSUED. Ribbons will not be mailed.**

**Paint the Fair: Bench Murals Competition Rules:**

1. Please read and abide by all The Erie County Fair rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Monday, June 15, 2026.** For more information see the Important Entry Information page at [www.ecfair.org](http://www.ecfair.org).
3. Anyone 18 years old and older is eligible to enter this competition. Team and Organization entries are permitted.
4. Wood benches will be provided for painting on June 19 as specified above. Mandatory color palettes will be provided; supplies are the responsibility of the exhibitor. Additional information will be provided to the exhibitor via email on June 16, 2026.
5. Special requirements:
  - Bench Murals must be family-friendly and suitable for public viewing.
  - Paint must be weather resistant and appropriate for barn environment and outdoor display.
  - Only the wood surfaces are to be painted on the bench. The metal framework is to remain as is; no decoration is permitted.
  - The bench is fully assembled and will require a large vehicle for pickup. Approximate Size is: 40" high x 24" wide x 8' long.
  - Bench is the property of the Erie County Fair and must be returned. If you are unable to complete the bench, contact the Competitive Exhibits Office immediately to arrange to drop off.
  - Entries are limited to 10, enter early to secure your spot.

**Judging Criteria**

- |                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Appearance & Overall Impression | 40% |
| 2. Creativity & Originality        | 35% |
| 3. Craftsmanship & Neatness        | 25% |

# PAINT the FAIR: BENCH MURAL COMPETITION CLASSES

**Premiums Offered:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place Blue \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Red \$75, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Yellow \$50

**Bench-1**

1. Farmscapes (10 entries)

**About Fair Bear's Farmland – Bench Location**

Fair Bear's Farmland, located between the Agriculture Discovery Center and the Showplex, will return for its third year at the 2026 Erie County Fair. Designed as a hands-on, family-friendly space, Farmland invites fairgoers to explore agriculture up close through friendly animals, interactive activities and agriculture education. The barn is intentionally colorful and welcoming, featuring vibrant colors, photo-worthy details, and one end of the building wrapped in a classic red barn-style façade that sets the tone for the experience inside. Visitors can join Fair Bear for lively dance parties or learn about the barn's unique and fluffy residents during Breeds 101 presentations. Animals recently featured in the barn include Highland cattle, llamas, donkeys, sheep, goats, and Kunekune pigs (these can change from year-to-year).

Through the bench mural project, artists are invited to help add even more color, creativity, and personality to this vibrant space by creating functional artwork that becomes part of the Farmland experience for families throughout the Fair.