



## Images that Shape Montana

*A Call for Art and Photography Celebrating the Impact of Philanthropy in Our State*

### Background

The Montana Community Foundation invites Montana artists and photographers to participate in our second Images that Shape Montana contest. This is your opportunity to share how you see philanthropy shaping our communities, landscapes, and future.

Whether you're behind a camera lens or prefer holding a paintbrush, we welcome submissions that reflect generosity and positive change across Montana.

Last year's grand prize winner was Jordan Lefler for his photograph, *End the Silence*. Other category winners included Jessica Bower for her piece, *New Pie*; Andrew "AJ" Butler for his piece, *Heart of Culture*; Jordan Lefler for his piece, *Casting for Gold*; and Bulbul Majumder.

### Categories

Submissions will be judged in four impact areas central to the Montana Community Foundation's mission:

#### **Education, Equity, & Culture**

Reflect on how philanthropy supports inclusive access to education and equitable opportunities, empowering all Montanans to succeed. Examples of work in this category include scholarships, grants, and the Women's Foundation of Montana.

#### **Community & Economic Vitality**

Highlight how giving supports resilient communities, growth, and community development. Examples of work in this category are local community foundations, Reimagining Rural, Community Heart & Soul, grant funding, and other similar programs.

#### **Land & Resiliency**

Share stories of conservation, stewardship, sustainability, or the ways communities address challenges of an evolving environment. Examples of work in this category are resiliency, disaster response, and grant opportunities.

#### **Health & Well-being**

Show how philanthropy enhances the physical, mental, and social health of Montanans. Examples of this work include grant funding to support community health needs.



## Prizes

- Grand Prize Winner (1) – \$1,500 and cover feature for MCF's annual impact report
- Category Winners (4) – \$500 each

## Submission Details

- Open to Montana-based artists and photographers of all levels, ages 16 and up. Parental consent form required for minors.
- Mediums accepted: photography (min 300 DPI), digital art, illustration, painting, mixed media. If your submission includes recognizable individuals, you must obtain written consent (a photo release or model release form) from those individuals, or a parent or guardian if the individual is under 18 years of age. By submitting your artwork, you confirm that you have secured all necessary permissions for any identifiable people featured.
- The Montana Community Foundation reserves the right to request proof of consent before selecting or publishing any submission. Entries that do not meet these requirements may be disqualified.
- Dimensions: portrait, resolution will need to be sized to 8.5" x 11".
- Exclusions apply. Current staff and board members of the Montana Community Foundation are not eligible to participate in the Images that Shape Montana contest.
- However, we enthusiastically welcome submissions from the public, MCF partners and affiliates, including:
  - Local community foundations and affiliate funds
  - Previous grantees and award recipients
  - Nonprofit and philanthropic partners
  - Family members of current MCF staff and board members
- Limit 4 submissions per person.
- Contest opens: July 1, 2026.
- Submission deadline: September 18, 2026, 5:00 P.M. MST



- Winners Announced: October 16.
- Submit via: [communications@mtcf.org](mailto:communications@mtcf.org) to receive a link to upload artwork to a Dropbox account. Images should be high resolution and in JPEG format.

## Fine Print for Artists

By submitting your work to the Images that Shape Montana contest, you agree to the following:

**Eligibility:** Artists must be residents of Montana. Ages 16 and up; parental consent form will be required for minors.

**Usage Rights:** Artists grant the Montana Community Foundation a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to reproduce, display, and distribute your submitted work across print, digital, and promotional platforms, including but not limited to our annual impact report, website, social media, and email campaigns. Usage rights end December 31, 2028.

**Credit:** The Montana Community Foundation will credit all artists by name whenever artwork is used (including social media). You may also provide a short artist statement or story behind the work (optional), which may be used in our materials with your permission.

**Ownership:** You retain full ownership and copyright of your work.

**Eligibility:** You must be the original creator of the work and hold all rights necessary to submit it. Submitted works must not violate the rights of any third party.

**Selection Process:** Winners will be selected by a panel based on relevance to the category theme, creativity, and emotional impact.

**Original Artwork:** All submitted artwork must be original and created by the submitting artist. Submissions that incorporate artificial intelligence (AI)-generated imagery, in whole or in part, are not eligible for this contest. We value the authenticity and personal perspective that human creativity brings to the themes of philanthropy and community impact. Artwork found to use AI generation tools or copied from another creator will be disqualified.