



Calling All Artists!

Join the "Wildwood Follow the Crows" Art Trail and help bring this remarkable Portland story to life.

Wildwood Follow the Crows is a free, family-friendly public art trail featuring 30 nearly 5-foot-tall, artist-designed crow sculptures placed at key landmarks and open spaces throughout downtown Portland.

Inspired by the beloved *Wildwood* novel by Portland author Colin Meloy and illustrator Carson Ellis, the story has been brought to life by *LAIKA* in a new stop-motion fantasy film. This trail plays on *Wildwood's* themes while celebrating imagination, storytelling and the creative spirit of our region.

In partnership with the **OHSU Foundation**, **Portland Metro Chamber**, **Downtown Portland Clean & Safe** and **Wild in Art**, the project invites artists to transform these sculptural crows into vibrant works that reflect Portland's innovation, diversity and artistry. All proceeds from the trail support **OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital**.

Submit Design by

April 15

BENEFITING



Artists & Designers

Something to Crow About

Artists are invited to submit designs to decorate a Wildwood crow sculpture before it takes flight across the city for a 12-week public art trail in the summer and fall of 2026.

Selected designs will be transformed into large-scale sculptures and displayed throughout downtown Portland, creating a playful citywide experience for residents, visitors and families alike.

This is your chance to spread your artistic wings and leave your mark on a project that will have people flocking downtown.

At the conclusion of the trail, the crow sculptures will gather at a special auction benefiting **OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital**, helping support life-saving care for children and families across the region.

What's in it for you?

- Showcase your work to an audience of thousands of residents and visitors exploring Portland.
- If selected as one of our featured artists, you will receive a **\$1,000 honorarium** upon completion of your painted sculpture.
- Completed crows will be featured on our **dedicated webpage**, trail app and social media platforms.
- Your name will appear on the sculpture plaque, with additional information about you, your work, and your online presence.
- Unique opportunities to connect and network with fellow artists, businesses and community members across Portland's creative flock.
- The chance to work alongside well-known local nonprofit organizations and a world-class animation studio on a project that brings foot traffic, joy to our streets, and highlights the creativity of our city.
- Most importantly, you will help support **OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital**, one of the region's leading pediatric hospitals, at a time when community support for children and families facing serious health challenges is more important than ever.

How will it work?

1. New and established artists are invited to submit designs that will transform the blank Crow.
2. Design ideas are presented to the trail's sponsors, who will each select their favorite.
3. Chosen artists are commissioned to apply their designs (ranging from traditional to new media, fine art, street art and mosaic) to the sculptures.
4. Once the Crows are created, they will be placed throughout the Downtown and Old Town area for a free 12-week art trail in the summer/fall of 2026 (**August 7 - November 1**).
5. After the trail there will be a final farewell, ticketed event, featuring a unique chance for the public to see all the sculptures together in one location before auctioning them to benefit OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

The Crow Sculpture

The sculptures are made using a mixture of Class II fire-retardant laminating resin and chopped roving fiberglass over an initial brushed-on layer of polyester gel coat. Each Crow is finished with a primer and ready to design.

Sculpture Height:

4 feet, 6 inches — on their plinth they are 5 feet, 3 inches

Length:

