



The San Diego County Fair's Design in Wood Competition, in collaboration with the **San Diego Fine Woodworkers**, invites local, regional and international artists to showcase their skill and expression through a variety of woodworking techniques including veneering, marquetry, CNC, turning, carving, intarsia, and fretwork. This competition is judged by nationally recognized artists, and winning artists will receive cash prizes as well as receive national recognition. This is a great opportunity to display your work to thousands of fair visitors.



2026 Exhibition Timeline

Entry Deadline	Monday, May 4, 2026, by 8pm
Tier 1 Notification Email (Please check spam folders)	Thursday, May 7, 2026
Shipped Entries May Arrive	Friday, May 8, 2026 – Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Entry Delivery	Wednesday, May 20, 2026, Noon – 8pm
Fair Dates	Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – Sunday, July 5, 2026 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
Awards Reception	Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 7pm
Entry Pickup	Tuesday, July 7, 2026, Noon-8pm

Eligibility

- Exhibitors must be 18 years old by the Entry Deadline listed above.
- Entries must be the work of the exhibitor. Projects from kits are not eligible.
- Entries must be made primarily of wood.
- Work previously shown at the Fair, regardless of title, is not eligible.
- Work by (2) or more artists is eligible. Please register under one exhibitor's name.

Contact Us

Jim Strawn, [Design in Wood Coordinator](#)

Joe Sobkowiak, [Design in Wood Assistant Coordinator](#)

San Diego County Fair Entry Office

2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014

Office (858) 792-4207- Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

2026 Local Rules

1. Completion of online entry registration shall be deemed acceptance of all rules and permission to use your name, photograph, and images and description of entries in print, digital and other media.
2. Online registration is required for all competitions and one-day contests. Online entries and any required image/document uploads are accepted until the published deadline, which specifies a date and time. Late entries will not be accepted.
3. Once registered, the exhibitor name, entry description, title, and price may not be changed. Substitutions will only be allowed in accordance with current State Rules. Fair Management is not responsible for errors on entry forms which may lead to elimination or disqualification of an entry.
4. Processing fees must be paid online at the time of registration. Processing fees are non-refundable.
5. Exhibitors must be living at the time the online entry is submitted.
6. All non-livestock/non-agricultural entries must be the creative work of the exhibitor (whose name appears on the entry registration), be in good taste, and suitable for family viewing. Fair Management reserves the right to disqualify any entry/exhibit it deems objectionable or not in accordance with competition standards.
7. If an entry is disqualified after judging is complete, no changes will be made to the status of awards given for other entries.
8. Exhibitors are responsible for obtaining necessary permission from models and/or to use material in their entry that is considered copyrighted.
9. No entry will be accepted should the exhibitor describe the conditions under which he/she will exhibit, or the exhibit will be displayed.
10. Judges are selected for their expertise in the divisions or classes they evaluate. New judges may be appointed each year, and judging assignments may vary annually based on the needs of each competition.
11. If a coordinator or judge deems an entry to be in the incorrect category, division, class, etc., he or she may direct the Entry Office to move that entry as appropriate. The Entry Office may combine divisions or classes to create an adequate judging pool.



12. Fair Management reserves the right to limit entries, and display thereof, to facilities available and to cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.
13. Entries must be delivered on the date(s) and times specified. Entries will not be accepted before or after the stated entry delivery date. All accepted exhibits must remain on display and shall not be removed until the stated entry pick up date. Any exhibit not picked up on the specified date becomes the property of the San Diego County Fair and will be disposed of promptly.
14. All exhibits are entered and shown at the owner's risk. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits, but in no event will the 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) be responsible for any injury or loss which may occur or for the actions of third parties. Insurance, if desired, should be obtained by the exhibitor at his/her own expense.
15. Any person who violates any Local, State, or Department rule or displays unethical conduct will forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) may order.
16. To ensure reliable award notification, exhibitors are responsible for submitting all address, phone number and email address updates promptly in writing to entry@sdfair.com or Entry Department, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014.
17. Premium money will be paid per the recorded placings in the official judging reports rather than the ribbon attached to the exhibit.
18. Donated Award recipients will be selected per the instructions given on the Donated Award Confirmation Form submitted by the donor.
19. Premium, donated cash award, and auction checks will be made payable to the exhibitor as listed on the online entry registration. Checks will be mailed within 30 days after the close of the Fair to the address shown on the online entry registration, or as updated by the exhibitor via written notification to the Entry Office. Checks not cashed within six (6) months from the date of issue will be forfeited. Replacement checks may be subject to a stop payment fee.
20. The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) is required by the Internal Revenue Service to report any premium payments totaling \$600 or more. Exhibitors whose awards meet or exceed this amount must submit a W-9 form before their check can be issued.
21. The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) management reserves the right to amend or add to these rules and assumes no liability or responsibility not herein expressed.

