

Mural Artist

Request for Qualifications 2026



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Mural Artist Request for Qualifications

All interested US-based artists are eligible to submit past work examples in response to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the opportunity to be selected to develop and install temporary murals. Artwork will remain installed for a minimum of one month and a maximum of 11 months. Projects commissioned through this RFQ will be site-specific and installed on NYC DOT property as selected by NYC DOT Art. Projects will be funded and managed by NYC DOT Art.

Mural sites may include Asphalt Art Activations, Barrier Beautification, or Special Projects including wall murals and other site types.

- **Asphalt Art Activations:**

As part of NYC DOT's efforts to make our streets more pedestrian friendly, the agency reclaims underutilized street space for pedestrian use. NYC DOT Art commissions temporary art treatments that will be painted onto pedestrianized asphalt spaces, transforming them from ordinary asphalt spaces into canvases for public art. Spaces range on average from 1,000 to 10,000 square feet, but may exceed this range, and could include curb extensions, slip lane closures, public plazas, or other pedestrianized roadways.

- **Barrier Beautification:**

NYC DOT Art commissions temporary murals along concrete jersey barriers to enhance the safety treatments that add protection to bike lanes and pedestrian walkways throughout New York City. The overall length of each barrier site will vary based on the barriers' operational function. The dimensions of each individual barrier are approximately 20 feet in length by 3 feet in height. Most barrier sites will be between 200 and 800 running feet.

- **Special Projects: Wall Murals and Other Site Types:**

All NYC DOT Art projects are installed on eligible NYC DOT infrastructure, which is most often asphalt space or concrete barriers. In some cases, NYC DOT may commission artists to paint priority spaces on other surfaces including concrete bridge walls, step streets, fences, or other vertical spaces. Please note that these spaces are much more limited.

Application and Deadline

Interested US-based artists are invited to submit a single application by **February 8, 2026 at 11:59pm EST** through our Submittable portal at nycdotart.submittable.com/submit.

Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet the requirements will not be considered.

Selection Process

The NYC DOT Art Advisory Committee and a project-specific selection jury shall review and identify artists to be included in an artist registry based on the following criteria:

- Past artwork demonstrates proficiency in design and ability to translate the design into a final mural;
- Previous experience demonstrates ability to collaborate with a large agency on a public project;
- Previous experience demonstrates ability to collaborate with community groups and the public to incorporate community feedback into final design; and
- Artist resides in the United States. Local artists living in New York City and the Tri-State Area will receive priority consideration. International artists are not eligible.

When a project site becomes available, NYC DOT Art shall review the artist registry and invite up to five of the shortlisted artists to participate in a phone interview to discuss the potential project site, and to better acquaint the agency with the artist's past work and artistic process. This group of artists may also be required to develop a conceptual design proposal for review. Final selection shall be based on the written responses to the RFQ application, the phone interview, and, if applicable, the conceptual design proposal.

Upon selection, each artist shall develop a final site-responsive design for implementation at a designated project site within a minimum of one month of notification. As additional project sites become available throughout the year, NYC DOT Art will review the artist registry and contact shortlisted artists to respond to these opportunities. Artists may be considered for multiple projects but may only be commissioned once per fiscal year.

Project Scope

Selected artists for mural projects will be responsible for the following:

- Complete one conceptual design and, once approved, complete one final design for a site designated by NYC DOT Art for review and approval;
- Develop an implementation plan and material list to be reviewed by NYC DOT Art;
- Paint the design with support from a group of the artist's own assistants and/or volunteers; and
- Selected artists may be asked to participate in public engagement initiatives.

Artists should consider past project examples to understand the types of designs that are most successful for each project type in the public realm ([See Appendix A: Project Site Types](#)).

Project Fees

NYC DOT Art may provide selected artists with up to \$20,000 towards direct project costs dependent on project scope, including but not limited to all labor, paint, materials, and equipment. All selected artists are entitled to an artist fee not to exceed 20% of the total budget but may also be entitled to a labor fee. NYC DOT Art will provide the necessary permits to install on City-owned property. Funds may not be used to cover travel nor accommodations.

All artists will be required to enter into a legal agreement with NYC DOT, and in order to receive payment, will be required to submit a W9 form, Doing Business Form, quote form, and invoices. Payments are made based on deliverables. The legal agreement must be signed in advance of receiving any payments. As per the agreement, the artist receives credit, sole ownership, and copyright of the final design and artwork, but is required to extend to the City the right to a royalty-free, perpetual license to use any depiction of the artwork for non-commercial purposes.

About NYC DOT Art

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 and [@nyc_DOTArt](#) on Instagram.

Additional Legal Information

Please note the following:

- This RFQ 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 RFQ;
- 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 RFQ;
- 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 RFQ at any time;
 - Discuss various approaches with one or more respondents (including parties not responding to the RFQ); and
 - Change any terms of this RFQ.

Questions

All questions may be emailed to arts@dot.nyc.gov.

Appendix A

Project Site Types



Shenna Vaughn and William Bentley
The Butterfly Mural, 2024

Asphalt Art Activations

Pedestrian Walkways

Considerations:

- Project sites range on average from 1,000 to 10,000 square feet, but may exceed this range.
- Artists must prep and prime site ahead of painting.
- Installation should be completed within one to two weeks, weather permitting.
- Exterior grade water-based paints and primers must be used.

