

# Signature Events Art Installations

Call for Artists: Request for Proposals 2026



RFP released December 2025

Acrylicize  
Collective Bloom, 2025  
Park Ave. and E 52nd St., Manhattan



# Signature Events Art Installations Request for Proposals 2026

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The New York City Department of Transportation's (NYC DOT) mission is to provide for the safe, efficient, environmentally responsible movement of people and goods in the City of New York and to maintain and enhance the transportation infrastructure crucial to the economic vitality and quality of life of our primary customers, City residents. NYC DOT hosts several large-scale, annual car-free events to reimagine the streets of New York City as more inviting public spaces for walking, cycling, playing, and much more—without the noise and congestion of cars. These events temporarily transform major streets and corridors into active public spaces, providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, cultural programming, and public engagement.

NYC DOT Art invites all professional artists to submit proposals for artwork to be installed during **Car-Free Earth Day** and or **Summer Streets** at sites designated by NYC DOT as a one-day installation. Please carefully read the different requirements and expectations for the range of events. **Car-Free Earth Day** installations would be displayed on a singular date and location; however, **Summer Streets** installations could be on display on two to five different dates and locations, including two locations on the same date.

- The display structure and attachments must be compliant with the requirements stipulated; the majority of sites available for art installations are concrete sidewalks or asphalt street spaces.
- Up to two artists may be selected per event.
- NYC DOT Art will determine final funding based on the complexity of the project and overall proposed budget.
- We encourage proposals that include programming to complement the installation; giveaways are also welcome but not necessary.
- Artists may submit existing artwork.

## Application and Deadline

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Artists are invited to submit proposals by **February 8, 2026 by 11:59 pm EST**. Please submit applications through our Submittable portal at [nycdotart.submittable.com](https://nycdotart.submittable.com).

On your application please select which event you would like to be considered for. You may select multiple. However, artists are only eligible to receive one commission per fiscal year. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet the requirements will not be considered.

By submitting an application, all selected artists agree to enter into a contract with NYC DOT in advance of the event and shall receive funding following participation at the event.

# Car-Free Earth Day

## Background

Car-Free Earth Day is a single day, annual car-free event held the Saturday before or after Earth Day, April 22. Programming is presented by NYC DOT at signature locations across all five boroughs. Car-Free Earth Day transforms NYC streets into active and attractive public spaces with the addition of public art, performances, workshops, and demonstrations. Environmental programming is offered by City agencies and nonprofit organizations along the routes to promote activism and education surrounding climate change, sustainability, and other relevant topics.

## Project Scope

Selected artist(s) for **Car Free Earth-Day** will create a **one-day installation** and may receive **up to \$10,000** to cover all expenses to design, fabricate, present the artwork including, but not limited to, costs associated with the following: labor, materials, fabrication, engineering, installation, equipment rental and transportation.

Selected artists shall be responsible for the following:

- Installing one (1) final artwork on site of Car-Free Earth Day.
- Being available to meet and coordinate with NYC DOT throughout all project phases.
- Being available the day of Car-Free Earth Day to monitor artwork and engage with the public through programming.
- Removing installation after Car-Free Earth Day completion; installations may not remain installed following the event.



Anjali Deshmukh and Ernest Verrett  
*Rising. Curtains.*, 2025  
Brooklyn, Car Free-Earth Day

# Summer Streets

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## Background

Summer Streets is an annual celebration of New York City's most valuable public space – our streets. Programming will be presented by NYC DOT at signature locations across all five boroughs. Routes and event time may be subject to adjustments at any time leading up to the event. Exact dates and times for 2025 will be announced at a later date.

Summer Streets takes place on five Saturdays from the morning to the afternoon: three Saturdays in Manhattan, one on Staten Island and Queens, and one in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Miles of NYC's streets are open in both directions for people to play, walk, and bike along while taking a break at the route rest stops to enjoy free activities. Summer Streets provides space for healthy recreation and encourages New Yorkers to use more sustainable forms of transportation.

## Project Scope

Selected artist(s) for **Summer Streets** will create installations **to be displayed on at least two dates**. Installations could be on display on two to five different dates and could include being installed at two locations on the same day.

