



## **INTRODUCTION**

As part of the Woodhaven Select Bus Service ("Woodhaven SBS") street improvement project, the NYC Department of Transportation's Art Program ("DOT Art") is collaborating with the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art Program ("Percent for Art") to commission up to two (2) artists to design unique fence panels for installation at six (6) median bus station pairs, twelve (12) bus stations in total, along Woodhaven Boulevard. Woodhaven SBS spans the entire 14-mile Q52/53 Limited bus route located along Woodhaven and Cross Bay Boulevards, from Woodside to the Rockaways in the borough of Queens (Figure 1). This existing bus route acts as the primary north-south transit corridor in Queens and carries over 30,000 daily bus riders who are not otherwise well- served by the city's rapid transit network.

Select Bus Service ("SBS") is New York City's version of Bus Rapid Transit, which offers fast, frequent, and reliable service on high-ridership bus routes. SBS routes are implemented in significantly less time and at a much lower cost than subways. Providing rail-like service, SBS uses techniques and technologies such as dedicated bus lanes, off board fare collection and transit signal priority to improve performance. SBS makes buses easier to use through features like bus bulbs and real-time passenger information with overall attention to pedestrian and vehicular safety.

The Woodhaven SBS route will be New York City's most ambitious SBS route to date, because of its focus on building median bus stations. Unlike typical SBS curbside bus stops, the Woodhaven SBS median bus stations will include access points to high-quality waiting space similar to surface subway stations. These median bus stations will provide bus riders with ample space and comfortable amenities such as variable passenger-information screens, leaning bars and shelters with seating, lighting, and weather protection. Another unique feature of the Woodhaven SBS median stations will include attractive, protective fencing drawn from this competition.

