

NYC DOT Art Partners

Request for Proposals

Inspire Your Community Through Public Art



RFP released February 2025

Downtown Brooklyn Partnership and BOICUT
1Fluss
Pedestrianized Shared Street (Brooklyn)
Photo Credit: Argenis Taveras

About NYC DOT Art

New York City Department of Transportation Art (NYC DOT Art) partners with community-based nonprofit organizations and professional artists to present temporary public artwork on eligible NYC DOT infrastructure throughout the five boroughs. Asphalt, bridges, fences, jersey barriers, medians, plazas, sidewalks, step streets, streetlight poles, and triangles serve as canvases and foundations for temporary murals, projections, sculptures, and interventions.

In addition, NYC DOT Art coordinates conservation and maintenance of NYC DOT's permanent art collection and collaborates with the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) Percent for Art Program to commission permanent art as part of the Percent for Art law.

For more information about NYC DOT Art, visit nyc.gov/dotart.

About NYC DOT Art Partners

NYC DOT Art Partners (formerly “Arterventions”) invites arts and community-based organizations (the “partner organizations”) to exhibit temporary artwork such as murals, sculptures or interventions on NYC DOT property in collaboration with professional artists (the “artists”). Partner organizations interested in displaying temporary artwork that is newly commissioned or existing must obtain necessary permits. Partner organizations and/or artists are responsible for funding these projects.

Examples of partner organizations include Business Improvement Districts, nonprofits, galleries, artist-in-residence programs, arts councils, museums, cultural institutions, community centers, and other nonprofit community-based organizations.

For examples of past projects, reference [Appendix B: Recent NYC DOT Art Partners Projects](#).

For additional photos and information on past installations, visit: [flickr.com/nycstreets/collections](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nycstreets/collections/).

Site Type Eligibility

NYC DOT Art provides a list of example site types to guide selection of specific locations for installations ([Appendix A: Example Site Types](#)). Interested partner organizations are required to identify a NYC DOT location for their proposed installation based on the list of eligible site types. If a site has an existing maintenance partner, they must be aware of proposal before submission. When selecting a potential site for artwork, consider the following guidelines:

Size+Safety

The site is large enough to accommodate artwork, and the addition of artwork will not impede pedestrian circulation or introduce any public safety hazards.

Visibility+Accessibility

The site is accessible to a diverse audience, in close proximity to public transportation, and adjacent to a mixed used corridor.

Site Enhancement+Significance

The site is historically or geographically relevant to the community.

For additional information, applicants are encouraged to review the [NYC DOT Art Site Selection Guide](#) available at nyc.gov/dotart.

Project Display Period

Temporary installations typically remain on display for three to six months with a maximum display period of eleven months. For plazas or other similar sites, the maximum display period may be reduced given other special events and activities organized by local maintenance partners. Temporary installations may be organized as part of an exhibition, festival, or citywide event.

Application Submission Timeline

NYC DOT Art accepts proposals from partner organizations on a rolling basis throughout the year. Interested partner organizations are required to submit a **complete application at least 90 days in advance** of the proposed installation date. Applications for electrified artwork must be submitted 120 days in advance of the proposed installation date.

Applicants may submit project inquiries in advance of formal application submission to arts@dot.nyc.gov.

Application Review Process

All applications are reviewed by the NYC DOT Art Advisory Committee, a panel of appointed arts professionals from varying disciplines, based on the following selection criteria:

Public Safety

- Proposal does not present any public safety hazards.

Artistic Merit

- Proposed artwork is aesthetically pleasing and appropriate for the public realm.
- Artist's past work and resume demonstrate proficiency in the proposed medium.
- Artist has experience exhibiting in the public realm.

Site Suitability

- Artwork is suitable for the site based on size, scale, and form.
- Proposal considers the variety of audiences at the site and if applicable, addresses accessibility requirements.

Organizational Capacity

- Partner organization agrees to monitor and maintain the artwork.
- Partner organization has secured funding to meet the overall budget.

Artwork Durability

- Artwork is made of durable materials to withstand outdoor weather conditions.
- If applicable, partner organization is willing to secure a NYS licensed engineer to review and approve the proposed installation method.

Proposals that include commercial advertising, branding, or marketing will not be approved.