California State Rules apply and are available [here](#).



Entry Limit

Three (3) entries per exhibitor in all classes combined

Entry Fees

\$30 per entry. Entry fees are payable online with a credit card and are not refundable.

Fair Tickets

Each exhibitor will receive two (2) Fair Entry Tickets.

How to Enter

1. After reading all entry materials, click the “Enter Now” link below to go to the ShoWorks Entry Homepage.
2. Register as an **Exhibitor**.
3. Select the appropriate division and class and input the required information. (See “Divisions and Classes” below for a list of all divisions and classes.)
 - In the Sale Price field, enter the piece’s purchase price, or “NFS” if the piece is not for sale. (See Sale of Entries.)
 - In the Social Media field, please enter your preferred social media contact (optional).
4. Review your entry before completing registration to ensure that you have entered the correct division and class for each entry.
5. Click the check-out button and pay for all entries.
6. Read the confirmation statement and type YES. **Do not click multiple times**, as it will charge you each time.
7. You will be prompted to upload your image(s) AFTER you pay. Digital image(s) of entries must be submitted before the entry deadline. Ensure uploaded images match the entry division, class and title for each entry. (See Photographing Your Entry for Upload.)

If you plan to make changes to your entries or need to leave ShoWorks at any time, SAVE YOUR CART before exiting.

For additional help with entering and uploading images, review these detailed step-by-step guides: [Entry Tutorial](#)

Still have questions? Please call or [email the Entry Office](#).

Phone: (858) 792-4207, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm



Photographing Your Entry for Upload

Digital photo submission of your entry is required before the entry deadline.

Exhibitors may upload up to three (3) separate images of each item entered. Choose images that give judges the best view of the piece from all angles.

Image Format

- Acceptable file formats are .jpeg, .jpg, or .png of **6MB maximum file size**.
- iPhone users must change default HEIC camera setting to JPEG or convert the image.
- RGB color space (CMYK files will be converted to RGB by the system)
- Make sure the images are rotated to the upright position/orientation.
- Images may be in horizontal or vertical orientation.
- No digital enhancement allowed.

Sale of Entries

Exhibitors wishing to sell their entry must enter the sale price and preferred social media contact on the online registration form. Price and social media information will be printed on the entry tag for display in the exhibit. All sales must be negotiated and completed directly between the exhibitor and the buyer.

No business cards or personal advertisements will be displayed in the exhibit.

NEW! Exhibitors may also submit a one-page (8 1/2" x 11") artist statement or biography that may include contact information. A binder of collected artist statements/biographies will be available for viewing by prospective buyers. This document must be delivered on the **Entry Delivery Day** listed in the Exhibition Timeline. Additionally, Purchase Interest Forms will be available within the exhibit for completion by interested buyers.



Judging

Design in Wood is a two-tier, juried competition that uses the American system of judging.

Tier 1 Judging of exhibitors' uploaded digital images determines which entries will advance to Tier 2 judging. Exhibitors will be notified via email with the results of the Tier 1 judging per the Entry Timeline. Entries advancing to Tier 2 judging must be prepared and delivered per the requirements described herein.

Tier 2 Judging takes place onsite, where judges view the entry in person and select award winners.

Judging Criteria

Entries are judged on design integrity, understanding and use of materials, use of form and color, overall craftsmanship, appearance, and quality of finish.

Judging Results

Results will be announced at the Design in Wood Awards Reception and posted on the San Diego County Fair's website by the second week of the Fair.

Entry Delivery & Pickup

Only entries accepted to Tier 2 judging may be delivered to the Fairgrounds. Please refer to the Exhibition Timeline for in-person delivery and shipping acceptance dates. If accepted to Tier 2, exhibitors will be emailed additional delivery and pick-up instructions including a map showing access to the Fairgrounds.

Exhibitors must bring necessary tools, equipment, and/or personnel to unload and place entries within the exhibit.

A claim check will be issued to each exhibitor upon entry delivery and must be presented at the time of entry pick up. If an exhibitor is unable to pick up their artwork, they may arrange for another person to bring in their claim check with a signed written authorization from the exhibitor.

Exhibitors must bring necessary tools, equipment, and/or personnel to remove entries from the exhibit space and load to exhibitor's vehicle.



Entry Shipping

The 22nd DAA (San Diego County Fair) is not responsible for lost or delayed shipments and assumes no responsibility for damage to shipped artwork. For return of entries, a pre-paid return label from the shipper (UPS or USPS) must be included with the entry.

Ship to: San Diego County Fair
Ag & Ed Department • Design in Wood
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
Del Mar, CA 92014

Awards

Award checks will be mailed within two (2) weeks of the last day of the Fair. Please submit address updates to the [Entry Office](#) in a timely manner.

