

Be the next Tulsa Map® Artist

The intersections between art and cartography go far beyond the notions of design and illustration, since map-making invariably has multiple cultural, social, and political dimensions.

— Daniel Ribeiro & Sébastien Caquard

Call for Artists: The Tulsa Map® 2026 Project Overview

MapWorks Tulsa Inc. invites Tulsa creatives working in the fields of fine art, graphic design, arts education, data visualization, photography, and mixed media to conceptualize, design, and execute The Tulsa Map® 2026 Edition. This map will serve as an introduction to the city's spirit while fostering unity, inclusion and identity through an artistic lens. This map coincides with the 100th Anniversary of Route 66 and must therefore illuminate the theme of the Mother Road on the front cover (folded), as a poster (unfolded), and work stylistically on the printed back side in harmony with all content — local businesses, venues, historical landmarks, notable architecture, green spaces, and other unique destinations. We are not seeking a traditional map.

All applicants' concepts will embrace the diverse, historical, creative, cultural, and vibrant spirit of our community. 10,000 two-sided maps will be printed and distributed for free to Tulsa residents and visitors in June 2026. To date, 40,000 maps have been printed and distributed. The 2026 Edition will have an impactful Route 66 theme that transcends traditional maps.

Proposed concepts

- May be any medium: Digital art, photography, printmaking, illustration, multimedia / collage
- Must be original art, duplications of previous maps will not be considered
- Must convey correct dimensions/orientation: 20" x 27" (Flat/Portrait) 4" x 9" (Folded/Portrait)
- Typographically driven or typography treatments must include font choices and rationale
- Must meet entry deadline and specifications to be considered
- Must be submitted via mapworkstulsa@gmail.com subject line: Map2026Art-CLU

Timeline

Application Deadline: July 1, 2025 5:00 pm (Central Standard Time)

Notification of selected semi-finalists: September 5, 2025

Semi-finalist presentations: September 19, 2025

Notification of selected artist/designer(s): October 1, 2025

Production, printing and distribution deadline: April 30, 2025

The Tulsa Map® 2026 Launch: June 7, 2026

I. Project Agreement

The final selected artist/designer(s) or team shall enter into a Project Agreement with MapWorks Tulsa. The Tulsa Map© composition and elements shall be overseen by the Creative Director and the Map Committee. The Project Agreement process & production deadlines will be upheld.

II. Project Funds

Total payment for the original creation of The Tulsa Map® 2026 shall be \$5,000. USD. All costs associated with the artwork budgeted, no additional funds will be available. Upon successful execution of the Project Agreement by all parties, the final map artist/designer(s) will receive a \$2,500. deposit to begin work and \$2,500. upon completion. Failure to communicate, meet deadlines or complete the project in a timely professional fashion will result in any agreements becoming null and void. An honorarium of \$200 may be paid to three selected semi-finalists for developing and presenting a prototype to convey concept & design/art to the Selection Panel.

III. Intent

Our vision for The Tulsa Map® 2026 is an interpretive artistic map of the City of Tulsa, its districts while showcasing the theme of Route 66.

Tulsa Map final art/design objectives:

- Demonstrate artistic excellence and originality
- Spark conversations and peak interests in Tulsa's vibrant community
- Celebrate Tulsa's identity, rich heritage and diversity
- Reflect MapWorks Tulsa's mission and vision

The Tulsa Map® will be reimaged every two years by newly selected designer(s)/artist(s). Standard way-finding elements such as a key or legend, a compass, a list of specific districts and notable areas, and Indigenous land notations may be required.

Sponsor names, logos, and MapWorks Tulsa branded elements, will be provided.

The Tulsa Map® Creative Director will provide the production schedule prior to the start of the project to the artist(s)/designer(s) and guide the creative process. Both shall be committed to completing the map in a timely and professional manner, including text and visual adjustments.

All production files shall use a required naming convention, appropriate folder organization, and back-up to the cloud and off-site. Final map elements will appear on tulsamap.org.

A general knowledge of digital/non-digital to print-ready files is required.

IV. Requirements & Eligibility

This opportunity is open to all artists residing in Oklahoma regardless of age, race, class, national origin, creed, gender, gender expression, religious affiliation, and physical ability.

MapWorks Tulsa encourages artistic diversity. Tulsa residents will be given priority.

The artist(s)/designer(s) shall be available throughout the project production per the schedule communicated by the Creative Director to complete the project in a timely professional manner.

