



Presented By

Artist Request for Proposal & Application

Application Deadline: 3 p.m., November 15, 2026

The Teddy Trail Public Art Event, organized by ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative and sponsored by the Danbury Hat Tricks, is a public art installation designed to celebrate art, foster community, and raise funds for the Teddy Balkind Charitable Foundation. The audience will include all ages and designs should be appropriate for public display. Designs that are religious, political, or sexual in nature will not be accepted. Additionally, no corporate logos, corporate branding or advertising is allowed. Please see guidelines for more information. Submit completed application form and attachments by 3 p.m., November 15, 2026.

Name: _____

Your name for plaque, website, etc.: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone : _____ E-mail: _____

Website URL: _____

Proposed title for your Sculpture *(limited to 40 characters, including spaces and punctuation)*:

Artist Statement and Proposed Design

Please attach a brief description of your vision and your design.

Artist Resume or Bio

Please attach a brief (one-page) description of yourself and your design



Teddy Bear or Heart Template

Please use the attached template to complete your proposed design. Templates may be enlarged if desired; however, please do not submit designs larger than 8.5" x 11". The more complete your design, the easier it will be for the planning committee and sponsors to review your submission.

Please note that all application materials become the property of ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative and Teddy Trail Public Art Event, and no materials can be returned to the artist. Please retain a copy of your application for your records.

Copyright Assignment

In exchange for an artist's honorarium, outlined above, Artful Visual Arts Initiative will own the design and finished sculpture. For more information, please refer to the "Copyright Assignment" in the application package.

Links to Social Media or Personal Website (optional)

Electronic files of previous work or link to online portfolio/Instagram page (optional)

Assurances and Terms

By signing this application, I agree to all of the terms of the Request for Proposals, and all such terms are hereby incorporated into this Application. I certify that all statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative and the Teddy Trail Public Art Event are not liable for damage or loss of materials submitted.

Artist Signature:

Application Checklist

Please submit all items electronically to info@artful-gives.org

- Written artist statement and proposed design vision
- One-page artist bio or resume
- Proposed design executed on the design submission template
- Signed of Copyright Assignment
- Completed and Signed Application Form
- Files of previous work or link to online portfolio/Instagram page (optional)



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COPYRIGHT ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, _____ [artist name], an individual having an address of _____ (“Artist”) is the author of the design and sketches (collectively referred to as the “Design”) attached to the application submitted to ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative (ArtFul) and **Teddy Trail Public Art Event (TTPAE)** Planning Committee on the same date as the date of this Assignment;

WHEREAS, Artist understands and acknowledges that, as part of the application process, it is intended that **ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative (ArtFul)**, a Connecticut 501c3 organization with an administrative address of 410 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT own the entire right, title and interest in and to the Design;

WHEREAS, Artist understands and acknowledges that, if the Design is approved, the Artist shall apply that design to a sculpture provided by **TTPAE** thereby creating a “Finished Sculpture”.

WHEREAS, Artist desires to transfer all his/her right, title and interest in and to the Design, including, but not limited to, all derivative works which are based on the Design to ArtFul and **TTPAE** ;

WHEREAS, Artist understands and acknowledges that ArtFul and **TTPAE** shall continue to be the sole and exclusive owner of the entire right, title and interest in and to the Design, including, but not limited to, all derivative works based on the Design of the Finished Sculpture that is approved for exhibition, as described in detail in the Request For Proposals and application to TTPAE , and that in such case **TTPAE** shall pay to Artist an honorarium of \$600.00 for a completed 57” Teddy Bear Sculpture, \$400.00 for a completed 3.5ft Heart Sculpture and \$200.00 for a completed 24” Teddy Bear Sculpture within 30 days of the completion and delivery of their Sculpture.