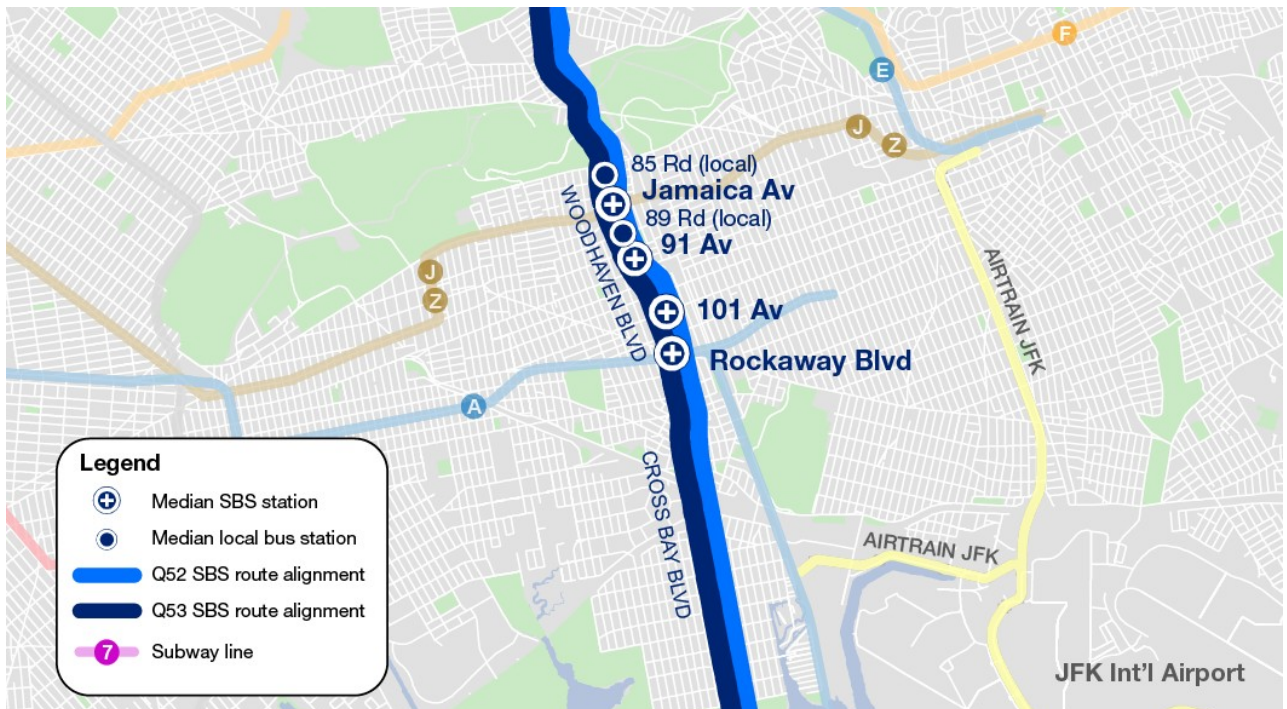


Figure 1 Woodhaven SBS route and stations



## **SITE BACKGROUND**

This improvement project addresses a 1.3-mile section of the Woodhaven SBS corridor along Woodhaven Boulevard between Park Lane South and Rockaway Boulevard where the median bus stations will be implemented along existing service roads (together the “Sites”). The neighborhoods in this section, through which SBS will run, are mostly residential with small-scale retail corridors in close proximity to the median stations. Of the six median bus station pairs, two will only be served by local buses (no SBS features), and the remaining four will be served by both SBS and local buses (Figure 2).



**Figure 2 Woodhaven Blvd Select Bus Service median bus station locations**

While the exact configuration of each median bus station may vary, each will include a package of features that will enhance the user experience while waiting for the bus on the widened medians (Figure 3). As shown in Figures 4 and 5, the widened concrete medians allow space for improved bus amenities. DOT has installed similar median fencing across New York City (Figures 6 and 7) using two standard fencing designs. This competition calls for improving the standard fencing for functional and artistic display along the median bus stations rendered in the proposed SBS station designs.

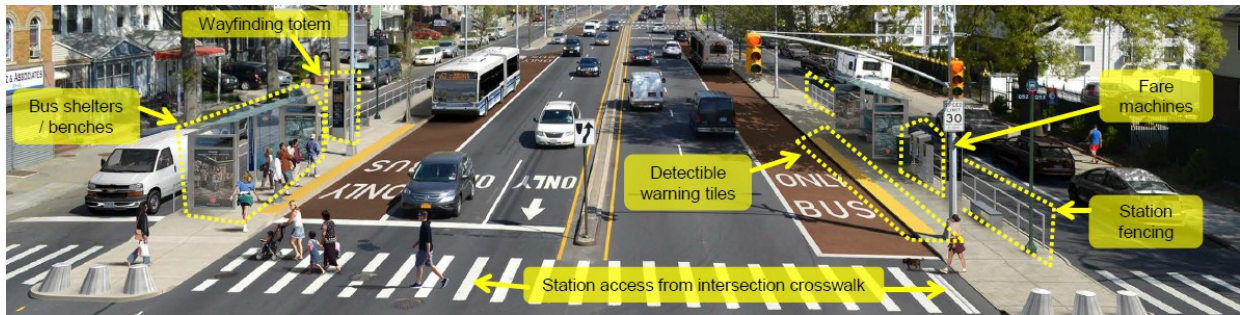


Figure 3 Typical median station and SBS features, proposed design rendering at 91<sup>st</sup> Ave



Figure 4 Proposed design rendering of the Woodhaven SBS 91<sup>st</sup> Ave median bus station





Figure 5 Proposed design rendering of the Woodhaven SBS Rockaway Blvd median bus station



Figure 6 Existing Condition: Bus Stop at Third Ave and 57<sup>th</sup> St, in Manhattan



Figure 7 Existing Condition: Bus Stop at EL Grant Highway, in the Bronx

## **COMPETITION BACKGROUND**

DOT Art and Percent for Art (the “City”) invite artists and/or designers to submit entries in response to this competition. The City is interested in transforming fences adjacent to SBS Stations from static functional objects into dynamic works of art. These distinctive fences will provide the public with an unexpected visual experience during their daily commute and ultimately, will create attractive corridors and activate public space through permanent, aesthetic enhancements.

