



sanitation



Trucks of Art: Request for Expressions of Interest (“RFEI”)

Art Challenge to Paint Collection Trucks with Zero-waste Materials

The NYC Department of Sanitation (“DSNY”) is seeking artists for **Trucks of Art**, a public art project to transform 46,000-pound collection vehicles into roving works of art. These heavy-duty machines offer nearly 400 square feet of “canvas,” and artists may leverage the trucks’ sides, front and back in their works.

The proposed artworks selected for **Trucks of Art** will honor New York’s Strongest, the workforce that keeps New York City clean, safe and healthy, and will highlight the importance of keeping New York City clean – while adding a bit of flair to neighborhoods as DSNY serves them. Because DSNY encourages New Yorkers to reduce waste, artists are challenged with utilizing paints that would otherwise be discarded or recycled.

In selecting the artists who will participate, DSNY will prioritize proposed designs that celebrate keeping NYC clean, sustainability, and the DSNY workforce. To generate further public attention to the works of art, to the artists and DSNY’s workforce, the Sanitation Foundation, DSNY’s non-profit partner, may opt to reproduce the final artworks.

This is DSNY’s third **Trucks of Art** program. Learn more about the 2019 and 2022 Trucks of Art at nyc.gov/TruckArt.

Project Overview

- DSNY will review submissions and select artists, ideally from each borough.
- Selected artists will be paid a stipend of up to \$1,500 by the Sanitation Foundation. Artists will retain rights to their designs, and shall give DSNY and the Sanitation Foundation the right to reproduce the designs. (Additional information below.)
- Participants will each be provided workspace, paint and tools. Vehicle painting experts will be available to provide guidance.
- Types of paints will vary dramatically, from donated household latex paints to spray paints. No colors or types of paints are guaranteed.
- Designs must be flexible to accommodate small areas of the truck that may not be painted.
- Each artist will have up to five (5) 7-hour workdays to paint a collection vehicle.

- The trucks will be unveiled at a media event led by DSNY and will be on display for the public before they are assigned to routes.
- The artwork will be sealed with a clear coat and will remain on trucks for as long as the design withstands the elements.

General Timeline

Subject to change. Visit nyc.gov/TruckArt for updated information.

- Monday, January 12, 2026, through Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.: Expressions of Interest accepted
- Late-February: Selected artists informed
- March: Schedule times and location to paint
- April: Paint days
- May: Media event, public display(s) at Union Square
- June: Vehicles begin routes

Your “Canvas” and Materials

- Photos, measurements and templates of the trucks are provided below.
- Artists will each paint one collection vehicle.
- These vehicles have the state-of-the-art sustainability and safety features.
- Painted collection vehicles will be used to collect garbage and/or recyclable materials.
- Space on each side will be reserved for legally required information and safety components.
- All works must be two-dimensional; no protruding objects may be affixed.
- DSNY will provide paint, paint sprayers, and brushes.
- Because most paint will be diverted from recycling or landfills, no color or paint type is guaranteed to be available for use.

Your Submission

To apply, fill out an application at nyc.gov/TruckArt by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 8, 2026. Your submission must include the following information:

- Contact Information. Your name, mailing address, email address and phone number, website/social media
- Short Artwork Description. Describe how your art encourages recycling or honors the DSNY workforce. This may be up to 250 words.
- Experience: Please tell us about your experience working on murals or large-scale projects.
- Your Motivation. Explain why you'd like to participate in Trucks of Art. This may be up to 250 words.

- Short Biography. Help us get to know you!
- Design Mock-ups. Your artwork must be superimposed on the provided images of the truck, and you may also include images of your designs independent of the truck. If you create designs by hand, then you must photograph or scan your work and upload as a part of the application.

Selection Process

At its sole discretion, DSNY will select artists. Priority will be given to artists whose designs clearly encourage keeping New York City clean or honor DSNY's workforce. DSNY is partnering with the Sanitation Foundation to promote this project and/or select artists.

Ownership Rights

Artists will retain non-exclusive ownership rights of their designs for non-commercial and/or educational purposes. By participating in Trucks of Art, artists grant DSNY and the Sanitation Foundation the royalty-free, non-exclusive right to use and/or reproduce the designs for non-commercial and/or educational purposes.

The Fine Print

1. Introduction

DSNY has issued this RFEI to invite interested parties to suggest artwork for selected collection vehicles.

2. Purpose

This RFEI is issued to invite interested parties to submit artwork that will:

- Encourage New Yorkers to participate in DSNY's many recycling programs; or
- Honor the important role DSNY's workforce has in keeping New York City clean, safe and healthy.

3. Submission Process

All submissions must be submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 8, 2026. Complete online application at nyc.gov/TruckArt.

4. Inquiries

Any questions concerning this RFEI should be sent by email with the subject line "Trucks of Art RFEI Question" to TrashTalk@dsny.nyc.gov. Questions and answers will be posted at nyc.gov/TruckArt.

5. Additional Information

5.1 This RFEI is not intended as a formal offering for the award of a contract or for participation in any future solicitation. This RFEI is not a procurement. Responding to this RFEI and/or participating does not afford any special access or consideration to DSNY, its officials, officers, agents, or employees.

5.1.1 Selected applicants will be paid a stipend of up to \$1,500 by the Sanitation Foundation.

5.2 DSNY, the City of New York, and their officials, officers, agents, and employees make no representation or warranty and assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the information set forth in this RFEI.

5.3 No information contained in submissions shall be deemed confidential and such information may be shared with others.

5.4 Neither DSNY nor the City of New York shall be liable for any costs incurred by any respondent in the preparation, submittal, presentation, or revision of its submission.

5.5 At its sole discretion, DSNY reserves, without limitation, the right to:

- 5.5.1** Withdraw this RFEI at any time;
- 5.5.2** Use the ideas and/or submissions in any manner deemed to be in its best interests, including but not limited to soliciting competitive submissions relating to such ideas and/or undertake the prescribed work in a manner other than that which is set forth herein;
- 5.5.3** Change any terms of the RFEI; and
- 5.5.4** Remove the artwork.

6. Waivers

Artists will work in an industrial setting in DSNY's facilities and will be required to sign a liability waiver to participate.