6 feet, 3 inches



Timeline

April 30, 2026

Sponsor selection event

August 7, 2026

Trail launch

October 31 &
November 1, 2026

Farewell weekend event

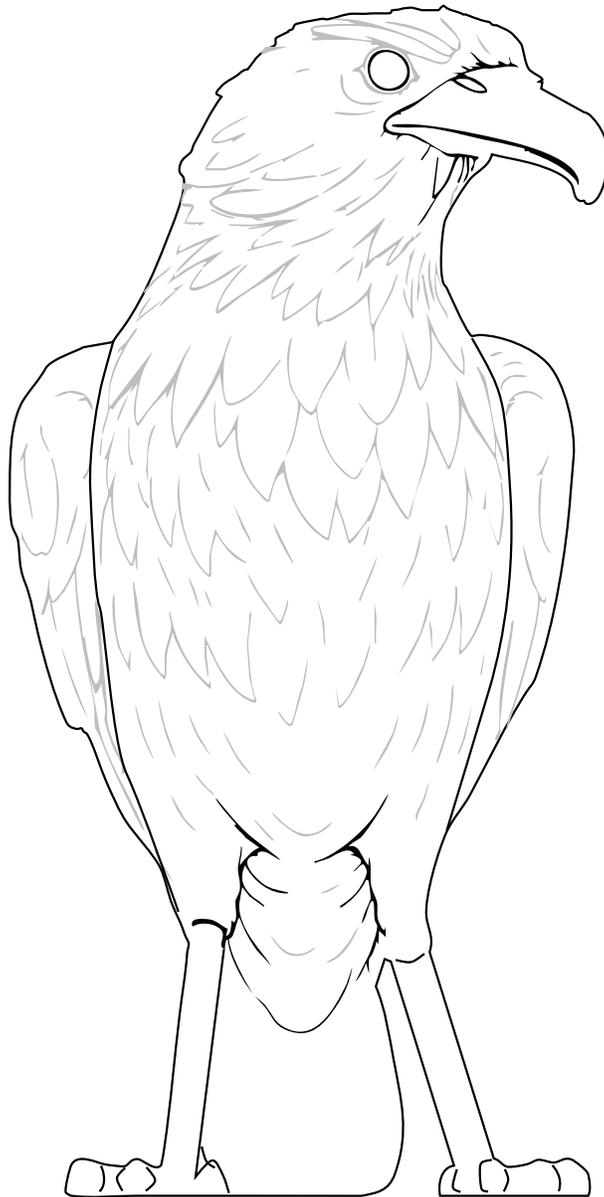
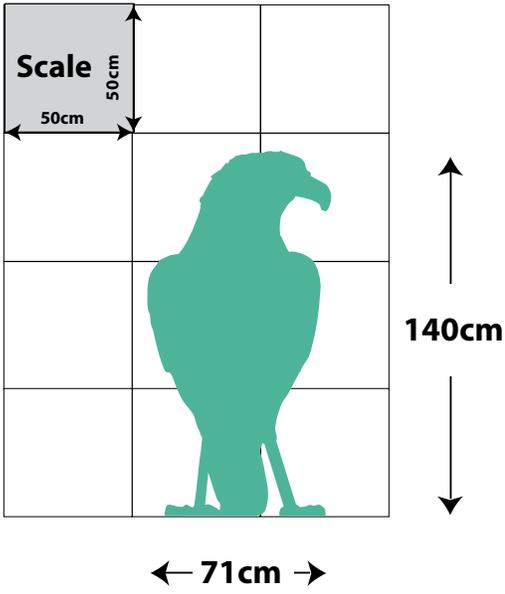
November, 2026