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and intending to be legally bound hereby, Artist hereby assigns to ArtFul and **TTPAE** all the artist right, title and interest in and to the Design, and to any derivative works based on the Design including but not limited to any rights it may have in the Finished Sculpture, together with any and all copyright applications and registrations therefore. Artist acknowledges and agrees that, due to the nature of the public display of the Finished Sculpture, ArtFul and **TTPAE** shall not be liable for any distortion, mutilation, modification or destruction of the Finished Sculpture by accident, act of God or person. Artist hereby waives the artist right under the Visual Artists Rights Act (“VARA”), 17 U.S.C. '106A, as against ArtFul and **TTPAE** in the event of such distortion, mutilation, modification or destruction. Artist further acknowledges and agrees that if the Finished Sculpture is vandalized, damaged or otherwise modified and the Artist is unable or unwilling to promptly repair such alteration, ArtFul and **TTPAE** shall have the right to make, or have made, such repairs, even if the repairs would constitute a distortion, mutilation or modification under VARA. Artist hereby waives their rights under VARA in the event and to the extent ArtFul and **TTPAE** deems such repair necessary.



Artist represents to Teddy Trail Public Art Event the Artist is the sole author of the Designs and that the Design is an original work of authorship which does not infringe upon the copyright rights or any intellectual property rights of others, and that he/she has the unencumbered right to make this assignment. In the event the Design is not approved or selected for exhibition, as described in the application, ArtFul and **TTPAE** shall assign [and hereby does assign] back to Artist all its right, titles and interest in and to the Design.

ARTIST Signature (sign below):

Print Name: _____

Sculpture

Title: _____

Date: _____



Calling All Visual Artists

Submit your designs by 3 p.m., November 15, 2026

ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative invites visual artists to apply for inclusion in our upcoming public art installation, the Teddy Trail Public Art Event, scheduled for display in downtown Ridgefield, CT in summer 2027. The open call is for emerging and established artists who can create durable, outdoor-ready sculptures in collaboration with local sponsors.

The Teddy Trail Public Art Event, organized by ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative and sponsored by the Danbury Hat Tricks, is a public art installation designed to celebrate art, foster community, and raise funds for the Teddy Balkind Charitable Foundation. The free public art event, scheduled for summer 2027, will feature uniquely designed fiberglass resin teddy bear and heart sculptures on display in the streets of downtown Ridgefield, CT. Artists will be matched with a local business sponsor to collaborate on a sculpture and paid an honorarium for their work. All sculptures will be auctioned off at a fundraising event in fall 2027.

Overview

The Teddy Trail Public Art Event Open Call provides emerging and established visual artists with an opportunity to create a sculpture for public display in downtown Ridgefield during summer 2027. Approximately two dozen sculptures, designed to bring joy to the community, will be sponsored and displayed by local businesses, which will collaborate with artists to create unique, vibrant artworks ranging in size from approximately 24 inches to 6 feet. The sculptures will be available for purchase at a fundraising auction in fall 2027 to benefit two charities: the ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative and the Teddy Balkind Charitable Foundation.

Artists are invited to submit an application and design proposal for their artistic vision. All applications will be reviewed by a panel of artists, art and design professionals, and community stakeholders. Artists of all ages and experience levels who fulfill the review criteria below are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

The Teddy Trail Public Art Event is open to artists of all ages and experience levels. We are looking for artists who demonstrate the following:

- Past work shows a strong, consistent, and clear artistic voice
- Experience working collaboratively, either in their artistic practice or other experience
- Interest in working on public art and/or collaborative art projects with community members

Evaluation Criteria

Applications are evaluated based on the following:

- Artistic Quality: The strength, originality, and visual impact of the submitted work.
- Exhibition Readiness: The artist's ability to present a complete, install-ready work.
- Concept and Clarity: The clarity of the artist's ideas and how effectively they are communicated through the application and design submission.



Submission Guidelines

Follow all instructions on the Artist Request for Proposal including all items in the application checklist (see Application Form) and submit all documents to info@artful-gives.org by 3:00 p.m., November 15, 2026. Be sure to include the signed application, original design submission created on the given template for either a Heart or Bear or both, artist statement, and resume or bio.

We encourage designs that are original, vibrant, humorous, and uplifting. We strongly encourage creative representations that honor our local artists and our beneficiaries.