The artist(s)/designer(s) shall be present for The Tulsa Map® launch and Route 66 tie-ins and to see the project through final print production and any press needs shortly thereafter.

V. Submission Requirements

Application requirements posted on mapworkstulsa.org/artist-call/. Allow adequate time for submissions as technical difficulties may occur. Only submissions containing all required application materials will be reviewed. Mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered applications will not be considered. Submit ONE application to: mapworkstulsa@gmail.com.

Application materials must include:

1. Statement of Intent

- A summary of artistic focus and professional career, under 300 words
 - specifically how your background relates to this project
- A brief description of the proposed concept, under 300 words
- Rough sketches of the map concept to better convey your vision

2. Resume/CV

- Current resume, related projects, community projects, and exhibition history
- If applying as a team, combine the individual resumes into one document only
- Five images of relevant previous work (individual), 15 images max per team
- Files no larger than 5mb. Images no larger than 300 dpi, no smaller than 72 dpi
- Number images 1-5, etc., in the file name using this system, #LastName, FirstName.jpg

3. Image descriptions

- Include title, medium, dimensions, and year for each artwork and a brief statement
- Number your descriptions, corresponding to the file / title names.

VI. Selection Process | Criteria

PHASE ONE

Applications will be reviewed by MapWorks Tulsa's Creative Director and Map Committee, to identify the short list of qualified artist(s)/designer(s) to be considered for the project based on the following criteria:

1. Artistic excellence as evidenced by representations of past work & supporting materials.
2. Appropriateness of artwork to the vision and goals of the project, as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
3. Expressivity of relevant professional experience, understanding and ability to undertake the creative and technical requirements of this project.

PHASE TWO

A list of three qualified artist(s)/designer(s) will be presented to The Artist Selection Panel composed of professional artists, art educators, community representatives, a MapWorks Tulsa board member, and the The Tulsa Map® Creative Director. The selection panel will interview the short list of qualified artists virtually.

The following Selection Criteria will be used to review the short list of qualified artists:

1. Describes the design approach and artistic merit — originality, creativity, innovation, aesthetic, conceptual and technical quality represented.
2. Demonstrates a record of timely completion of projects — experience and ability in meeting deadlines and in working cooperatively with others.
3. Availability to participate in the design, approval, and implementation of the project as project schedule dictates with required deadlines in the months of July 2025 through June 2026 to complete the project and participate in The Tulsa Map® launch event and map-related Route 66 events including press interviews shortly after production and dissemination.

PHASE THREE

The Artist Selection Panel may identify up to three semi-finalists who will be invited to present tight sketches, a description of the design concept proposal in 2 weeks after notification. Each semi-finalist will be paid an honorarium of \$200 USD for the development and in-person presentation of their conceptual design proposal.

PHASE FOUR

Following the presentations by the semi-finalists, the Artist Selection Panel will choose the artist/designer(s) to create The Tulsa Map®. The artist will be notified. The final map artist(s) will receive a \$2500 USD deposit to begin the work and \$2500 USD upon completion of work.

The selected artist/designer(s) shall work with the Creative Director throughout the creative process from start to finish to complete the project in a timely and professional manner. A list of required districts, businesses, venues, landmarks, parks, and any additional information to be featured on The Tulsa Map® will be provided. The Creative Director shall guide the project and uphold the principles of design as well as guide pre-press/pre-launch files as required. Creative Director, Map Committee, and designer/artist(s) honor all deadlines.

Rights and Ownership

MapWorks Tulsa is the sole owner of the final artwork produced for The Tulsa Map. Artwork may be included in a personal portfolio but may not be recreated or reproduced in any part or whole.

Questions & Additional Information

Please send all inquiries to mapworkstulsa@gmail.com Subject line: Map2026Art-CLU



