



IAPS Programs and Activities: 2027 and Beyond

As outlined in the accompanying letter, the Association plans support for the member societies in the five areas below.

International Gatherings

A **Gathering** is an annual event hosted by one or more member societies and supported by IAPS. A Gathering brings artists together for in-person workshops, demonstrations, paint-outs, exhibitions, and other shared experiences. This structure allows an IAPS Gathering to reach more regions than a single national convention could, and to reflect the character of the society hosting it. Where two or more societies host jointly, the terms below apply to them together, and "host society" should be read accordingly.

What IAPS provides

IAPS's support of a Gathering includes sponsorship of the Best of Show Award, and the IAPS exhibition held at the Gathering. IAPS exhibitions at Gatherings are physical pastel exhibitions including both US and international artists, featuring selected works.

IAPS also promotes approved Gatherings through its own communication channels: social media, the IAPS website, blogs, videos, and newsletters. A host society reaches the full international IAPS audience rather than only its own membership.

What the member society provides

The host society organizes and conducts the activities surrounding the Gathering: workshops, banquets, receptions, plein air sessions, informal demonstrations, social events, museum or gallery visits, cultural excursions, networking opportunities, and related community activities reflecting the IAPS mission.

Terms

Gathering exhibitions give artists opportunities to earn points toward Master Circle and Eminent Pastelist status. Honors points at Gathering exhibitions are awarded based on agreements between the host society and IAPS.

Online Exhibitions

IAPS provides two Online Exhibitions each year. They are open to artists wherever they live, provided they are members of an IAPS member society. These exhibitions remain one of the best ways to show pastel work to an international audience and build toward Master Circle and Eminent Pastelist status.

Terms

One point to all accepted artists, and an extra point to award winners.

Online exhibition entry is administered through ShowSubmit.

The IAPS Honors Program

IAPS provides administration of the Master Circle and Eminent Pastelist honors, along with the recognition ceremonies where they're conferred. Both levels continue unchanged.

IAPS is also developing an additional honors level above Eminent Pastelist, for artists who continue to achieve at the highest levels of IAPS exhibitions, an addition to the existing program, not a replacement for it. Details are still in development and will be announced once finalized.

Terms

Points already earned toward Master Circle and Eminent Pastelist status continue to count in full, toward the same thresholds. Points toward those distinctions are earned through the Gathering exhibitions and online exhibitions described above.

Recognition ceremonies take place every two years during the Gathering Reception, celebrating artists who have achieved Master Circle status and other notable distinctions.

Artists earning Master Circle or Eminent Pastelist status from the 2026 PastelWorld Exhibition will receive their medallion or pin in 2028.

Grant Opportunities

IAPS provides grants that help societies fund educational programs, community outreach, and projects that promote pastel art within their communities. IAPS is expanding these opportunities.

Member societies apply through the IAPS grant application process, with full details to be announced in October. Between now and then, we encourage societies to start thinking about where a grant could make a difference in their communities.

Terms

Achievements of member societies receiving IAPS educational grants will be showcased biennially, with the next presentation scheduled for 2028.

Member societies do not need to apply for or receive an IAPS educational grant in order to host an in-person Gathering.

Educational Programs

IAPS provides a library of educational content on the IAPS YouTube channel, featuring demonstrations, interviews, presentations, and instructional programs, so that artists can access these resources regardless of location. The 2026 PastelWorld exhibition walkthroughs are on the channel now, and IAPS is building on that library going forward.

This content is freely accessible to all IAPS societies and their members.

Continued Support

IAPS support aligns with our charter to support member societies and provides the recognition of individual artists and their achievements described throughout this document.

IAPS marketing and virtual support continues through social media, the IAPS website, blogs, videos, and newsletters.

General Statement of Authority

All activities, programs, and events are subject to available funding, volunteer support, organizational resources, and approval by the IAPS Board of Directors. IAPS reserves the right to modify, expand, reduce, postpone, or discontinue any sponsored activities at its discretion.