Artists may submit more than one design template along with the Artist Request for Proposal. The Teddy Trail Public Art Event Planning Committee reserves the right to select only one design per artist.

All selected artists and designs will be compiled into an artist directory for sponsors to review. Artful will match artists with sponsors to collaborate on the final design. Selected designs will not advance to production until a sponsor has been secured for the design. Design selection does not guarantee a sponsor.

Once selected by a sponsor, the artist and sponsor may elect to personalize a design according to the sponsor's needs. If any changes are made to the approved design, a copy of the final design must be submitted to the Teddy Trail Public Art Event Planning Committee. If no changes are to be made to the original design, then a final design is not needed. Teddy Trail Public Art Event Planning Committee reserves the right to prevent the display of a sculpture if the final design is not approved.

Artists may alter the basic fiberglass form but cannot compromise its structural integrity. The contact points by which the sculptures are attached to their bases cannot be altered or obstructed.

Artists may paint, sculpt, transform, and adorn the sculpture. Proposed additions to the fiberglass form must be made clear at the time of original submission. Any objects attached to the sculpture must be weather-resistant and must be affixed so that they cannot be easily removed.

Artists must develop designs that can withstand the elements and the public, as the sculptures will be placed in outdoor areas accessible to the public for several weeks. Artists should consider the weather and other elements, including sun, rain, wind, dirt, and human traffic.

Each sculpture form will be delivered to the artist with a factory-applied primer. The artist must finish the completed sculpture with an automobile-grade clear coat to ensure durability. This exterior sealant must be non-reactive, non-toxic, UV-resistant, and waterproof. Sculptures that are submitted unsealed or incorrectly sealed may not be exhibited. Please see "Materials List" for more information.



The use of corporate logos is discouraged; if used, the sponsor must have the express right to use the logo, and it must be limited to a surface area of no larger than 4 x 4 inches.

Teddy Trail Public Art Event sponsors and artists will be acknowledged on a plaque at the base of the sculpture.

Artwork that contains offensive language, overtly political, religious, and/or sexual content or imagery, nudity, shocking elements that include blood and/or gore shall not be considered.

Sculptures may be photographed by members of the press, Artful staff, and the general public for promotional, educational, and entertainment purposes. This includes social media postings before, during, and after the exhibit.

Artists are responsible for producing their sculptures in their own studios or homes. Artists are responsible for transporting their sculpture to and from their workspace. A Teddy Trail Public Art Event representative will notify the artists should public production space become available.

Artists are not responsible for the installation or de-installation of sculptures.

Teddy Trail Public Art Event will ask that the artist be available for any possible touch-up work that may be required once the exhibit is underway and before the sculptures go to auction. If the artist is not available for necessary touch-ups, Teddy Trail Public Art Event Planning Committee may ask another artist to perform the work (refer to copyright assignment agreement).

All proceeds from the auction go to Artful Visual Arts Initiative and the Teddy Balkind Foundation for charitable purposes.

Projected Exhibition Timeline

- Application submission due date: November 15, 2026 by 3 p.m.
- Artist notification of approved design: December 15, 2026
- Sculpture forms available: mid-February to mid-March 2027
- Deadline for submission of completed sculptures: May 1, 2027

Terms and Conditions

Before a finished sculpture is placed on exhibit, the sculpture must be inspected by a representative of the Teddy Trail Public Art Event Planning Committee. Sculptures that are submitted unsealed or incorrectly sealed may not be exhibited. The artist's honorarium will be released to the artist if it is determined that the artist has completed the sculpture in substantial conformity with the approved design as follows:

- \$600.00 for a 57-inch teddy bear sculpture
- \$400.00 for a 42-inch heart sculpture
- \$200.00 for a 24-inch teddy bear sculpture



Copyright Assignment

In exchange for an artist's honorarium, outlined above, Artful Visual Arts Initiative will own the design and finished sculpture. For more information, please refer to the "Copyright Assignment" in the application package.