Auction

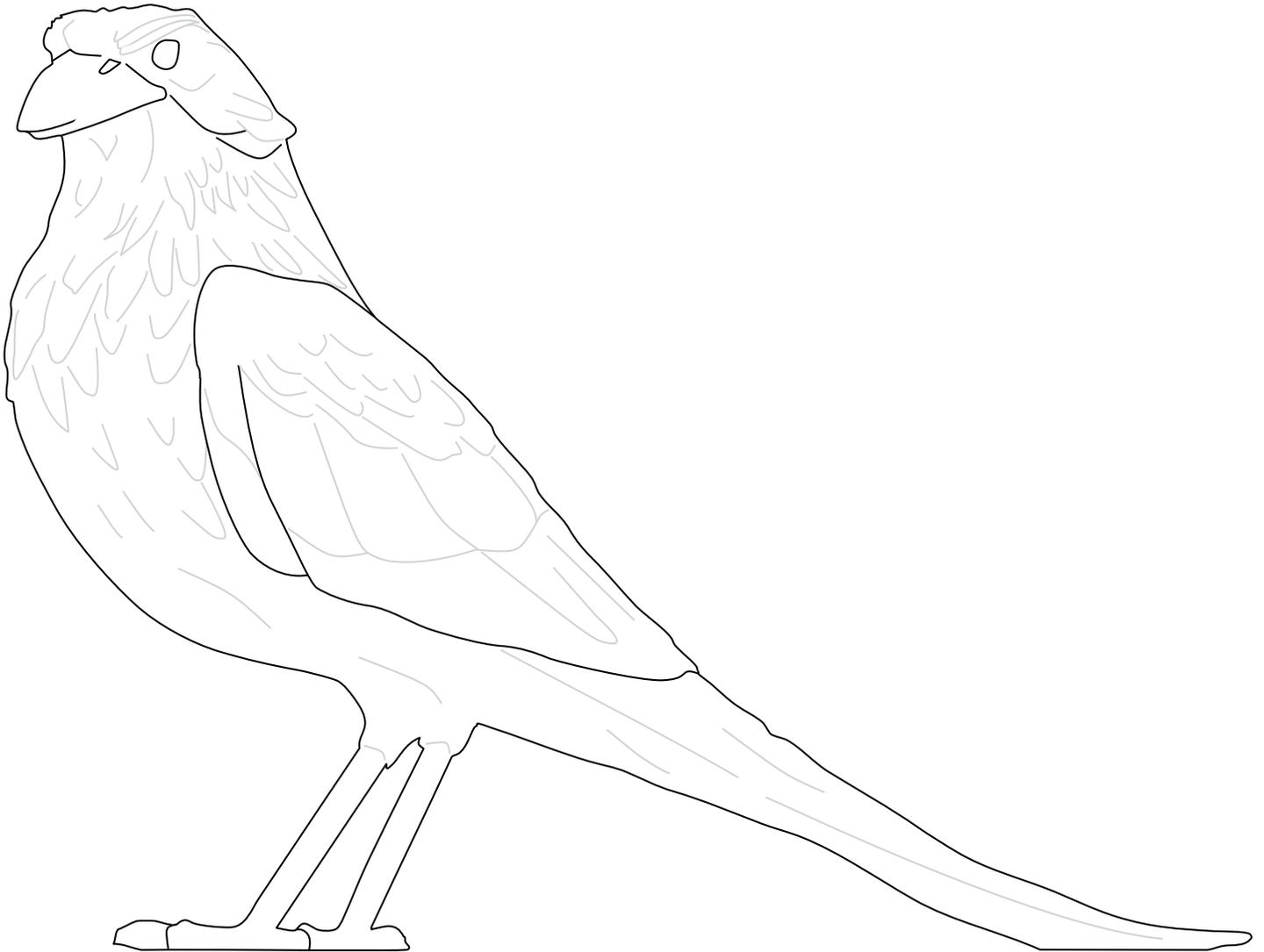
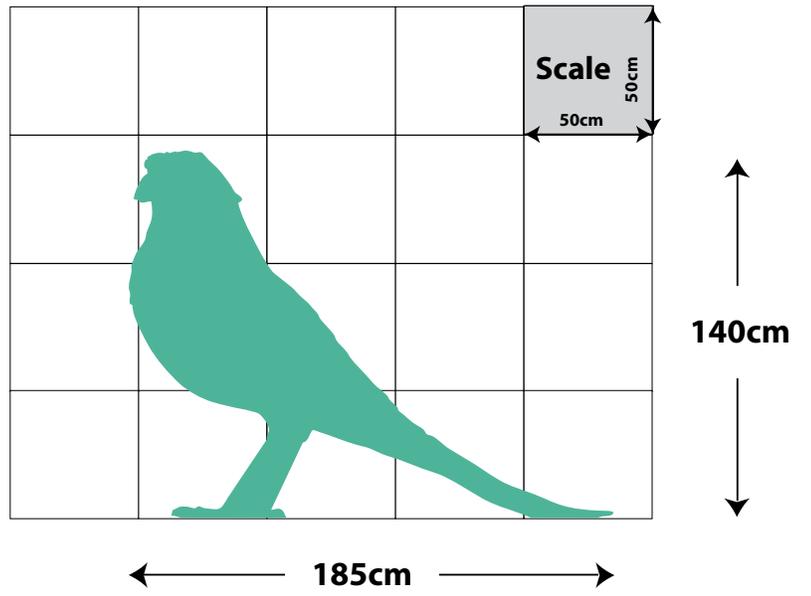
Apply Here