Selected artist(s) may receive:

- **Up to \$20,000** to cover all expenses for projects **on display in Manhattan: one site for three Saturdays**
- **Up to \$20,000** to cover all expenses for projects **to be displayed in the outer boroughs: two different boroughs per event date, for two Saturdays**
- **Up to \$50,000** for large-scale installations with potential **to be displayed at all seven location across all five Saturdays**

Installation budgets must cover all expenses to design, fabricate, and present the artwork, including costs associated with the following: artist fee (up to 20% of budget), labor, materials, fabrication, engineering, installation, equipment rental, storage, and transportation.

Selected artists shall be responsible for the following:

- Installing one (1) or more final artwork(s) on site of Summer Streets.
- Being available to meet and coordinate with NYC DOT throughout all project phases.
- Being available day of the event to monitor artwork and engage with the public through programming. Depending on installation scope, this will be at least two event dates and as many as all seven locations across all five weekends.
- Removing installation after Summer Streets completion; installations may not remain installed following the event.

More information on artwork types can be found in [Appendix A: Artwork Types and Examples](#). NYC DOT Art will determine final funding based on the complexity of the project and overall proposed budget.

See examples of past programming in [Appendix B: Past Signature Events](#). Visit the [Car-Free Earth Day webpage](#) or [Summer Streets webpage](#) for event information and visit [NYC DOT's Flickr](#) for images of past events.



# Selection Process

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The NYC DOT Art Advisory Committee and project specific selection jury shall review and rank all submissions based on the following criteria:

## Event Goals

- **Interactive:** Engage event participants mentally and potentially, physically.
- **Activate:** Reimagine the event routes and become a destination for event participants.
- **Event Enrichment:** Draw attention to **Car-Free Earth Day**'s mission to promote environmental protection and education surrounding climate change, pollution, and sustainable modes of transportation and/or underscore **Summer Street**'s mission to celebrate New York City's streets.

## Artistic Merit

- Proposed artwork demonstrates art/design excellence and is appropriate for the public realm.
- Artist's past work demonstrates proficiency in the proposed medium including design, fabrication, and implementation.
- Artist has exhibited in the public or private realm and participated in team and/or community-based art projects.
- Previous experience demonstrates connection to event's goals.
- Previous experience demonstrates ability to collaborate on a team-based project.

## Site Suitability

- Artwork is suitable for the public realm based on size, scale, and form.
- Proposal considers the variety of audiences at the event.
- Artwork is moveable and/or can be easily installed and removed each event date.

## Artwork Durability

- Artwork will be made of durable materials to withstand outdoor weather conditions; events will be held rain or shine.
- Artwork is carefully planned, ensuring sound fabrication and installation.

## Public Safety

- Artwork does not introduce any safety hazards for pedestrians and cyclists at events or along event route(s).

A strong proposal considers the access needs of people with disabilities.

# Legal Information

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## About NYC DOT Art

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The New York City Department of Transportation's art program, NYC DOT Art, partners with community-based, nonprofit organizations and professional artists to present temporary public art on NYC DOT property throughout the five boroughs for up to eleven months. Artists transform streets with colorful murals, dynamic projections and eye-catching sculptures. Sidewalks, fences, triangles, medians, bridges, jersey barriers, step streets, public plazas and pedestrianized spaces serve as canvases and foundations for temporary art. Since 2008, NYC DOT Art has produced over 530 temporary artworks citywide. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/dotart](https://nyc.gov/dotart) and [@nyc\\_DOTArt](https://twitter.com/nyc_DOTArt).

## Additional Legal Information

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Please note the following:

- This RFP is not intended as a formal offering for the award of a contract or for participation in any future solicitation;
- NYC DOT does not intend to grant or issue any additional agreements on the basis of this RFP;
- NYC DOT, the City and their officials, agents and employees make no representation or warranty and assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the information set forth in this RFP;
- No information contained in submissions shall be deemed confidential and such information may be shared with other governmental entities. Therefore, please do not submit any information that may be deemed proprietary in nature;
- Neither NYC DOT nor the City shall be liable for any costs incurred by any respondent in the preparation, submittal, presentation or revision of its submission. Neither NYC DOT nor the City shall be obligated to pay and shall not pay any costs in connection with the preparation of such submissions;
- All submissions shall become the property of NYC DOT and the City and shall not be returned; and
- NYC DOT at its sole discretion reserves, without limitation, the right to;
  - Withdraw the RFP at any time;
  - To discuss various approaches with one or more respondents (including parties not responding to the RFP); and
  - Change any terms of this RFP.