Application Checklist

Please submit all items electronically to info@artful-gives.org

- Written artist statement and proposed design vision
- One-page artist bio or resume
- Proposed design executed on the design submission template
- Signed of Copyright Assignment
- Completed and Signed Application Form
- Files of previous work or link to online portfolio/Instagram page (optional)

Contact Information

For more information, please email info@artful-gives.org

Please email the artist application and design(s) to: info@artful-gives.org

You may drop off paperwork to an ArtFul representative at RPAC Art Center located at:
410 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT

About ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative and The Teddy Balkind Foundation

The Teddy Balkind Charitable Foundation honors its namesake, Teddy Balkind, a 16-year-old who died from an injury sustained in a Connecticut high school hockey game in 2022. Teddy was a master of creating joy and enthusiasm in the simplest ways, whether independently or among friends. The foundation honors his memory by sharing resources for the public good, creating opportunities for kids to come together to support their communities, and encouraging acts of service and kindness in Teddy's name.

ArtFul Visual Arts Initiative is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the community together to celebrate art. Through public art events and fundraising, Artful helps emerging artists overcome funding gaps and limited chances to grow—by supporting their work and awarding scholarships to student artists—so more people can experience and appreciate art.

The event's Title Sponsor, the Danbury Hat Tricks, is a professional hockey team based in Danbury, CT. The team, winners of the Federal Prospects Hockey League's 2023 Commissioner's Cup, is committed to fostering connections within the local community through outreach programs with schools, businesses, and charities.



Materials List

Tips on creating your vision

All sculpture forms are coated in a factory-applied primer and await your creative vision to bring them to life. We encourage designs that are original, vibrant, humorous, and uplifting. All designs must be appropriate for public display for an audience of all ages and backgrounds. Designs that are religious, political, or sexual in nature will not be accepted. Additionally, no corporate logos, corporate branding, or advertising is allowed. Sculpture forms are available in the following sizes:

57-inch teddy bear

24-inch teddy bear

40-inch heart

Artists should refer to the *Artist Application* for specific instructions on how to submit a design proposal. The following materials, which should be supplied by the artist, are recommended for finishing the sculptures, which Artful will seal with an auto-body clear coat before display.

Paints- All professional-grade artist acrylic or oil paints will work. We recommend Liquitex Soft Body (medium-viscosity) acrylics for ease of application, good color stability, and ready availability. High-viscosity paints may be too "gluey" to manipulate with ease. You can also use oils but be prepared for much longer drying times. Do not varnish over oils. Latex house paints are not recommended.