Next Steps

Following preliminary application approval from the NYC DOT Art Advisory Committee, the project team meets to finalize a project schedule and review installation plan, project materials, and/or engineering and technical assessments. NYC DOT Art staff, a representative from the partner organization, the artist, and other NYC DOT staff make up the project team.

Requirements of Partner Organizations

NYC DOT provides the necessary permits to install artwork on property owned by the City of New York (the “City”). All selected partner organizations must sign an agreement with NYC DOT and provide the following insurance naming the City as an additional insured information:

- Commercial general liability (CGL) insurance for no less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence for bodily injury (including death) and property damage. The CGL insurance shall also include a general aggregate limit of at least Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) and apply on a per-occurrence basis.
- CGL policies must name the City of New York and its officials and employees as Additional Insured. Workers’ Compensation insurance, Employers’ Liability insurance, and Disability Benefits insurance in compliance with the laws of the State of New York.
- Commercial Automobile Liability insurance (if applicable) in the amount of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per accident (combined single limit) for claims arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of any owned, non-owned or hired vehicles.

In addition to signing the agreement, the partner organization is responsible for:

- Overseeing transportation and installation of the artwork;
- Maintaining the installation during the display period;
- Removing the artwork at the conclusion of the display period; and
- Restoring the site to its original condition upon removal of the artwork.

Additional requirements depending on installation type may include:

- Hiring a NYS licensed engineer to prepare a signed and sealed technical report (sculpture and electrified artwork).
- Hiring a NYC licensed electrician to prepare electrical drawings (electrified artwork).
- Other reports and specifications may be necessary depending on design.
- Setting up a billable account with Consolidated Edison (electrified artwork).
- Submitting material list (mural/painted design).

The artist will receive credit, sole ownership, and copyright of the installation but is required to extend the City with the right to a royalty-free, perpetual license to use any depiction of the installation for non-commercial purposes.

Additional Information

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, officers, 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.
- NYC DOT at its sole discretion reserves the right, without limitation:
 - Withdraw the RFP at any time;
 - Discuss various approaches with one or more respondents (including parties not responding to the RFP); and
 - Change any terms of this RFP.

Questions

All inquiries regarding NYC DOT Art Partners should be sent to arts@dot.nyc.gov.

Appendix A

Example Site Types



Garment District Alliance and Chakaia Booker
Shaved Portions
Broadway between 39th Street and 40th Street
(Manhattan)

Appendix A: Example Site Types

NYC DOT infrastructure is categorized and defined into distinct classifications known as site types. Site types that are eligible for temporary public art installation may serve as canvases and foundations for murals, projections, sculptures, and interventions. Interested partner organizations are invited to propose NYC DOT-owned infrastructure within their communities as potential sites for temporary art.

Before proposing a site, applicants are required to review the full [Site Selection Guide](#) available for download at nyc.gov/dotart. The guide provides supplemental information including typical elements found at a site, site requirements and recommendations, potential artwork installations associated with each site type, and photo examples. For questions about a specific site(s) for temporary artwork, email arts@dot.nyc.gov.

Asphalt Pedestrian Space

Asphalt pedestrian spaces are car-free street segments reclaimed to improve pedestrian safety and increase accessibility (e.g., larger curb extensions and slip lane closures).

Bridge: Concrete Wall

A bridge allows pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles to cross over or under water, railway tracks, greenways or highways. Concrete walls enclosing the bridge may be utilized for art.

Bridge: Anchorage & Archway

A bridge anchorage is composed of the two outer sides of a bridge that are grounded on land, providing support for the structure as it spans across a body of water, a roadway, a railroad, etc.

Fence

A fence is a barrier that encloses an area and restricts movement in and out of a NYC DOT-owned space. Corrugated metal or chain-link fences enclose these spaces.

Plazas

NYC DOT plazas are vibrant, social public spaces created by reclaiming and redesigning underutilized street segments as places for pedestrian use. NYC DOT partners with community groups to operate, maintain and manage these spaces. Applicants must obtain support from plaza maintenance partners to display artwork at a plaza. For a [full list of plazas](#), visit nyc.gov/plazas.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are paved, concrete paths designed for pedestrian use, which are located between the roadside curb and adjacent property lines.

Step Street

A step street is a large concrete pedestrian staircase that rests on a hill connecting two streets.

Streetlight Pole

Streetlights provide light for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles on bridges, walkways, bikeways, plazas and parks. The poles are located adjacent to the curb.

