

## “THE EMERALD COAST HERON”

### Artist Information Packet

**All Artists-Please read this ENTIRE PACKET and submit all the required [entry forms](#) by the Thursday, September 16, 2022, deadline to be eligible to create one of the “Emerald Coast Herons”. The Herons will belong to OPA when completed and will be OPA’s responsibility for upkeep. These sculptures are expensive and should be treated with the greatest care. Thank you!**

There will be 20 Herons purchased by OPA and painted by artists using the designs submitted by local artists and selected by a panel of judges. The selected herons will be placed at various locations throughout Okaloosa County. The Okaloosa County Commissioners and OPA Board are choosing locations for the herons. Each heron will have a plaque displayed on the bottom back with the OPA logo and the name of the artist who created it. Each artist will receive \$100 for acrylic paint to create their design.

The sculptures we provide for this art project are specially designed to be safe for any artist to work on by using the least toxic materials on the market, and in most cases are readily available for artists at hobby and art supply stores for use by artists in their homes or studios.

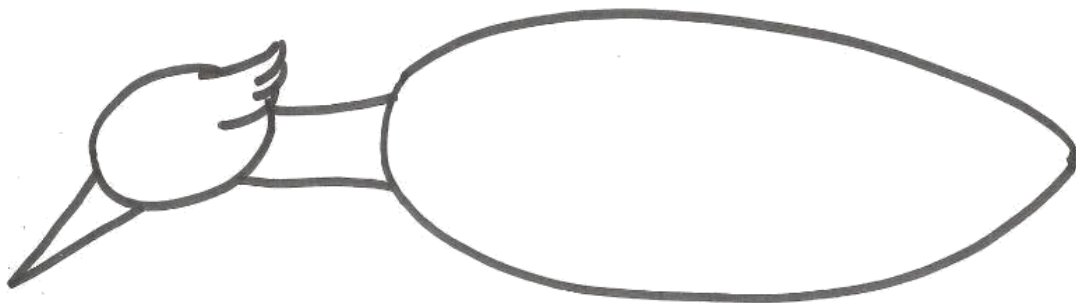
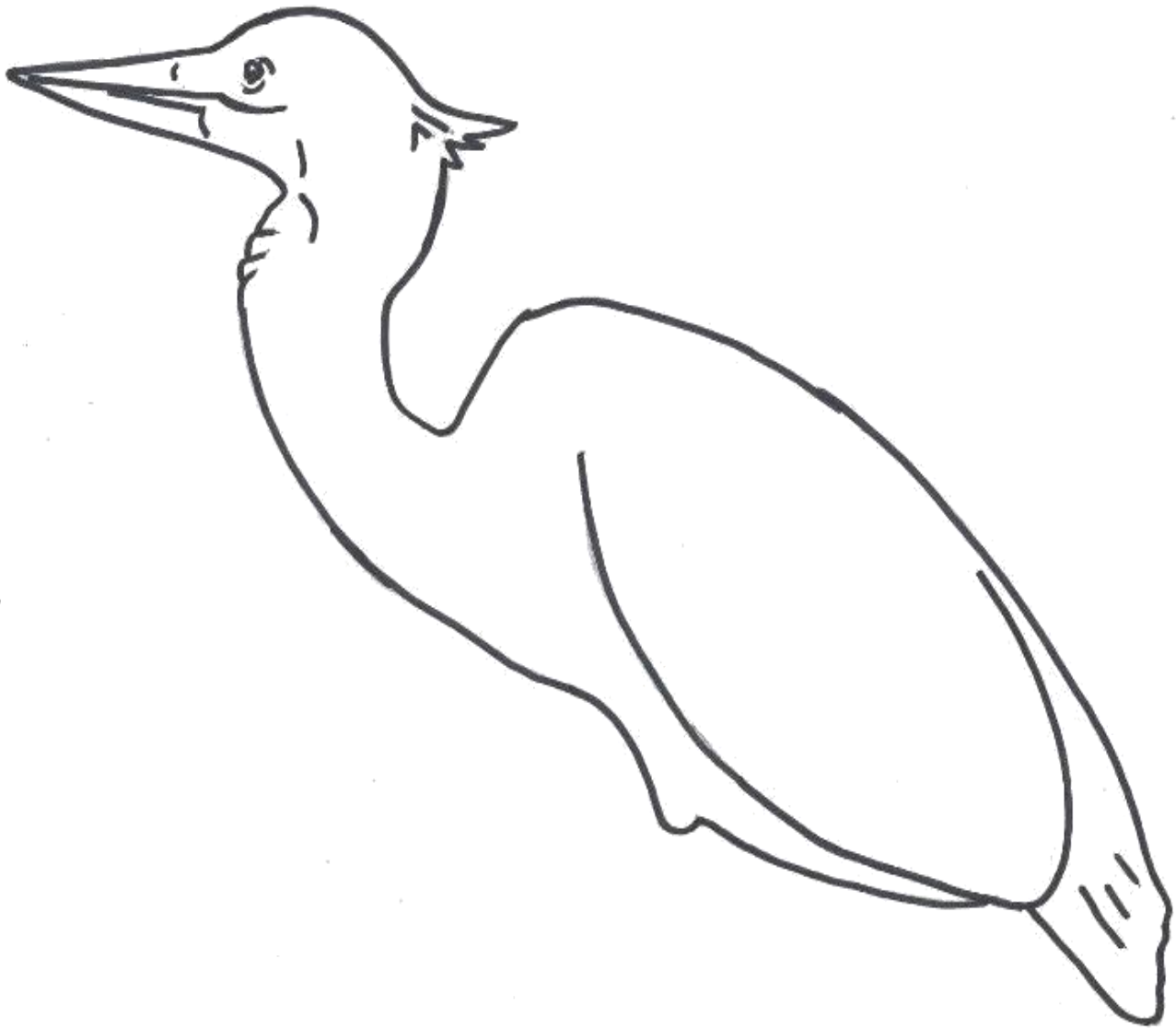
The Herons will be appropriately mounted for display. Artists who wish to participate must submit a colored sketch for the three-dimensional fiber glass heron, which is approximately 5 feet tall and weighs approximately 60 pounds. This packet includes an outline sketch of the heron to use as your design template. Make sure your design is well detailed so that the jurors for the project have a clear example of what the finished product will look like. Please submit the two orientations of your design top and sides along with the [entry form](#).



