

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art - Request for Qualifications

CALL TO ARTISTS

Project Location: Any one of six DOT plaza locations in NYC
Budget: \$100,000
Submission deadline: Monday, February 22, 2010 by 5:00pm EST

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) Percent for Art Program in conjunction with the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and Department of Transportation (DOT) invites artists to submit qualifications and letters of interest to be considered for panel review and the opportunity to be considered as finalists for the commission of permanent artwork for DOT plaza sites throughout the city. Over the course of Fiscal Years[†] 2010 and 2011, six artists will be selected to incorporate their permanent art and designs into one of six plaza locations.

Artist Eligibility

This project is open to all artists and collaborative artist teams, based locally, nationally, and internationally.

RESPONSE DUE DATE

The RFQ is formally issued on December 22, 2009. All responses must be received by the Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art program, Artist Image Registry, at the address specified below **no later than 5:00pm EST on February 22, 2010**. Submissions received after February 22, 2010 will be entered into the registry for review for other Percent for Art opportunities.

BACKGROUND

NYC Department of Transportation – Community Initiated Plaza Sites

These six plazas are a part of the NYC Plaza Program, a PlaNYC-initiated program that aims to improve the public realm in the city by reclaiming underutilized street space and redesigning them into successful public pedestrian plazas.

The Program allows nonprofits to apply to a competitive, community-based program that identifies sites for new or enhanced plazas to ensure that all New Yorkers live within a 10-minute walk of open space. As these plazas are capital construction projects, this Program incorporates permanent public artwork, according to the Percent for Art law.*

More information about the NYC Plaza Program is available here:
<http://www.nyc.gov/plazas>

[†] The City's fiscal year begins in July.

* The Percent for Art law (Local Law 65) requires a 1% allocation from the construction budgets of capital projects within city-owned sites towards the commission of permanent, public art. In the case of these DOT plazas, more than 1% of the construction budget was allocated to ensure that artworks have a visible impact on the plazas.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists will be selected for commissions based upon artists' interest in specific sites, experience, and the quality of past artworks reviewed in the first phase and the proposals developed during the second phase of this project. Artists' submissions will also be evaluated based on a demonstrated ability to translate art and design-based concepts into durable and safe materials that are compatible with design standards for permanent construction. Additionally, artists' materials will be reviewed for their appropriateness for these six sites.

PLAZA PROJECT LOCATIONS

Following are the sites for permanent art installations in selected locations throughout Brooklyn and Manhattan. Each plaza project site will be designed with input from the nonprofit partners and city agencies.

Knickerbocker Plaza

Location: Knickerbocker Ave (Knickerbocker between Myrtle and Greene), Bushwick, Brooklyn

Nonprofit partner: Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, Inc. (RBSCC)

Landscape Architects: Abel Bainsson Butz, LLP

Budget: \$100,000

Initial proposal for plaza: To create a plaza at the landing of the elevated train (M) station.

Pershing Square West Plaza Streetscape

Location: West side of Park Ave (between 41st and 42nd Streets) at Park Avenue South, Grand Central, Manhattan

Nonprofit partner: Grand Central Partnership (GCP)

Landscape Architects: TBD

Budget: \$100,000

Initial proposal for plaza: To create a permanent pedestrian plaza on the west side of Park Avenue from 41st Street to 42nd Street.

Humboldt Plaza and Streetscape

Location: Humboldt St (between Moore and Varet Streets), East Williamsburg, Brooklyn

Nonprofit partner: Brooklyn Economic Development Corp (BEDC)

Landscape Architects: Abel Bainsson Butz, LLP

Budget: \$100,000

Initial proposal for plaza: To expand the western sidewalk along Humboldt Street from Moore to Varet to provide an enhanced public space.

La Plaza De Las Americas

Location: 175th Street (between Broadway and Wadsworth Avenue), Washington Heights, Manhattan

Nonprofit partner: Washington Heights & Inwood Development Corporation (WHIDC)

Landscape Architects: TBD

Budget: \$100,000

Initial proposal for plaza: To convert a temporary street closure into a permanent plaza.

Forsyth Streetscape and Plaza

Location: Forsyth St (between Canal and Division Streets), Chinatown, Manhattan

Nonprofit partner: Renaissance Economic Development Corporation (REDC)

Landscape Architects: TBD

Budget: \$100,000

Initial proposal for plaza: To expand western sidewalk and, if feasible, create a plaza at the base of the Manhattan Bridge.

Myrtle Avenue Plaza and Streetscape

Location: Myrtle Avenue (between Grand Avenue and Emerson Place), Clinton Hill, Brooklyn

Nonprofit partner: Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project (MARP)

Landscape Architects: TBD

Budget: \$100,000

Initial proposal for plaza: To convert a two-block service road into a pedestrian plaza.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Percent for Art Image Registry

The Percent for Art Image Registry is an important component of the Percent for Art Program that allows artists to participate by maintaining a record of their work. The registry is reviewed by architects, panelists, and city agencies to select appropriate artists for each project. Percent for Art staff prepares a slide presentation from the registry for each panel meeting.