The City is seeking design concepts that:

- Reflect the surrounding culture, community and neighborhoods;
- Create a recognizable identity for the different station stops along the SBS corridor to provide riders with visual cues of their given destinations;
- Improve the overall look and feel of a standard SBS station by elevating the quality of design through the artwork; and
- Convey a sense of safety as the fence separates riders from active traffic.

## **SUBMISSION AND SELECTION PROCESS**

This competition is organized in two phases. Phase One is a Request for Qualifications in which artists and/or designers may respond with samples of past work and supplementary materials. The City, in partnership with a committee of outside arts and design professionals (the “Committee”), will select up to ten (10) artists (the “Finalists”) to proceed in the competition. Phase Two is a Request for Proposals in which Finalists will submit a conceptual design for final review by the Committee. Up to two (2) artists will be selected to finalize designs for implementation at the Sites as part of Woodhaven SBS.

Finalists will receive a \$500 honorarium for completion of a conceptual design in response to the Request for Proposals. The two selected artists (the “Artists”) from Phase Two will each receive \$200,000 to finalize designs, fabricate the panels and oversee installation in partnership with the City. However, NYCDOT will fabricate and install the standard fence framework and install the fabricated art panels at no cost to the Artists.

### **Phase One: Request for Qualifications**

As part of Phase One, the City invites artists and/or designers to submit examples of past work to review in consideration for Woodhaven SBS. An artist's prior experience or lack thereof with public art or with durable material such as steel, and other metals will not be taken into consideration when reviewing images. Eligibility is based upon artistic merit as evidenced in previous work.

### Submission Materials

Artists must submit all of the following for consideration:

- No more than ten (10) photographs of past artwork and associated image list that includes: title, date of completion, medium, dimensions, location, sale price or commission budget, description of artwork and list of partners;
- Artist curriculum vitae; and
- Brief artist statement of no more than one page.

**All artists interested in being considered must apply through the online program at <https://nyculture.submittable.com/submit>**

**Submissions will only be accepted using this online application program.**

**Submissions must be completed by midnight on February 17, 2017.**

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### **Phase Two–Request for Proposals**

As part of Phase Two, the City will invite the ten selected Finalists to submit conceptual proposals for review by the Committee. Finalists will be given a template with the measurements and proportions of the fence as well as detailed guidelines to create a proposal for site-specific artwork. Finalists will receive an honorarium of \$500 for submission of a conceptual proposal regardless of the number of concepts submitted.

The design submissions will be judged against three design objectives (feasibility, place making, and safety), giving all three equal weight. These objectives are intended to help guide the design in a direction that will be both desirable for, and beneficial to, the people who encounter them.

Artists should consider:

Feasibility: Since the designs will be translated into a durable material, Artists must consider intricacy and visual content as well as long-term maintenance. Designs should be robust, easy to replicate, and built to last.

Place Making: Designs should be flexible enough to complement the surrounding area/neighborhood and respect the culture of the community. Designs should be aesthetically appealing while establishing an identity for the SBS station.

Safety: The designs should not have any sharp edges or openings greater than 4.25". When creating a proposal, Artists should steer away from designs that could encourage climbing.



### Submission Materials

Selected Finalists must submit all of the following for consideration:

- Narrative Material: A short (no more than one page) design brief describing the overall design, inspiration, and notable features with a clear expression of design objectives.
- Graphic Material: Artists should juxtapose his/her design(s) onto the fence template (see below for design specifications) using at least three sections to illustrate how the design will look when replicated. File should be saved in .jpg or .png at a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

### Design Specifications and Constraints

The dimensions of a standard fence panel are 4' 10 ¼" in width and 3'5" in height. These panels are attached to a top and bottom steel rail through square holes on the bottom rail and slotted holes on the top rail. Finalists will be provided with detailed design drawings on the fencing specifications to guide their final submission.

Each median bus station is estimated to require at least 80 feet of fencing. The Artist can expect to design a minimum of 10 art panels or 1 out of every 4 standard fence panels at each median bus station.

