



Art in Public Places Proposal: Emily Balsley Mural at East Madison Community Enter

2026

Emily Balsley Artist Statement



Image of Emily Balsley from their website

I believe in the power of art. Art tells stories. It heals. Art inspires conversation, stimulates emotion, and educates. One of the most important aspects of my creative practice is finding opportunities to bring people together through art. Whether it is painting a mural in a public space or organizing a community art project at our block party, my goal is to bring art to the masses. My colorful art often leans into themes of love, kindness, bravery and inclusivity through quirky characters and nature-inspired motifs. And regardless of the medium, my work is designed to foster a spirit of community and interaction.

Cultivate, digital illustration, 2024

Approved by the Madison Arts Commission for the existing art call list on June 10, 2025



This art features a diverse group of people interacting with one another. The common thread are a series of potted flowers that are being shared across the piece. Characters are situated on a dark green background, and color palette includes blue, orange, marigold, light pink, brown, grey, black and white. There are also subtle bubbles and stars that flow through the people.

Site: Accessible Garden at East Madison Community Center



- Site is located behind the community center.
- A racquet ball court is being transformed into an accessible community garden space with raised plant beds.
- Wall will be power washed and the tree will be trimmed.
- Roughly 36 x 7 ft

Budget & Timeline

- Licensing fee: \$500
- Printing & installation: \$6,300 (\$25/sqft)
- Contingency: \$1,200

TOTAL ESTIMATE \$8,000.00

Funding: the Municipal Art Fund – Art in Public Places

Installation: planned for this summer to honor their 60th anniversary

Recommendation

Seeking approval to license *Cultivate* from Emily Balsley and install a vinyl version in the accessible garden at East Madison Community Center.