## Questions

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All inquiries regarding the Signature Events Art Interventions Request for Proposals should be sent to [arts@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:arts@dot.nyc.gov). Other inquiries regarding the Event and programming should be sent to [carfreenyc@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:carfreenyc@dot.nyc.gov) or [summerstreets@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:summerstreets@dot.nyc.gov).



# Appendix A

## Artwork Types and Examples



Molly Gambardella  
*Asphalt Asters*, 2025  
Broadway between 22nd and 21st Sts.,  
Manhattan



# Appendix A

## Artwork Types and Examples

### One Day Installation

#### Considerations:

- Installations must be easily installed and removed and may not remain installed following the event.
- Installations must be easily transported, installed, and removed following each event date.
- Installations must be stored in between event dates.
- Most available sites for art installations are concrete sidewalks or asphalt street spaces.
- Proposals should engage participants mentally and potentially physically, reimagine the route, become a destination for event participants and enhance and draw attention to the event's mission.



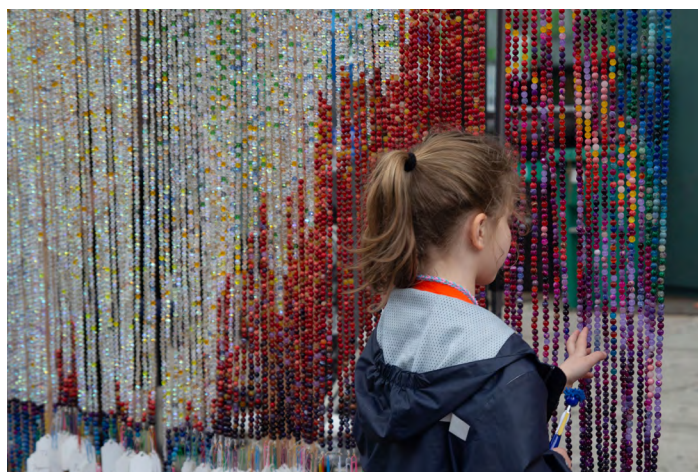
Natalie Collette Wood  
*EcoHarmony, 2024*



Acrylicize  
*Collective Bloom, 2025*



Molly Gambardella  
*Asphalt Asters, 2025*

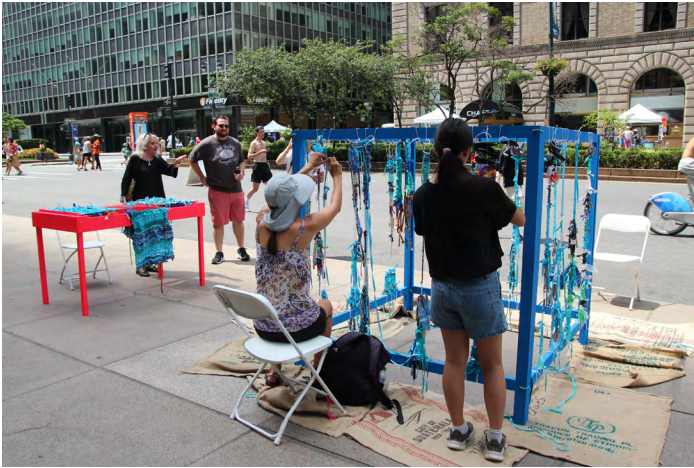


Anjali Deshmukh and Ernest Verrett  
*Rising. Curtains., 2025*



# Appendix A

## Artwork Types and Examples



**Cynthia Alberto**  
*Weaving Together, 2024*



**Risa Puno**  
*The Course of Emotions, 2013*



**Héctor Esrawe**  
*Los Trompos (Spinning Tops), 2016*



**Mookntaka**  
*Friends & Follies, 2025*



# Appendix B

## Past Signature Events





# Past Signature Events: Car-Free Earth Day





# Past Signature Events: Summer Streets