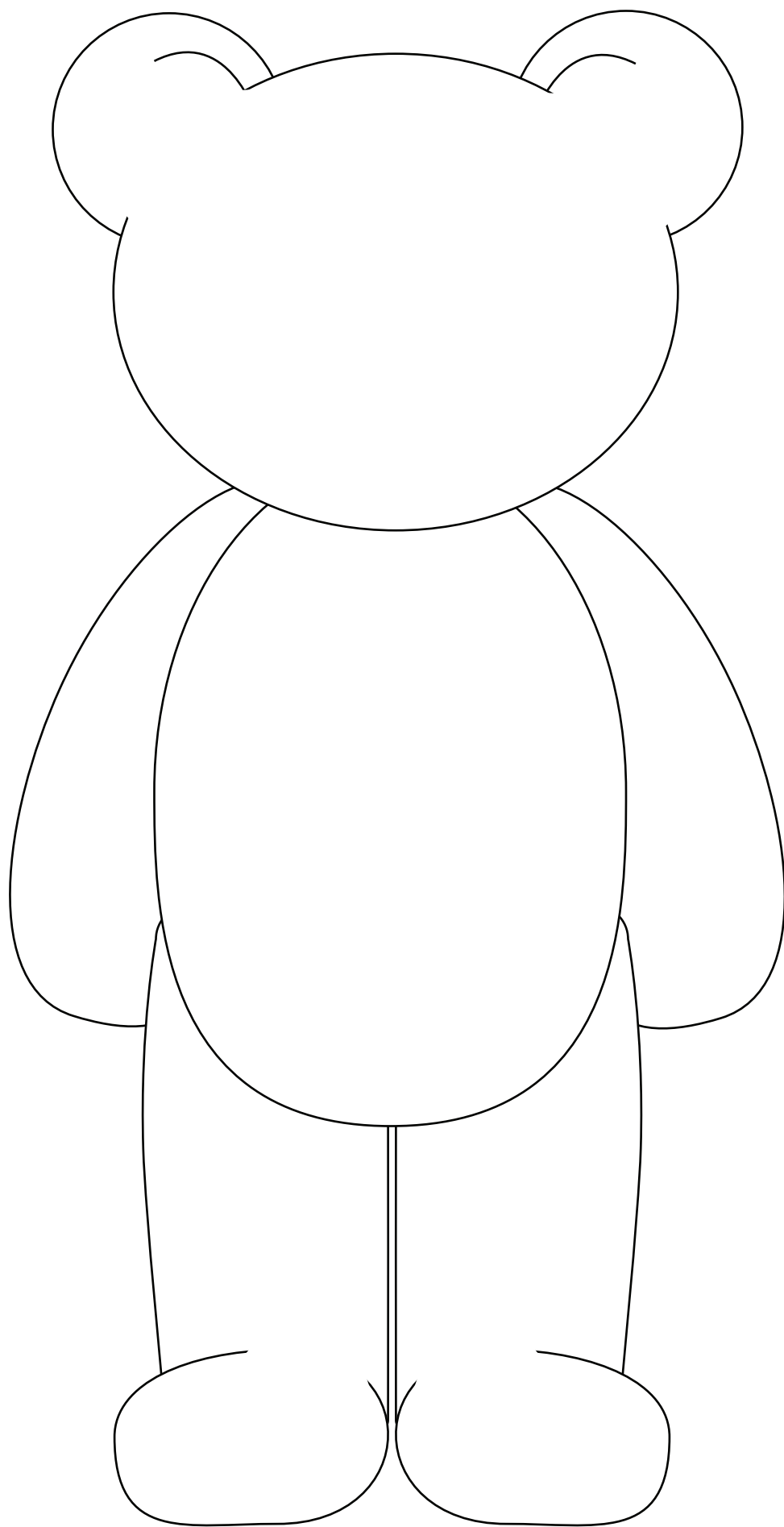
Lascaux UV-1 Gloss Varnish - This is the best varnish we've found for protecting your artwork before the auto body clear coat is applied. You will need a 250 ml. bottle for forms up to the size of a large dog or cat, and a 500 ml. bottle for larger forms. Available to order from Dick Blick (we recommend ordering early—as soon as you receive your assignment—as this product is often out of stock at art supply stores). THERE IS NO GOOD SUBSTITUTE FOR LASCAUX. To use, dilute 4-parts varnish to 1-part water and filter through gauze. Use a nylon brush and have a large jar of water handy to immerse your brush if you have to pause while varnishing. It sets quickly, so if you do pause, don't begin again until the varnish is dry (about 15 minutes or so.) This product goes on slightly cloudy but dries crystal clear. Immediately remove any air bubbles by touching lightly with a brush. Lascaux UV-1 Matte Varnish can also be used if the gloss is not available. Your form will be clear-coated by an auto body shop prior to display.