Triangles + Medians

Triangles and medians are raised divides separating traffic lanes, roadway directions or roadbeds within a street.

Concrete Jersey Barrier

Concrete jersey barriers are safety divides placed along bike lanes or pedestrian walkways to separate and protect cyclists and pedestrians from vehicular traffic.

Appendix B

Recent NYC DOT Art Partners Projects



Union Square Partnership and Talisa Almonte
Flowing Together
14th Street Busway (Manhattan)
Photo Credit: Jane Kratochvil

Addisleigh Park Civic Organization, Shenna Vaughn, and William Bentley

The Butterfly Mural

Murdock Avenue and 180th Street (Queens)



Garment District Alliance and Joy Brown

Animal with Rider

Broadway between West 39th Street and West 40th Street (Manhattan)



Flatbush Development Corporation and Vaimoana Niumeitolu

Newkirk Cultural Bridge

Corrugated fences at Foster Avenue between Marlborough Road and East 16th Street (Brooklyn)



Downtown Jamaica Partnership and LeMonde Studio

The Big Apple

Parsons Boulevard (Queens)



NYC DOT Art Partners

Application Form

General Proposal Information

Submission Date: _____

Partner Organization: _____

Artist Name: _____

Site Location: _____

Project Title: _____

Proposed Installation Date: _____

Materials should be emailed to arts@dot.nyc.gov. All items must be included as part of the submission package or applications will not be reviewed.

- NYC DOT Art Partners Application Form;
- No more than three (3) site photographs in jpeg format (resolution of 72 to 150 dpi);
- No more than four (4) project renderings that represent the artwork to be presented at the proposed site subject to internal NYC DOT operational division review for site-specificity that includes: to-scale site plan, sketches, and/or Photoshop renderings;
- If submitting an existing artwork for review, no more than four (4) photographs of proposed artwork in jpeg format (resolution of 72 to 150 dpi) 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;
- No more than four (4) photographs of past artwork examples in jpeg format (resolution 72 to 150 dpi) 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;
- Partner Organization support letter; and
- Funding commitment letter that includes: list of secured and/or anticipated funders.

NYC DOT Art Partners

Application Form

Partner Organization Information

Partner Organization Name: _____

Executive Director: _____

Contact Name & Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please limit all answers to 300 words.

Organizational Background Provide your organization's mission statement.

Site Selection Describe your organization's interest in commissioning an artwork for the selected site.

Context

Describe how the proposed temporary art installation fits into your organization's public programming goals.

Project Description Describe the overall concept and approach for the proposed artwork.

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Artist Information

Artist Name: _____

Artist Website: _____

Artist Statement: Describe the conceptual framework of the artist's practice.

Artwork Information

Artwork Title: _____

Artwork Type:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture/3-Dimensional | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Art |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mural and/or Painted Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Art Projection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Signage | <input type="checkbox"/> Art Display Case |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (if "Other" please describe): _____ | |

Materials: _____

Estimated Total Project Budget: _____

How much funding is already committed to the project? _____

Project Schedule Provide a tentative schedule for implementation.

Proposed Installation Date: _____

Proposed Display Period (months): _____

Proposed Removal Date (*Note: Proposed display periods may not exceed eleven months*): _____

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Fabrication: Describe the fabrication including a list of relevant materials.

Installation and Removal: Describe the installation and removal methods and include a list of relevant materials, hardware, and equipment required to install and remove the artwork.

Engineering (sculptural works only): List the name of the NYS licensed engineer or engineering firm to be hired to review the proposed installation method. A signed and sealed technical memo prepared by a NYS licensed engineer is required after project approval which will determine project installation date.

Electrical (electrified works only): List the name of the NYC licensed electrician to be hired to review the proposed installation method. An electrical engineering report prepared by a NYC licensed electrician is required after project approval which will determine project installation date. Electrified artwork on display for more than 60 days requires external coordination with Consolidated Edison.

Maintenance: Describe the proposed maintenance plan to monitor and maintain the artwork throughout the display period and include any potential maintenance concerns given the proposed materials.

If submitting an existing artwork for review, fill out the following section. For in-progress artwork fill out the following information with the best possible estimation.

Dated: _____

Medium: _____

Height: _____ **Width:** _____ **Depth:** _____ **Weight:** _____

Current Ownership and/or Current Location: _____