Artists Guidelines

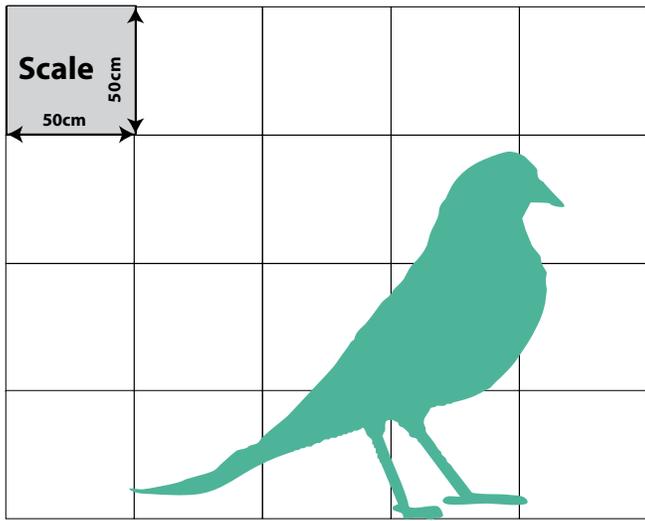
- You may submit **up to three designs**, but please be aware that, other than in exceptional circumstances, no more than two designs per artist can be commissioned.
- We will require you to sign our standard terms and conditions, included in the artist's submission form for each design you submit.
- When planning your designs, please bear in mind that they should be appropriate for public display. The audience will be broad-based and of all ages, and the 2026 trail will have an even greater interest for children, owing to Wildwood's existing popularity.
- Designs that are overtly religious, political or sexual in nature will not be accepted.
- In addition, neither corporate logos nor advertising are allowed.
- Designs should not infringe on **intellectual property**. This includes the use of 'celebrity' or public images or characteristics, particularly if these can be perceived to be defamatory, as well as any previously published or licensed characters, artworks or illustrations (such as Marvel Characters, Star Wars, Disney, etc.).
- *Wildwood* Follow the Crows is an interactive event, and your sculpture will be repeatedly touched by the public. Artists may attach items to the sculpture, but unless secured very robustly, it is likely that they will be removed in a very short space of time.
- Artists may alter the basic sculpture shape, but if doing so, they must ensure the finished work remains structurally intact. It is recommended that only artists experienced in working with fiberglass submit designs that use this process.
- While it is strongly discouraged (*and there will be signs!*), occasionally members of the public sit on the sculptures, and therefore attachments must be able to support the weight of an adult.
- While we welcome all art forms, experience has taught us that collage and/or sticking paper or paper-based products onto the sculpture does not prove as effective as painting or mosaics. Please consider this before submitting your design.
- When placed on the streets, each sculpture is bolted to a concrete base using fixings. Artists are requested to keep the base area clear of any attachments.
- Artist materials are not provided. The use of good quality emulsion, artist-grade acrylic or aerosol/airbrush spray paints is recommended. Artists are responsible for the varnishing of their sculpture and must use the varnish provided by Downtown Portland Clean & Safe only. Downtown Portland Clean & Safe will provide sufficient varnish to give the sculpture two coats. This varnish is very resistant to weather and graffiti.
- Artists will not be responsible for placing their sculpture on the streets or collecting them at the end of the event. If touch-up work or repairs are required during and after the event, where possible first refusal for repairs will be offered to the original artist, at an agreed-upon hourly rate. Where this is not practical due to time or logistical constraints, a suitably experienced and qualified artist will be identified to make any repairs.
- The Visit Downtown Campaign/Downtown Portland Clean & Safe will provide a production/design space in the Downtown Portland area for you to create your Crow sculpture.