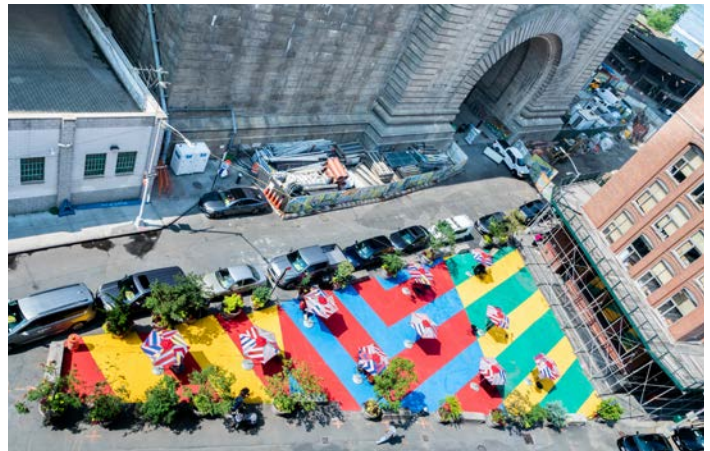


Emily Eldridge
Playscape, 2025
44th Avenue between Junction Boulevard and National Street, Queens

Pedestrian Plazas



Fernanda Contreras and LAGCC Faculty and volunteers
Keep It Movin'!, 2025
29th Street between 47th Street and Skillman Avenue, Queens



Liz Collins
Power Point, 2022
Pedestrian Plaza, Pearl Street Triangle, Brooklyn

Curb Extensions



Chenlin Cai
The Beauty of Four Life Essentials, 2024
St. James Place and Pearl Street, Manhattan



Craig Anthony Miller
UpFlow, 2024
Williams Avenue and Stanley Avenue, Brooklyn

Barrier Beautification

Considerations:

- Concrete barriers will be painted along bike or pedestrian lanes, and will not be painted facing vehicular traffic.
- Designs with repeating patterns created using stencils are recommended.
- Barriers are 3 feet high and each section is approximately 20 feet in length. Full project dimensions vary.
- Exterior grade water-based paints and primers must be used.



Cat Willett

Strong/Soft as a Cliff Rose, 2019
7th Avenue between 67th Street and
Bay Ridge Parkway, Brooklyn



Isolina Minjeong

Lucky Passage, 2024
Park Row between Frankfort Street and Pearl Street,
Manhattan



Josh Cochran

Unfurling, 2025
Harlem River Driveway between 155th Street and
John T. Brush Stairway, Manhattan



Otra Ciudad

Chromatic Circles, 2020
Franklin Street between Quay Street and
North 14th Street, Brooklyn



Marie-Saint-Cyr

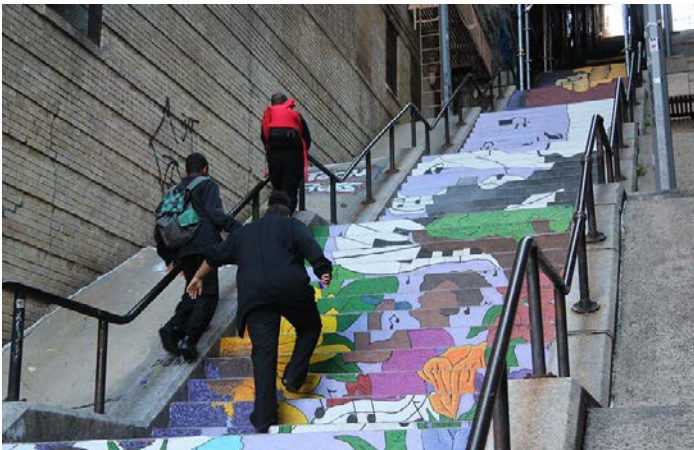
Caribbean Breeze, 2021
Columbia Street between Atlantic Avenue and
Congress Street, Brooklyn

Special Projects: Wall Murals and Other Site Types

Considerations:

- Surfaces may include bridge or under/overpass walls, staircase step fronts, corrugated metal fences, or mounted panels.
- These sites are less common.
- Exterior-grade water-based paints and primers must be used.
- Site dimensions will vary.

Step Street Stairs



Yorknam Lam, Chloe Huang, and Natalie Caro
Beautifying the Shakespeare Stairs, 2023
The Shakespeare Step Street at West 167th Street between
Anderson Avenue and Shakespeare Avenue, the Bronx

Corrugated Metal Fences



Mon Iker
Bee Present, 2025
Fence at Vernon Blvd. and Queens South Plaza, Queens

Underpass Walls



Marissa Molina, in partnership with Atlantic Avenue BID
and Thrive Collective
The Avenue, 2025
BQE underpass at Atlantic Avenue and
Columbia Street, Brooklyn

Bridge Walls



Masaki Hanahara, in partnership with Team DUMBO
Water Game, 2025
Adams Street between Prospect and York Streets

Mounted Panels



Sophia Dawson
Standing in the Gap, 2022
Front Street between Adams Street and Pearl Street, Brooklyn