



CONNECT

@ Bernheim

2026 CALL FOR CREATIVE EXPERIENCES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 | 6:36 - 11:36 P.M.

The Web Has No Weaver
by Rebecca Web Richards
& Stivan Widick



Bernheim
FOREST & ARBORETUM

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Calling all creatives and nature enthusiasts!

Discover the enchanting intersection of live music, art, science, and nature during **CONNECT**, Bernheim's annual eclectic evening event. Experience Lake Nevin as it comes alive with spontaneous art, light sculptures, and musical performances from renowned artists, along with interactive art and science activities.

Bernheim is looking for unique experiences that will activate the heavily trafficked, 1.3 mile Lake Nevin Loop. In addition to sculptural artworks installed around the event path or floating on Lake Nevin, creatives are also encouraged to submit proposals in performance art, dance, sound art, and lead art activities, demonstrations, or drop-in workshops. Bernheim is most interested in creative experiences that emphasize our mission of *connecting people with nature*, celebrating the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Proposals that focus on sustainability, including waste minimization and the use of repurposed materials, will be reviewed more favorably. Projects that address clean air, clean water, biodiversity, climate change, and/or cultural connections are strongly encouraged.

[APPLY HERE](#)



ABOVE/ *Forms of Matter* by Field Guide for Dreamers.

GUIDELINES

- ★ All creative experiences must be pre-approved by submitting information requested on the [CONNECT application](#) via SlideRoom. There is no fee to apply.
- ★ **CONNECT** is a rain or shine event. All creative experiences will take place outside in a heavily trafficked area. While we will do everything to protect displayed artworks, Bernheim is not responsible for any damage incurred while the works are installed on site. Please consider this when submitting your proposal.



ABOVE/ *Elemental* by Beth Reitmeyer during daylight
ABOVE RIGHT/ *Elemental* at night

- ★ Creatives that apply as a team or group must appoint one person as the primary contact.
- ★ Bernheim has limited funding for individual projects with an average range falling between (but not limited to) \$400 - \$800. A section in the application allows creatives to submit a simple budget overview of total proposed cost.
- ★ Due to staff demands on the day of the event, all onsite installations must be in place no later than 5 p.m., Friday, August 14, 2026. Event day exceptions include the addition of alternative light sources, including solar, battery-operated lights, and other non-grid-tied power.
- ★ All displayed installations must be uninstalled no later than Friday, August 21, 2026.
- ★ Creatives receive free entry to the opening celebration **CONNECT** event, including access to the Forest Lounge.



CONNECT is well-attended with the opportunity for thousands to see your work on display.

Please consider how your work can create a visual impact both during the day and especially at night, through the incorporation of non-grid power.



APRIL

APRIL 13

[2026 CONNECT CALL FOR CREATIVE EXPERIENCES](#) opens in SlideRoom platform.

APRIL 14 – JUNE 26

Artists are encouraged (but not required) to schedule a site visit of Bernheim’s Lake Nevin and meet with the Arts in Nature team to discuss proposal ideas and potential site locations. Contact Arts Program Coordinator, Teresa Koester, teresa.koester@bernheim.org to make an appointment during this timeframe. While appreciating the artist’s vision for a preferred location, Bernheim ultimately decides the best placement of selected art experiences and activations.

JUNE

JUNE 30

Deadline for submissions.

JULY

JULY 10

Applicants will be notified of their status. All submissions will be reviewed after the deadline.*

AUGUST

AUGUST 10 - 14

Onsite installation days for accepted artworks.

AUGUST 15

2026 **CONNECT** event, 6:36 – 11:36 P.M.

AUGUST 17 – 21

Timeframe for removing onsite installations.

RIGHT / *Ayaba Nya* by Christa Twaa Whaley





ABOVE / A few of the creatives experiences from CONNECT 2025. View video at <https://youtu.be/JNITXakRUTY>

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2499 Clermont Road • PO Box 130 • Clermont, KY 40110

E: teresa.koester@bernheim.org