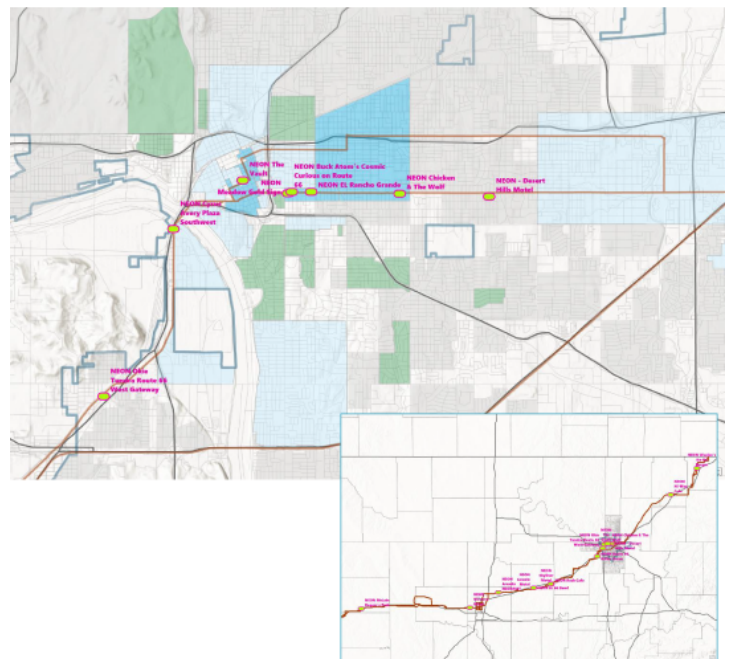
Locations & Elements Locator Map
Point Locations



The Tulsa Map® 2026 Edition



Locations & Elements Locator Map
Neon Sign Locations
Local and Regional

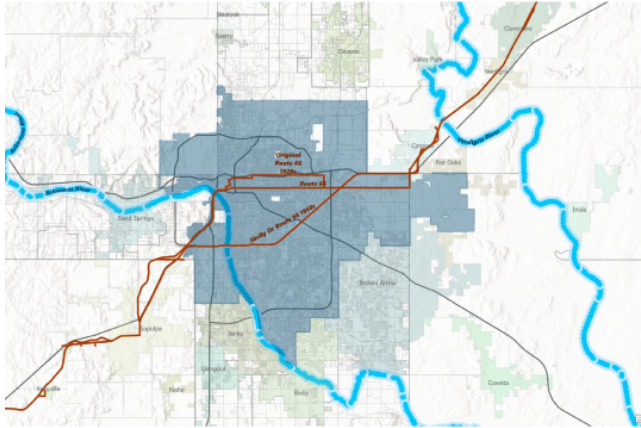


Call for Artists Open: March 2025

Call for Artists Deadline: July 1, 2025



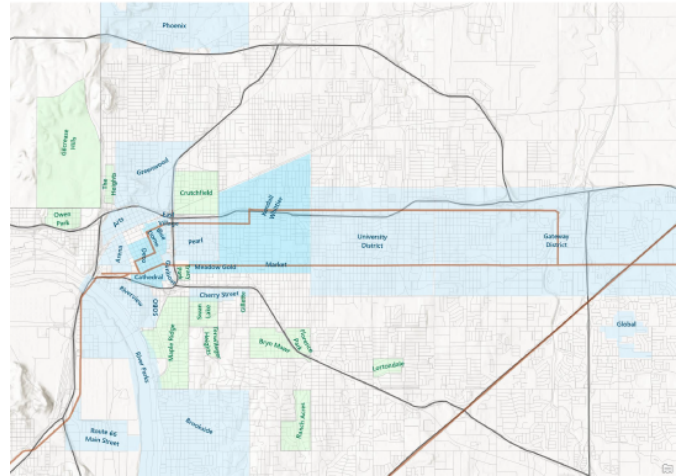
City of Tulsa, Metro Areas & Tulsa County Outlines



- City of Tulsa along with surrounding metro areas
- Major highways along with modern and historical designations of route 66
- Local Rivers
- Tulsa County Outline

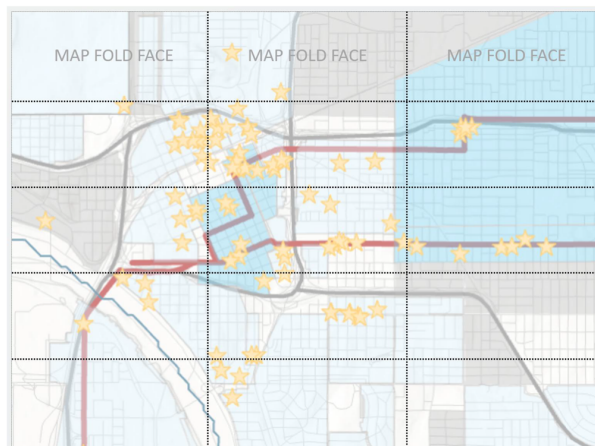


Locations & Elements Locator Map District Outlines & Notable Neighborhoods



Generic Map Template Horizontal Presentation

Downtown Scale



MapWorks Tulsa, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to enhance the lives of Tulsa citizens and visitors by creating a map that illuminates Tulsa's diverse districts.