Front

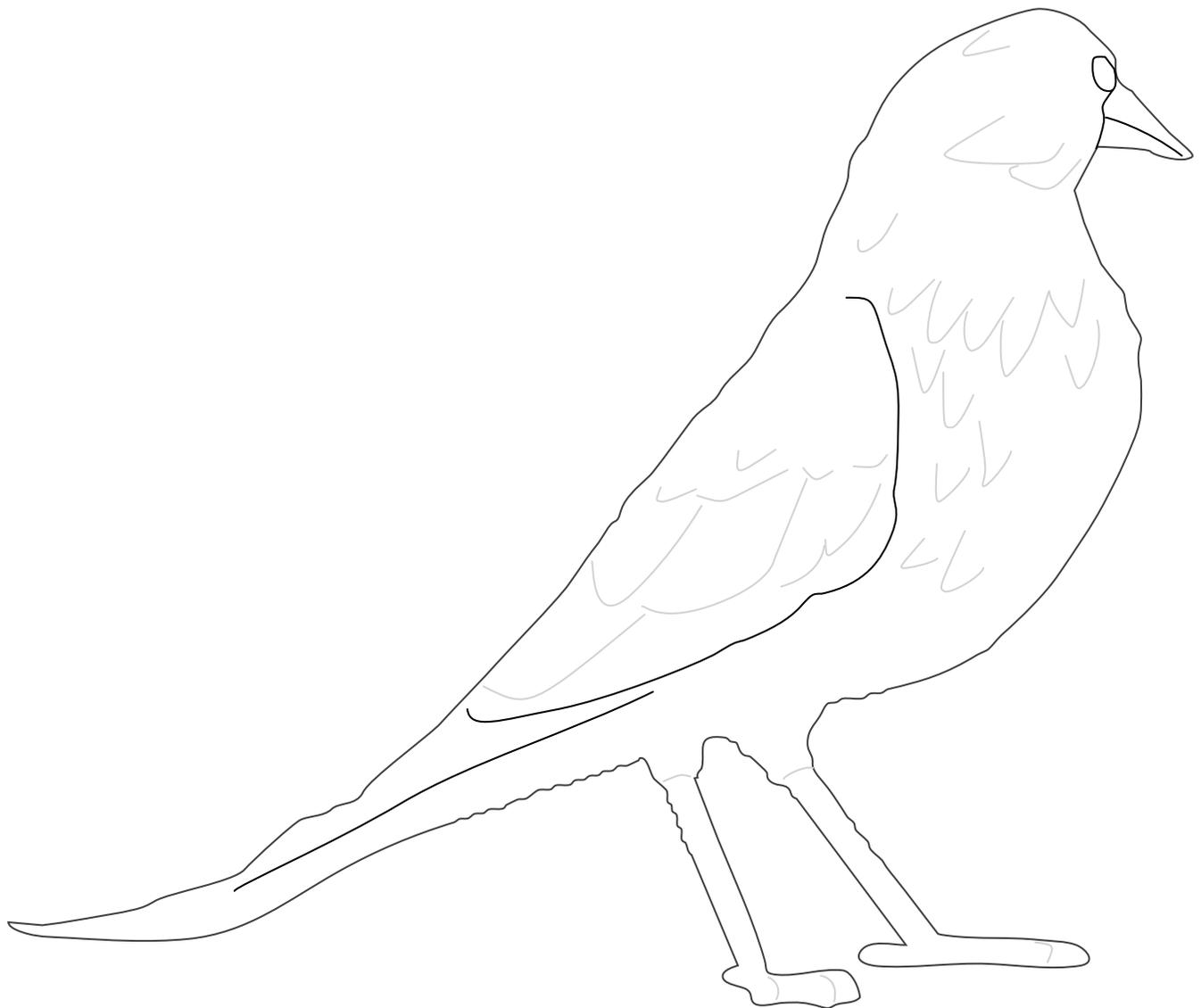


Left Side



140cm

185cm



Right Side