Image Registry Form

Artists who are interested in submitting their work for review may print out the registration form from the Percent for Art web site:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcla/html/panyc/form.shtml>

Download Image Registry Form ([WORD](#))

Download Image Registry Form ([PDF](#))

CD/DVD submissions only – please submit all information on a CD or DVD (PC format) which includes text and images formatted as follows:

Description	Format
Completed Registration Form	WORD or PDF document
Current resume	WORD or PDF document
An artist statement - if you are interested in a specific plaza location please clearly indicate this in your artist statement.	WORD or PDF document
Up to 20 images of past and recent work	JPEGs minimum 72 dpi <i>filename format: LASTNAME_ Firstname_Title</i>
List of images submitted including full descriptions For descriptions of public art installations, please also include location, commissioning agency and budget	WORD or PDF document <i>Title, Date, Medium, Dimensions (H x W x D), description of work, as applicable.</i>
DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL WORK	

Optional Application Materials

Artists who work in audio or video may also submit files on DVD or CD, or indicate their URLs in their resumes to review sound or media files.

Updating Files

If you have previously submitted to the DCLA Percent for Art registry you may update images if you wish, but it is not necessary. To ensure that your work is reviewed for any or all of these six plaza commissions, please fill out the registry form and mark it as an “UPDATE”. Also include an artist statement of interest for this particular project and any preference of sites.

It is an artist’s responsibility to update image and contact information in the Artist Registry. Please note, if an artist file has not been updated for three years, the Department of Cultural Affairs reserves the right to dispose of file materials. When updating, please submit a CD/DVD formatted as required above with recent images, list of images, an updated resume and press. If you wish for your file to be returned please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE).

WHERE TO SUBMIT

Submissions should be sent to the following address:

**Percent for Art, DOT Plazas
Department of Cultural Affairs
31 Chambers Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10007**

The Percent for Art Image Registry is open to any professional visual artist. There is no residency requirement for a Percent for Art Commission. Please fill out the application according to the instructions on the form and send it with your submission materials to DCLA. If you are interested in being considered for one or more of the sites outlined in this RFQ, please indicate this in your brief cover letter.

ARTIST SELECTION

Artist Selection

The artist selection process will occur over the course of Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 (i.e. July 2009-June 2010). Selection will take place in following phases:

- Each commission will begin with a first panel comprised of arts professionals and stakeholder representatives who will review a pool of artists' qualifications and letters of interest. Four finalists per site will be invited to develop conceptual proposals for specific sites.
- Following the first panel review, finalists will be informed of the panel's selection. Finalists will be invited to participate in an orientation meeting with the project team. Finalists' proposals will be due six to eight weeks following the orientation.
- The selection panel will reconvene to review artists' proposals, which will be conducted in person or remotely depending on artists' residency. The panel will select one artist per site to be awarded the commission.
- Artists will be informed of the final selection within a week of the final artist selection panel. Artists will contract with the project architect.

Design Review

Each commissioned artist will be required to present their artwork for review by project stakeholders (city agencies as well as the local nonprofit partner) at several stages within the project. Additional reviews by the Public Design Commission of the City of New York will take place at the conceptual and preliminary phases of design. More information about the Design Commission's review process is available here: <http://www.nyc.gov/designcommission>

Contracts

Each commissioned artist will enter into a contract with the landscape architecture firm selected for the plaza. Artists will receive payments from the art allocation contingent on approval from the Public Design Commission, as outlined in the architect/artist contract, and in compliance with New York City procurement and payment requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

No phone calls please. If you require assistance contact us via email at NYCplazas@culture.nyc.gov.

New York City Percent for Art and Plaza Program

Existing Photos and Project Locations Map



Manhattan
**Pershing Square
West Plaza
Streetscape
Reconstruction**

The west side of Park Avenue
between East 42nd Street and
East 41st Street, 10016



Manhattan
**La Plaza De Las Americas
Reconstruction**

Between West 175th St, Broadway and Wadsworth
Avenue, 10033



Manhattan
**Forsyth Streetscape and Plaza
Reconstruction**

Forsyth Street from Canal Street to Division Street, 10002



Brooklyn
**Humboldt Plaza and Streetscape
Reconstruction**

Humboldt Street between Moore Street to Varet Street,
11206



Brooklyn
Knickerbocker Plaza Improvement

The intersection of Knickerbocker Avenue and Myrtle
Avenue, NW Corner, 11237

Brooklyn
**Myrtle Avenue
Plaza and Street
Reconstruction**

Myrtle Avenue between
Hall Street and Emerson
Place, 11205



Narrow median at bus stop