1. Each Heron is primed for applying acrylic paint when they arrive. Lightly sand the entire surface with 180-220 grit to clean the surface of dirt and residues that could cause adhesion problems with your paint. Do not use an electric power sander. After sanding, clean your surface with straight water and a damp cloth. Let the entire surface dry before painting. If any of the primer flakes off when sanding, sand back to where the primer is stuck, and then re-prime or Gesso that area. We suggest using any brand of Gesso and almost any brand of manufacturer offers an exterior grade primer that will work. Be sure to follow directions and safety guidelines on any products that you use. Remember these sculptures will be outside in the weather.
2. Wear plastic gloves when doing this art project and when touching the raw sculpture after sanding. This will keep oils from your hands off the surface which could cause an adhesion problem when painting. Do not wear powdered latex gloves because powder residue will remain on the sculpture.
3. Using acrylic paint is recommended. Most brands work fine. We recommend staying away from oil paints if you do not have a lot of experience with them. If you have specific questions, please contact Icon Poly at 1-308-468-9411.
4. If a drill is needed for embossing or any other creative reason, Icon Poly suggests a Dremel-type rotary tool.
5. **For experienced artists**-If an artist plans to cover the entire surface with materials other than paint, in the case of tile, mosaic work or cloth, when attaching items with adhesive be sure to sand or rasp down into the material of the sculpture. Gluing directly to the primed surface may not yield the best results. Artists should remove as much primer as possible, so the adhesive can attach to the raw resin surface. ***Any additions other than acrylic paint must not exceed 10 lbs total weight prior to attaching. This includes glues, screws, bolts, or anything other than paint.***
6. **For experienced artists**-If attaching items, we recommend using physical attachments (i.e., screws, bolts) in conjunction with adhesive attachments when possible. Using both together will create a much more durable piece. If you intend to change the structure or add to the structure, please contact Icon Poly for guidance. ***Any additions other than acrylic paint must not exceed 10 lbs total weight prior to attaching. This includes glues, screws, bolts, or anything other than paint.***
7. **For experienced artists**-We highly recommend structural urethane adhesive when bonding things to the sculpture. Several companies make these, such as 3M, UPol, and Norton. These are normally found at auto body supply stores. ***Any additions other than acrylic paint must not exceed 10 lbs total weight prior to attaching. This includes glues, screws, bolts, or anything other than paint.***
8. ~~After your sculpture is complete you must apply an automotive, or sign grade clear coat for protection from UV and exterior elements. Three coats are recommended. Always follow application instructions on the product you select. Be sure you follow instructions and safety guidelines. **OPA WILL BE PROVIDING THIS FINAL PROTECTIVE COATING, SO PLEASE DO NOT SEAL YOUR HERON; WE WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT!**~~
9. Your sculptures will have a 1/8" clean drilled hole somewhere on the underneath side. Do not seal this hole off. If you cover the hole with paint or other materials, please re-drill the hole as it is a breath hole and is important to the longevity of the sculpture and the artwork applied to it, by limiting expansion and contraction.
10. At Icon Poly they only use the taping process when they can clear coat with urethane clear between layers. If they want to do fine lines without clear coating and taping, they use fine acrylic paint pens or paint bottles with needle-type tips to make the fine lines.