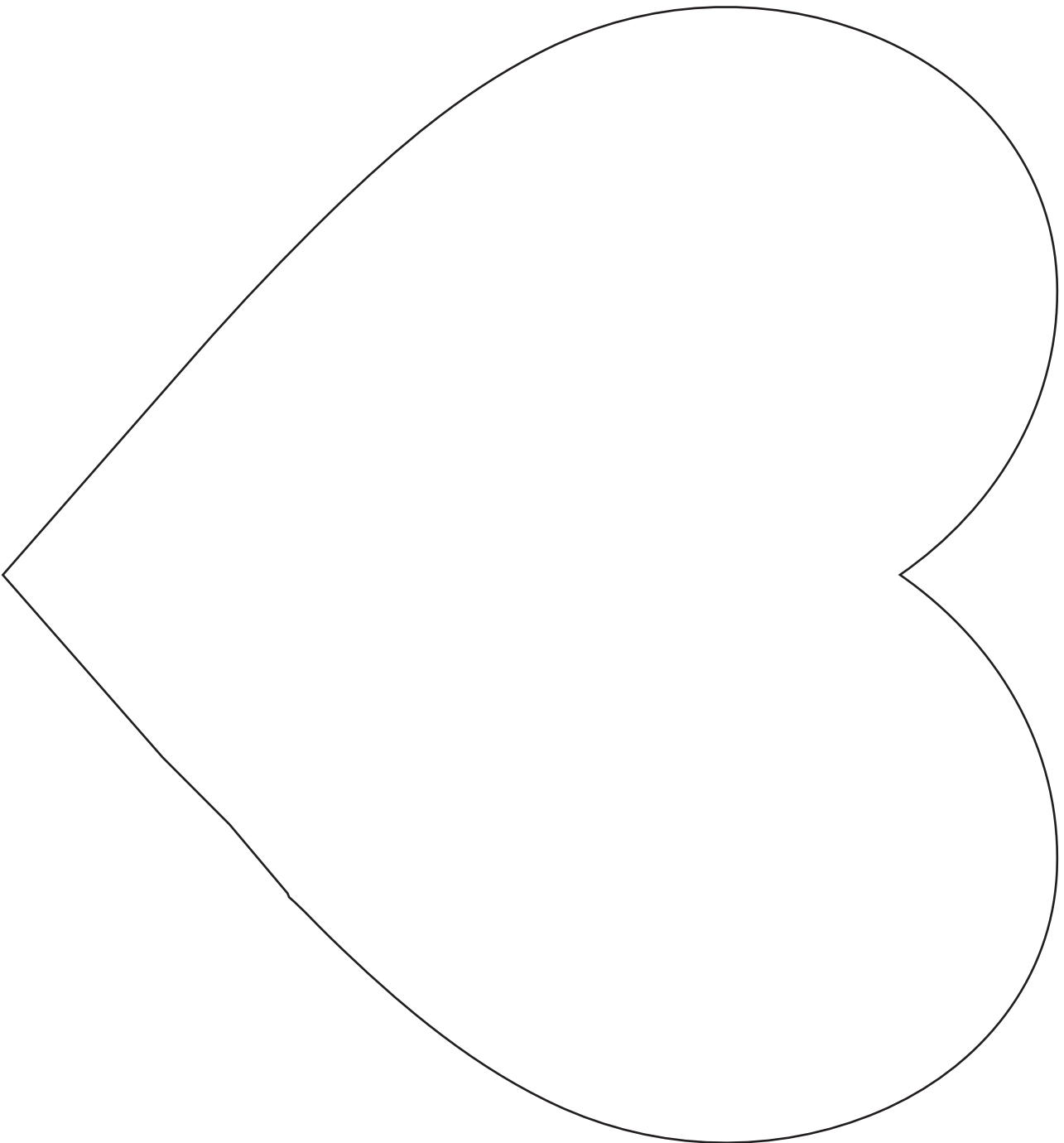
Bondo Body Putty – This is ideal for making small repairs (Bondo fiberglass body repair kit is recommended for larger repairs). Available at NAPA auto supply stores, Pep Boys, and some home improvement stores.



Golden Polymer Medium-Gloss – This product is effective for decoupage and is available at Dick Blick. Use full strength to immerse paper in medium, apply it to the form, and remove all air bubbles with your hands. Remove excess medium with an almost-dry sponge. Allow to dry for several days before varnishing. We suggest making color copies of any images that you wish to use on a computer printer or photocopier as the inks are more permanent and the copy paper is more durable than photographic or magazine paper.

MagicSculp Epoxy Putty - This putty is great for altering the form's surface or adding sculptural elements. Complete directions for use will be found on these websites, along with ordering information: www.magicsculp.com and www.restorersupplies.com. MagicSculp will best adhere to the form if you give texture to the surface and drill a few small holes to fill with product. It is non-toxic and allows a couple of hours of working time before setting. Once dry (in roughly 12 hours), it can be sanded if necessary and painted with ease.





Heart Template