

# Milan Great ARTdoors event

**Suzanne Nolan Wisler** The Monroe News  
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Milan is opening doors for art.

The city's newest project, "The Great ARTdoors," turns old doors into canvases. It's the largest community art project Milan has ever had.

Anyone or any group, regardless of where they live or art ability, can take part. The city is hoping for at least 100 submissions.

The idea for "The Great ARTdoors" came to Kim Rhoney during the pandemic.

"I saw a painted door hanging at an artist friend's garage during a COVID coffee visit outside early last summer. She mentioned that it was from a community art exhibit. We both agreed that upcycling doors into art would be such a welcoming community project, especially after being shut-in from the pandemic and wanting to get out and explore. Voila, we are doing it in Milan," said Rhoney, marketing director for the Milan Area Chamber of Commerce.

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**Milan High School student Emily Wagner works on a door for The Great ARTdoors project.**

COURTESY PHOTO



**A sample door can be viewed in the window of the Milan Area Chamber of Commerce/Milan Main Street, 3 Main St. in Milan. COURTESY PHOTO**

## ARTdoors

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Jill Tewsley, executive director of Milan Main Street, came up with the project's name.

"We can almost finish each other's sentence when we get rolling on a project. A few of our recent successes have been 'Deck the Trees' and 'Win the Window,'" said Rhoney. "Jill and I co-office in downtown Milan so that we can leverage our resources and skills to program and promote Milan. The goal of this project is to bring our community together in a way that lifts everyone up, lets people express themselves and provides a little joy for residents and visitors alike."

Artists can use their own door or one available through the city.

The cost is \$100 with a door or \$90 without a door. Fees cover the cost of managing, organizing and installing the exhibit. Proceeds also will benefit the programs and work of the Milan Area Chamber and Milan Main Street, the two event sponsors.

Art guidelines are few. Doors must be family-friendly. Art cannot be scary, violent, political or contain profanity. No advertising is permitted.

Participants can work on the doors at home or during a series of workshops at the Great ARTdoors studio at Workhouse Realty, Dexter Rd. Work-

shops are set for: 9 a.m.-noon and noon-3 p.m. this Saturday; 5-8 p.m. May 5 and 6, and 9 a.m.-noon and noon-3 p.m. May 8. More dates may be set.

Acrylic paint and supplies will be available for use at the workshops.

A sample door can be viewed in the window of the Milan Area Chamber of Commerce/Milan Main Street, 3 Main St. Inspiration also can be found on the Milan Area Chamber of Commerce's Pinterest board.

"Our goal is 100 doors, though we would have room for more if that is the case," said Rhoney.

An opening reception showcasing the doors is planned for sometime the week of June 14 at Wilson Park. The date and details will be posted on Facebook.

Doors will then be displayed in eight to 10 locations in and around Milan for the summer, from mid-June through the end of August.

"We hope that people in the region take a drive to Milan just to see the doors and experience our great city," said Rhoney.

Sponsors are still needed. So are doors. "We have over 80 doors on hand, and they are still coming in," said Rhoney.

Doors can be dropped-off at Workhorse Realty. Donors should use the garage door entrance facing County St.

*To register to paint a door or to learn more about the project, visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheGreatARTdoors/> or email [info@milanchamber.org](mailto:info@milanchamber.org).*