

2026 GINGERBREAD INVITATIONAL

*The Rockwell Museum is pleased to announce the **12th Annual Gingerbread Invitational** – a fun, artful gingerbread competition for baking enthusiasts and community members of all skill levels.*

We invite you to enter your innovative design for the chance to be one of **(up to) 12 artists** featured in a special holiday exhibition.

In 2026, the theme is "Future Dreaming." The Rockwell Museum turns 50 this year! To celebrate a half-century of art and imagination, we're dreaming about what comes next. Gingerbread artists should re-imagine a place, space, or landmark. It can be real or fantastical; local, national, or international. Give it a bold, futuristic, or whimsical twist. What will our creative world look like 50 years from now? Museum visitors and community members will vote for their favorite creations; a winner will be announced in early January 2027.

HOW IT WORKS

- Interested individuals/teams must submit their application, including a design sketch, by **Monday, October 19, 2026**. It's important to follow all of the size and materials specifications (see page 3).
- **Up to 12 submissions** will be selected to be featured in the *Gingerbread Invitational*. Each artist/team will then have approximately 1 month to create their design and drop it off at The Rockwell Museum on the designated date.
- At drop-off, each team will be awarded a \$50 honorarium in the form of a VISA gift card to help compensate them for their materials.
- Artists/teams will have the opportunity to present their work to the public at a special exhibition night on December 2, 2026. This will be your chance to share your gingerbread creations with visitors and schmooze for votes!
- Throughout the exhibition, visitors to The Rockwell will vote for their favorite gingerbread creations. The winner of the *Community Choice Award* will be announced in January 2027.

Mail or Email Completed Applications to:

Gingerbread Invitational | The Rockwell Museum | 111 Cedar Street, Corning NY
| gingerbread@rockwellmuseum.org | Find all the details on our website [here](#)

PRIZES

- **All participants** will receive thank-you honorariums in the form of a \$50 VISA gift card and handmade ceramic medallions created by a local artist.
- **Community Choice Award Winner** will receive a \$500 gift card, plus a handmade Ceramic Trophy created by a local artist.

TIMELINE

Monday, October 19, 2026	<i>Gingerbread Invitational</i> application deadline
Friday, October 24, 2026	Artist selection announced - artists informed via e-mail
Monday, November 23, 2026	Artists drop off creations to The Rockwell Museum between hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for photography and installation.
Saturday, November 28, 2026	Exhibition opens to the public. Public voting launches!
Wednesday, December 2, 2026 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	<i>Gingerbread Invitational Opening Reception</i> for artists, public and Rockwell Museum Members
Saturday, December 5, 2026 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Holiday Open House. Free Museum and Art Lab admission for all ages.
Friday, January 1, 2027	Final day of exhibition. Community Choice Winner Announced during the first week of January.
Monday, January 4, 2027	Artists pick up their creations if they wish – others will be discarded.

On the following pages you will find an application form and rules/specifications sheet. If you have any questions, please contact gingerbread@rockwellmuseum.org. We are thrilled to be hosting the annual *Gingerbread Invitational* and look forward to working with you on this exciting project.

Mail or Email Completed Applications to:

Gingerbread Invitational | The Rockwell Museum | 111 Cedar Street, Corning NY
| gingerbread@rockwellmuseum.org | Find all the details on our website [here](https://www.rockwellmuseum.org)

GINGERBREAD INVITATIONAL: ENTRY GUIDELINES

Please read these specifications carefully for the most successful experience

- Any structure/sculpture that fits the theme of "Future Dreaming" is eligible.
- Be creative and have fun! In your design, consider originality, overall appearance, creative use of materials and overall complexity of design.
- The construction must not exceed 20"x20"x20" and must be freestanding. The gingerbreads will be housed underneath plexi-glass vitrines and must adhere to the size requirements to fit on the pedestals.
- The entry should be created and delivered attached to a plywood or other sturdy base, not to exceed 20" x 20" x 20" enabling it to be freestanding. If needed, The Rockwell will provide a plywood base. Please note if you'd like us to provide the plywood base in your application. You will pick it up once your entry has been chosen.
- We require that you use the provided recipe for a very durable Royal Icing. Please keep in mind that your creation must last over a month, under our Museum lights. This recipe will help your creation stay together!
- Please, no pre-fabricated gingerbread kits. All visible components of the creation should be made from edible materials.
- Experience tells us that Jolly Ranchers, gelatin, and cotton candy DO NOT LAST under our hot museum lights. Please do not use these candies or similar ingredients in your creation.
- Electrical outlets cannot be provided. If you include lighting, it should be battery-operated and hooked up to a timer so that it lasts the entirety of the exhibition.
- Entries must be picked up on January 4, 2026, between 12 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Those not picked up will be discarded, unless other arrangements have been made.
- The Rockwell Museum reserves the right to remove any displays that fall apart during the exhibition.

Mail or Email Completed Applications to:

Gingerbread Invitational | The Rockwell Museum | 111 Cedar Street, Corning NY
| gingerbread@rockwellmuseum.org | Find all the details on our website [here](#)



GINGERBREAD INVITATIONAL

111 Cedar Street
Corning, NY 14830
607-937-5386
rockwellmuseum.org

ROYAL ICING RECIPE

*Yields 2 Cups Royal Icing**

3 egg whites

½ teaspoon cream of tartar

1 lb. Confectioner's sugar

Beat at high speed 7 to 10 minutes. Icing is ready to use when knife drawn through it leaves a clear path that holds its shape.

*Do not double the recipe. If additional icing is needed, make separate batches.

Mail or Email Completed Applications to:

Gingerbread Invitational | The Rockwell Museum | 111 Cedar Street, Corning NY
| gingerbread@rockwellmuseum.org | Find all the details on our website [here](http://rockwellmuseum.org)



APPLICATION FORM

Thank you for entering the *12th Annual Gingerbread Invitational!* If you have any questions regarding the contest or rules, please contact gingerbread@rockwellmuseum.org. Completed application forms must be mailed to the below address or emailed as a PDF. **The submission deadline is October 19, 2026. **Please note: Only complete applications will be considered.**

Electronic versions of the forms and rules can be accessed [here](#).

Name/Business Name:

Primary Contact Name:

Phone:

Address:

E-Mail Address(es):

Names of everyone participating in the making of your gingerbread creation:

Gingerbread Creation Title:

Write a description of your gingerbread. Include a short narrative of your design inspiration and materials you intend to use. Attach additional sheet if necessary. Please note this information will be used to write a label alongside the final installation.

☐ Check if you would like a plywood base from The Rockwell Museum.

Please confirm:

☐ I have read the guidelines of the competition. I understand that my gingerbread creation must adhere to all of the specifications, including the size requirements and frosting recipe.

☐ The Rockwell Museum reserves the right to photograph and use photographs of all entries and participants for advertising and promotional purposes. Competition entry constitutes participant's consent to use their name for editorial advertising and publicity purposes. The Rockwell Museum is not responsible for any loss or damage.

☐ I have included a sketch of my design.

Mail or Email Completed Applications to:

Gingerbread Invitational | The Rockwell Museum | 111 Cedar Street, Corning NY
| gingerbread@rockwellmuseum.org | Find all the details on our website [here](#)



GINGERBREAD INVITATIONAL

111 Cedar Street
Corning, NY 14830
607-937-5386
rockwellmuseum.org

Mail or Email Completed Applications to:

Gingerbread Invitational | The Rockwell Museum | 111 Cedar Street, Corning NY
| gingerbread@rockwellmuseum.org | Find all the details on our website [here](http://rockwellmuseum.org)