The following will be awarded in each class:

1st Place	\$200 and Rosette
2nd Place	\$175 and Rosette
3rd Place	\$150 and Rosette
4th Place	\$ 75 and Rosette

Honorable Mention ribbons may be awarded at the judge's discretion.

Special Awards

Master Woodworker's Trophy	\$250, Trophy, & Rosette
Theme Award for the exhibit that best represents the 2026 Fair theme – "Once Upon a Fair"	\$250 & Rosette
Robert & Janet Stevenson Award for Technical Excellence and Innovation	\$200 & Rosette

Donated Awards

Fine Woodworking Magazine

Best of Show	\$1,000 cash and rosette
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The Hardwood and Hardware Store

Sponsor's Choice Perpetual Trophy Award	\$250 value in merchandise and rosette
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Apollo Sprayers Inc. Excellence in Finishing

Contemporary Woodworking Furniture	\$250 gift certificate and rosette
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Traditional Woodworking Furniture	\$250 gift certificate and rosette
Art Furniture	\$250 gift certificate and rosette
Musical Instruments	\$250 gift certificate and rosette

San Diego Fine Woodworker's Members Shop

People's Choice Award	\$200 and rosette
SDFWA Members Shop Finest Award	\$500 and rosette

Maritime Museum of San Diego*Best Scale Model Ship Perpetual Trophy*

1st Place	\$500 and rosette
2nd Place	\$200 and rosette
3rd Place	\$100 and rosette

The Regular Cut-Ups and The San Diego Seaside Scrollers*Awards for Fretwork & Intarsia*

To qualify for these awards, you must be a member of a Southern California Scroll Club as of close of entries and have never received an award in the category you enter.

Fretwork	\$200 and rosette
Intarsia	\$200 and rosette

San Marcos Hardwood Lumber Co.

To qualify for this award, you must have never entered or entered but not won an award in the Design in Wood exhibition.

Best New Winner/Entrant Award	\$250 gift card and rosette
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San Diego Wood Turners

To qualify for these awards, you must be a member of SDWT as of close of entries.

Face Work - Perpendicular to the ways of the Lathe	\$125 and rosette
Center Work - Parallel to the ways of the Lathe	\$125 and rosette
Embellished Mixed Media Wood Turning	\$125 and rosette
Laminated/Segmented Wood Turning	\$125 and rosette

West Coast Milling

Excellence in Design	\$250 and rosette
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California Carvers Guild

Must be a CA resident & not have won a monetary award in Design in Wood for 2 years.

Stylization Excellence	\$150 and rosette
Stylization Originality	\$100 and rosette

West Coast Arborist, Inc.

Urban Forest Products Award - Best Urban Wood Utilization Project	\$500.00 worth of urban wood from Street Tree Revival and rosette
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San Diego Fine Woodworkers Association

To qualify for these awards, you must be a member of SDFWA as of close of entries.

Outstanding Woodworking

In recognition of Outstanding Woodworking for 1st time Winners

1st Place	\$250, trophy, and rosette
2nd Place	\$150, trophy, and rosette
3rd Place	\$100, trophy, and rosette

Excellence in Woodworking

In recognition of Excellence in Woodworking for previous winners

1st Place	\$250, trophy, and rosette
2nd Place	\$150, trophy, and rosette
3rd Place	\$100, trophy, and rosette



Divisions and Classes

Division 1101: Design in Wood

- Class 001** Contemporary Woodworking - Furniture
- Class 002** Contemporary Woodworking - Accessories
- Class 003** Traditional Woodworking - Furniture
- Class 004** Traditional Woodworking - Accessories
- Class 005** Art Furniture
- Class 006** Chairs - (Furniture Made for Seating)
- Class 007** Furniture & Accessories Designed & Created by Computer - Laser and/or CNC
- Class 008** Made for Children
- Class 009** Model Building - Scale
- Class 010** Model Building - Not to Scale
- Class 011** Musical Instruments
- Class 012** Clocks
- Class 013** Veneering/Marquetry - Furniture
- Class 014** Veneering/Marquetry - Art
- Class 015** Veneering/Marquetry - Art Designed & Created by Computer Laser and/or CNC
- Class 016** Wood Turning - Face Work: Perpendicular to the Ways of the Lathe
- Class 017** Wood Turning - Center Work: Parallel to the Ways of the Lathe
- Class 018** Wood Turning - Embellished/Mixed Media
- Class 019** Wood Turning - Laminated/Segmented
- Class 020** Wood Carving - Animals
- Class 021** Wood Carving - Birds
- Class 022** Wood Carving - Marine Animals
- Class 023** Wood Carving - Human Form
- Class 024** Wood Carving - Open
- Class 025** Scroll Saw - Intarsia
- Class 026** Scroll Saw - Fretwork (Pierced & Unpierced)