



Massachusetts Environmental Trust

## CALL TO ARTISTS

### North Atlantic Right Whale Conservation Artwork



Featured at the Trust's Massachusetts Right Whale Day Celebration  
on Friday, April 24, 2026

Hosted by the Trust and the New England Aquarium

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust (Trust) invites Massachusetts-based artists (18+) to submit original artwork celebrating the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. Your work will help raise vital awareness and funds for marine conservation through an online charity auction, as part of Massachusetts Right Whale Day – a collaborative event uniting government, scientists, educators, artists, businesses, and the public at the New England Aquarium.

With only about 384 individuals remaining and persistent threats from entanglement in fishing gear, vessel strikes, and climate impacts, ART plays a powerful role in how people connect with nature. Through this Call for Artists, the Trust seeks creative voices to help translate environmental stewardship into visual storytelling – sparking curiosity, pride, and action in support of our shared aquatic future, inspiring action to protect these majestic marine mammals and their ocean habitats.

#### Key Dates

##### Submission of Artwork:

- April 1, 2026 (5:00 PM)

##### Auction Finalists Announced:

- April 8, 2026

##### Online Auction of Juried Selections:

- April 15 – 25, 2026

##### Display of Prints of Artwork at Right Whale Day Event & Reception:

- Friday, April 24, 2026
- New England Aquarium

#### Event Highlights – Right Whale

##### Day 2026

- Online auction of artwork and the Trust's low-number whale license plates (winners announced at the event)
- Hands-on educational activities, cutting-edge research presentations by Aquarium scientists and partners, and a life-sized inflatable "Calvin" (the resilient right whale) display outside the Aquarium
- Artists' artwork (print) will be prominently displayed

## Theme & Project Goals

Create vibrant, original two-dimensional artwork that highlights the beauty, fragility, and resilience of the North Atlantic Right Whale and its marine/coastal habitats. We welcome artwork incorporating marine, coastal, Indigenous, and environmental themes.

Artwork must depict anatomically accurate physical characteristics (e.g., callosities, broad pectoral fins, no dorsal fin, V-shaped blow) while evoking emotion – wonder, urgency, hope – to inspire conservation support.

## Eligibility

- Open to Massachusetts residents (18+)
- Established and emerging artists welcome
- Applications from BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Indigenous, and other underrepresented communities are especially encouraged

## Artwork Requirements

- **Medium:** Two-dimensional visual art (e.g., painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, etc.) on canvas or similar support (AI-generated artwork will not be accepted)
- **Dimensions:** No larger than 36 inches on the longest side
- **Submission Limit:** One original, unframed or framed artwork per artist
- **Required Materials:** High-resolution photo(s) of the completed artwork

## How to Apply

- **Deadline:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 5:00 PM EST
- **Submission Method:** Email all materials to [MET@mass.gov](mailto:MET@mass.gov)
  - **Subject line:** "RWD Call to Artists – [Your Last Name]"
  - **Attach high-resolution files (jpg/png & pdf);** total attachment size limit ~18 MB (for larger files, use a file-sharing service (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox) & include the link)
  - **Include a description of your artwork,** including what inspired you to create it

## Selection Process

- **Juried by the Trust and partnering organizations** (New England Aquarium, scientists, conservation experts, artists)
- **Finalists Announced:** April 8, 2026 via email
- **Original Artwork Drop Off:** Artists arrange to send their original auctioned artwork to winners by May 15, 2026; the Trust will facilitate.



## Artist Benefits

- Selected artwork featured in MET's charitable online auction to benefit the Marine Mammal Conservation Program
- Artist can donate 100% of revenue or choose a 50/50 split
- Invitation to attend the April 24 Right Whale Day event to present your work
- and network with conservation leaders
- Showcase on the MET website, social media, and event materials with full artist credit
- Opportunity to contribute to broader right whale conservation and join a community of advocates

## Usage Rights & Agreements

By submitting, you grant MET non-exclusive rights to use images of your artwork for promotional, educational, and conservation-related purposes (e.g., website, social media, press). Artwork remains the property of the artist except if it is sold via the auction.

Questions?  
Contact Kim Tilas at  
[kim.tilas@mass.gov](mailto:kim.tilas@mass.gov)

See the application  
form on next page



The Massachusetts Environmental Trust (the Trust) is an independent public trust dedicated to safeguarding Massachusetts' rivers, estuaries, and marine ecosystems. Since 1988, the Trust has invested in more than 1,000 projects — supporting whale conservation, habitat restoration, and other critical efforts that protect our waters and wildlife.

The Trust's impact is made possible through public engagement and creative funding tools, including its specialty environmental license plates. The Trust is authorized to receive tax-deductible gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and through wills and bequests, to the extent permitted by law. To learn more about the Trust, visit [www.mass.gov/eea/MET](http://www.mass.gov/eea/MET).

**Application Form (Include in email body or as attachment)**

<b>First &amp; Last Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Resume / Artist Bio (Website/Portfolio if applicable):</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Attached as separate file</b>
<b>Artwork Title:</b>	
<b>Artwork Details (Medium, Dimensions H × W, Orientation):</b>	<b>Market Value \$</b>
<b>Brief Description &amp; Artist Statement (thought process/inspiration)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Attached as separate file</b>
<b>If selected, I agree my artwork will be available for auction managed by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust to raise funds for whale conservation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>Artist Proceeds Option: Donate 100% or Share 50/50</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Donate</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>50/50</b>
<b>If selected, I grant Massachusetts Environmental Trust permission to use images of my artwork for publicity, promotional, and educational purposes related to this conservation campaign</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>

**We are excited to see your creative visions for protecting these gentle giants!  
Thank you for using art to drive meaningful change for the North Atlantic right whale.**

**THANK YOU!**