All selected designs must be fabricated from durable materials such as stainless steel, aluminum or galvanized steel. Glass, plastic or mosaics are ineligible due to maintenance and durability concerns over the lifetime of the structure. DOT and DCLA have the right to alter the scope based on selected proposals and technical specifications.

The Committee will review conceptual proposals based on the following criteria:

- *Artistic vision*; Artist's proposal reflects his/her artistic sensibility.
- *Artistic merit*: Artist's past work demonstrates proficiency in two dimensional works and his/her proposal is aesthetically pleasing and appropriate for the public realm.
- *Site Suitability*: Proposal considers the variety of audiences at the Sites and considers the social, historical, architectural, geographical and/or cultural context of the Sites.

**All proposals must be submitted through the online program at <https://nyculture.submittable.com/submit>**

## DESIGN PRECEDENTS

Below are a few strong examples of distinctive art fences for consideration during the application process.



Figure 8 “Sombras y Luz,” by Billy and Mary Buchen, El Paso, TX

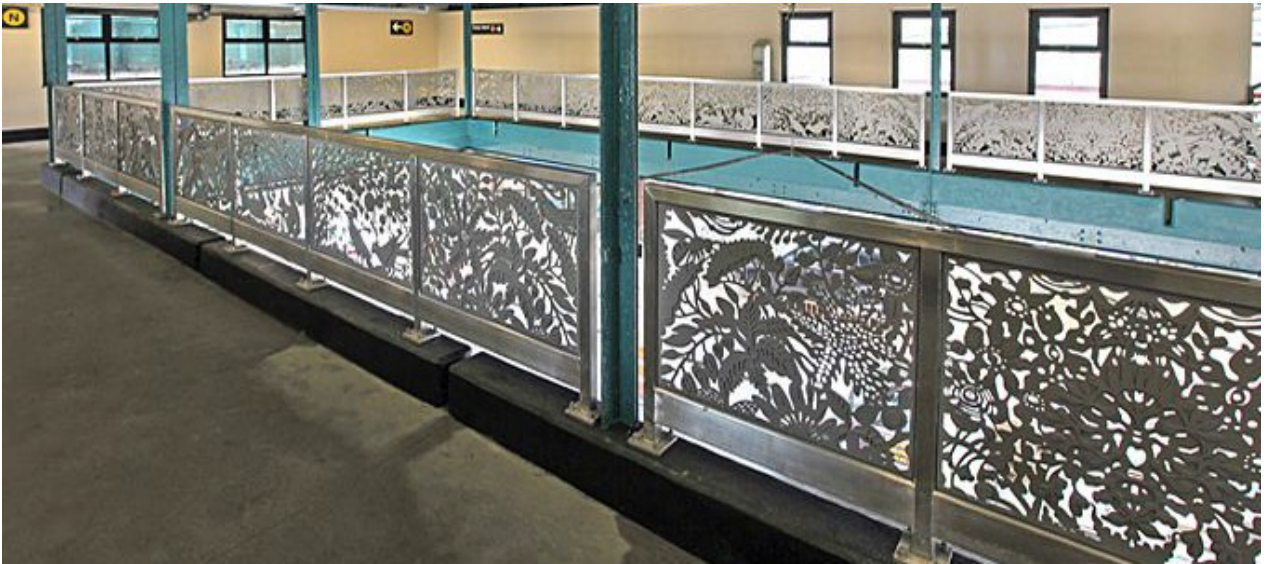


Figure 9 “Nature Rail,” by Andrea Dezso, 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Subway Station, Brooklyn, NY



Figure 10 "Electra C. Doren Sculptures," by Darren Kall, Dayton, OH



Figure 11 The River That Flows Two Ways," by Wopo Holup, Battery Park, Manhattan, NY

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

NYCDOT is eager to implement the distinctive fence along the Woodhaven SBS corridor in fall 2017. All Artists submitting to this open call, regardless of Phase, must be available during 2017 to attend meetings in New York City in partnership with DOT Art and Percent for Art.

## QUESTIONS

Please direct all inquiries regarding this open call to [Percent@culture.nyc.gov](mailto:Percent@culture.nyc.gov).