

Call for Proposals

Gate 5 Industrial Art Festival:

Mill Badge Sculpture Competition

IMPORTANT DATES& INFORMATION

Registration opens:	10 a .m. Monday, June 25
On-Site Registration w/ Q&A:	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, July 14
Registration closes:	2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22
Online registration:	Eventbrite.com (Search for Gate 5)
On-site registration:	10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center, 3149 Main St., Weirton
Works Submitted:	10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 20-22 at Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center, 3149 Main St., Weirton
Opening Reception:	6-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18
Exhibit Closes:	Friday, Nov. 30

REGISTRATION

Registration fee for the contest is \$25.00 for up to three (3) entries. Registration ends on the last date of submission, Sept. 22. Artists are eligible to register on the day they submit work.

Online: Artists may register online with a credit card anytime at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gate-5-mill-badge-sculpture-competition-tickets-46916344048>

In person: Artists may register and pay by check from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. daily at the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center, 3149 Main St., Weirton, WV, 26062. **Checks should be made out to City of Weirton Renaissance Committee.**

COMPETITION BACKGROUND

Each employee at Weirton Steel Company was required to wear a numbered badge, with each unique number representing that worker's part in the history of steel-making here in Weirton, West Virginia. Each badge recalls work performed as the mill located in Weirton and began to grow, as immigrants arrived in the United States to start new lives. The badges represent crucial work performed on the homefront in times of war, in times of peace, in times of recession, and in times of prosperity. The Mill Worker's Badge reminds present and future generations of Weirton's contribution to the building up of United States and beyond from the mill's earliest operations beginning in 1909.

With this being the Gate 5 Industrial Arts Festival's inaugural year, the Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center has decided to offer a portion of its extensive and precious collection of Weirton Steel Badges for

use in the creation of one or more sculptures representative and unique to Weirton for all visitors and citizens to experience in our city.

The City of Weirton Renaissance Committee created this competition to seek out the best sculpture concept(s) from creative and qualified individuals or groups. Selected sculptures created using badges from the museum will be owned by the WAMCC, and, as funds become available, commissioned through a partnership between the Renaissance Committee and WAMCC. The piece will be visible (preferably at an outdoor location) for visitors and citizens in the City of Weirton. A plaque with the creating artist's name, the mill badge history, and other information about the competition background and sponsors will be included with the completed artwork upon installation.

BADGES – Each mill badge is engraved with a number and represents an individual employee and their job at the company. Badges are made of brass with a silver oxide coating. Size is 1.75 inches in diameter. The photo below shows examples of the badges. Engravings differ by year, department and other factors.



**If you would like to see the badges, you can stop by the WAMCC daily from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. If you have questions about submissions, however, please contact Alecia Ford at weirton.arts@gmail.com*

ELIGIBILITY

This is a juried call for proposals open to all qualified artists or groups of artists aged 18 years and over. Submission in the competition must include a 16" x 20" drawing, sketch or rendering of a proposed sculpture that incorporates and features employee badges from the steel mill in Weirton. In addition to the artwork, artists must provide a 300-400 word description of their piece, including its dimensions, approximate number of badges required, general timeline for construction, dimensions of the final sculpture, cost of project, its inspiration, and vision of how it will help preserve our local history and culture for future generations. The description will be displayed alongside the rendering at the WAMCC.

Submitted works will be juried by members of the Weirton Area Museum Board of Directors and members of the Renaissance Weirton Corp. Board. There will also be an opportunity for public voting during the Oct. 18 opening reception and Oct. 20 Gate 5 Industrial Arts Festival.

CLOSING DATES

All work must be hand-delivered to the **Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center, 3149 Main St., Weirton,** on one of the following dates:

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 20-22

Artworks not accepted into the competition must be picked up by Saturday, Oct. 13.

FRAMING REQUIREMENTS

All artwork submitted must be submitted according to the specifications below and wired for hanging. NO SAWTOOTH HANGERS will be permitted.

Artwork should NOT be framed or under glass. All work must be 16" x 20" on gallery-wrapped canvas or mounted on 3/4" foam. The only exception to these requirements is work printed onto a metal surface, and these works must still comply with requirements for hanging.

No free-standing three-dimensional entries, installations, video entries, or performance-art are permitted. Maximum weight is 25 pounds.

Labels provided by the WAMCC must be affixed to the top left-hand corner on the back of EACH ENTRY.

PRIZES AND EXHIBIT

A limited number of submitted works will be selected for display and judging.

All works will be juried by the WAMCC Board, the Renaissance Weirton Corp. Board and by a public participation vote during the Gate 5 Industrial Art Festival.

Prizes shall be awarded as follows:

- Mill Worker's Badges Best of Show: This project, including compensation for the artist during the creation of the work, will become a funding priority for Renaissance Weirton and the WAMCC, and will be the first work slated for construction.

- First Place: This work will be studied for potential funding and construction
- A Second Place prize may be awarded for potential funding and construction
- Merit Award – may be awarded if a project is identified that is out of the bounds of the current resources, but deemed worthy of continued pursuit

Winners will be notified by email or phone on Oct. 8. Winners will not be told which prize they have been awarded until the night of the reception, **Thursday , Oct. 18, at the WAMCC.**

The exhibit will show from **Oct. 18-Nov. 30.**

SPONSORS

The Weirton Renaissance Corp. (Mayor Harold Miller, President) and the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center (Dennis Jones, Executive Director).

CONDITIONS

The Renaissance Weirton Corp. and WAMCC will not be responsible for any artwork not picked up during the designated times, unless prior arrangements are made.

Unsuitably framed or damaged work will not be accepted into the show, and the decision of the show chair will be final.

No shipped works will be accepted; work will be by hand-delivery and pickup only.

CONTACT

Alecia Ford, Gate 5 Industrial Art Festival Chair ---- 412-417-5101 --- weirton.arts@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER/LEGAL

Artists should provide their own insurance. The Renaissance Weirton Corp. and Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center will take every precaution against damage or theft, but will not be responsible for damage or loss, whatever the cause. Submission of an entry to this exhibition constitutes the agreement of the artist to all terms and conditions in this competition. The entering artist does for himself/herself, his/her heirs and assigns, hereby forever waive, release and discharge the Renaissance Weirton Corp. and Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center, and its agents from any and all manner of actions, suits, damages, claims, and demands whatsoever, in law and equity, for any loss or damage to the artist's property, and for any personal liability. Also, by submitting an entry, the artist grants permission for the Renaissance Weirton Corp. and Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center to reproduce images, which may be used for exhibition-related publicity. This release shall be in effect for the duration of the exhibition referred to in the prospectus and shall include any agents, representatives, and employees of the Renaissance Weirton Corp. and Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center.