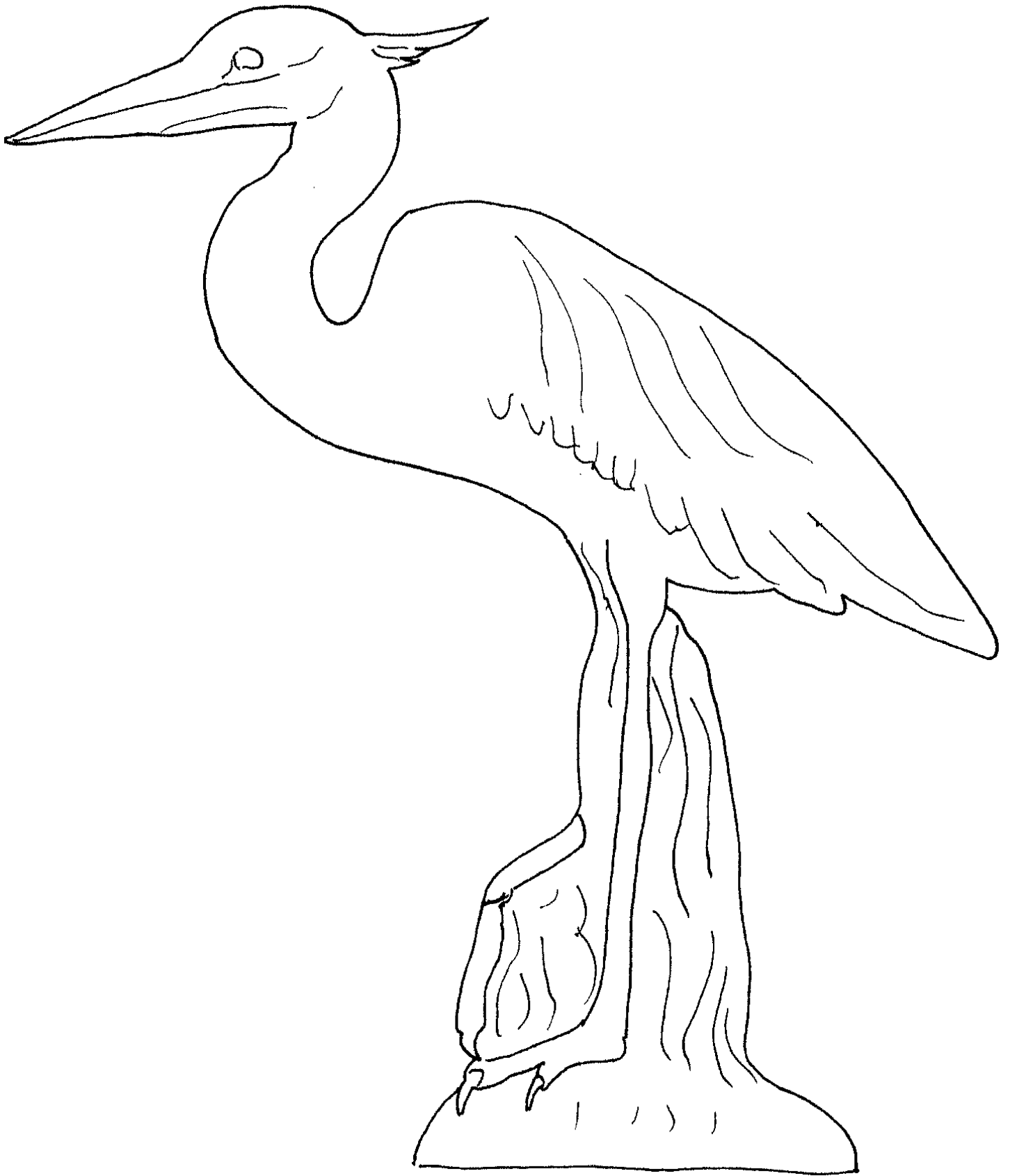
**THIS PAGE REQUIRED!**

ARTIST'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



DESIGN EXAMPLES





**THIS PAGE REQUIRED!**

ARTIST'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# Okaloosa Public Arts Emerald Coast Heron Agreement

Please PRINT clearly at the bottom of this page.

Please email images (scan as a PDF or photo) of your sketches and the completed bottom portion of this page to both emails:

[rickotoupalik@gmail.com](mailto:rickotoupalik@gmail.com)  
[tonidineen@cox.net](mailto:tonidineen@cox.net)

You can also mail sketches to the following address; however, we are not responsible for lost or late entries:  
**Rick Otoupalik, 24 Bay Drive SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548**

## Timeline of Events

Thursday, Sept. 16	Deadline to mail in sketch submissions to above address
Thursday, Sept. 23	Winning artists announced by email to all artists who enter
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9:00 a.m.	Winning artists pick up Emerald Coast Herons at the Okaloosa County Administrative Building Front Lobby; expect to stay for PR photos and a short Q&A period. <b>BE SURE TO HAVE AMPLE SPACE AND HELP TO LIFT THE HERONS INTO YOUR VEHICLE SAFELY AND SECURELY. REMEMBER, THESE HERONS ARE VALUED AT CLOSE TO \$1,000 EACH!</b>
Tuesday, Nov. 1	Artists email <a href="mailto:rickotoupalik@gmail.com">rickotoupalik@gmail.com</a> a work in progress photo
Friday, Dec. 9	Artists email <a href="mailto:rickotoupalik@gmail.com">rickotoupalik@gmail.com</a> an updated work in progress photo
Friday, Jan. 6	Artists deliver completed Emerald Coast Heron between <b>8:00 and 3:00</b> to: <b>American Mold and Fiberglass Works (John Sullivan)</b> <b>205 Early Street</b> <b>Niceville, FL</b> 850-259-7722 <b>PLEASE BE CAREFUL AND SECURE YOUR ARTWORK; EACH HERON IS VALUED AT CLOSE TO \$1,000 EACH EVEN WITHOUT THE PRICELESS VALUE OF YOUR ARTWORK!</b>
Monday, Jan. 16	Reveal Ceremony at Okaloosa County Administrative Building in Shalimar (pending approval by County Commissioners)

Artist Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, FL Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand guidelines for a successful project. \_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)