

Remembering USAID Through the Arts Prospectus

This initiative is a celebration of the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) global development work before it was dismantled in 2025, as seen through the eyes of artists who had worked for USAID, their implementing partners, and their families and friends

Objectives:

1. Celebrate USAID's legacy through exhibiting and selling art by USAID artists, implementing partners, and their families and friends;
2. Mobilize funds to support the creation of a multi-media art repository to tell the story of USAID's global work, including two- and three-dimensional art, poetry, and audio-immersive recording

Show dates: March 7 - 28, 2026

Location: 10335 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington, Maryland 20895



Themes: This exhibit will tell the story of a shared experience of USAID employees, implementing partners, and their families and friends who supported the USAID mission with passion, compassion, and commitment to help save lives and build a better world.

The exhibit invites artists and photographers to chronicle USAID's development work in the following themes:

- Population, Health, and Nutrition
- Humanitarian assistance
- Education
- Economic growth
- Democracy
- Other areas of interest, including the kaleidoscope of diverse cultures and portraits inspired by countries that USAID had supported

Categories: Artists may submit abstract and/or representational artwork in any of the following categories:

- People and partnership in action
- Landscapes (urban poor and rural villages)

Who is eligible to participate: All former USAID, implementing partners, and their families and friends globally are invited to submit artwork that commemorate USAID's legacy.

Donation of funds:

- Artists are requested to donate at least a portion of their proceeds to the fund which will support the creation of a repository to tell the story of USAID's global work.

Number of artworks allowed:

- Artists who live in the Greater Washington area may submit up to three pieces of original artwork and/or photographs with the artist's name, title, and price. They can price their artwork at their own discretion.
- In addition, participants who live in the Greater Washington area may donate artifacts from the countries supported by USAID. These can be priced at their own discretion.
- All artists inside and outside the Greater Washington area and in countries that were supported by USAID may submit up to five prints (8X10 inches) of their artwork that are wrapped in clear plastic bags with the artist's name, title, and price. Participants from other countries may submit JPEG images of their art which will be printed in high quality art paper by the organizers. Artists are requested to price them at \$50 each so that they are accessible to most people.

- **Key Dates:**

- Show Dates: March 7-28, 2026
- Expression of interest with details on theme and category of art: October 1 - December 31, 2025.
- Deadline for submission of **images** of paintings, photographs, and artifacts: February 1, 2026.
- Drop-off date of framed original artwork, photographs, and artifacts at the gallery: March 2-4, 2026
- Opening reception: March 7, 2026
- Closing reception: March 28 (TBD)
- Pick-up unsold artwork: March 29-30, 2026

- **Eligible Media:** 2D works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, mixed media, pastel, encaustic, hand-pulled prints, drawing/ink mediums, textile, digital painting and photography. 3D artifacts from USAID-supported countries are also included in the show.

- **Cost:** There is no cost to submit your work.

- **Process:**

- Register by sending an expression of interest via email during October 1 - December 31, 2025, to Lily Kak at lilypkak@gmail.com, Mihira Karra at mykarra24@gmail.com, and Clinton White at clintondavidwhite@gmail.com.
- Artists and photographers in the greater Washington area (Maryland, Virginia,

DC) may submit original paintings and photographs which are framed and delivered at the exhibit venue in person. Artists will price their art at their discretion. Please submit JPEG images in this shared folder - [Original Paintings and Photographs](#)- by February 1, 2026. Images should be saved in the following format: Last Name_First Name_Original_Country of inspiration_Title of Painting or Photograph. For example: Kak_Lily_Original_Global_From the American People.

- Images of paintings and photographs submitted by participants who live outside the Greater Washington area and other countries will be printed by the exhibit organizers in high quality paper (prints of 8x10 inches) for sale and donation at \$50 each. Please submit JPEG images of paintings and photographs that you would like the organizers to print for the show in this shared folder - [Prints of Paintings and Photographs](#)- by February 1, 2026. Images should be saved in the following format: Last Name_First Name_Prints_Country of inspiration_Title of Painting/Photograph. For example: Kak_Lily_Prints_Ghana_Ghanaian Drummers..
- Cultural artifacts from USAID-supported countries may also be donated. These must be of high quality and priced at the discretion of the donor. Please submit JPEG images of the artifacts in this folder - [Images of Artifacts](#) - by February 1, 2026. Images should be saved in the following format: Last Name_First Name_Artifact_Country of Artifact_Title of Artifact. For example: Kak_Lily_Artifact_Mali_Bust of a Fulani Woman.
- Original paintings and photographic images must depict USAID activities in any of the following **Themes**: population, health and nutrition; humanitarian assistance; education; economic growth; and democracy and other areas of interest, including diverse cultures and portraits. **Categories** are (1) people and partnership in action and (2) landscapes (urban poor and rural settings).
- Participants will process their own sales of original art, photography, and artifacts and donate a portion of their proceeds to the art repository fund. We recommend you have electronic methods for accepting payments via credit card, PayPal/Venmo, Zelle, as well as cash sales. Sales of prints submitted by participants from other countries will be processed by the organizers and donated to the art repository fund.
- Framing and Wiring Requirements: All original works must be framed, gallery wrapped or professionally finished, securely wired with hanging wire (no loops, sawtooth hangers). If submitting an unframed canvas, edges must be painted or finished to a professional level.

On the horizon: The organizing team will explore the possibility of showing selected artwork in a private museum and also of organizing a roving exhibit around the US.

Affirmation

By submitting an entry, registrants agree with the following: I certify that entries submitted are my own work and not in violation of any copyright, trademark or other similar laws and regulations. I will not hold the organizing committee responsible for copyright infringements of the image of my artwork. I also understand that care will be taken by volunteers and personnel in handling, hanging, and securing artwork for the show. However, neither the organizing committee nor the gallery will be held responsible for any loss or damage.

Questions

Questions: Email Show Managers: Lily Kak at lilypkak@gmail.com; Mihira Karra at mvkarra@gmail.com; and Clinton White at clintondavidwhite@gmail.com