

Call for Art Installations

Soundview Economic Hub Space Activation

Announcement Date: February 12, 2023

[Pre-application Information Session:](#) February 22, 2023, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Submission Deadline: March 6, 2024, 11:59PM

Budget Range: \$3,000-\$10,000

Contacts: Madhur Bhadsavle (YMPJ) and Joel Hochman (Public Works Partners):

Summary and Background

Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ) is soliciting artists to propose temporary art installations to kickstart a vision for Soundview Economic Hub, a proposal to activate nearly 30,000 square feet of underutilized space under the Bruckner Expressway at Bronx River Avenue. YMPJ is seeking to highlight artists who love the Bronx, have experience developing public art installations, and are willing to share their talents with the world.

The Soundview Economic Hub (SEH) is a long-term proposal for an innovative space activation initiative to give South Bronx residents, entrepreneurs, and food growers a community-oriented space to manufacture goods and offer services that provide resources, employment, and educational opportunities. The proposed space will stimulate the local economy by providing incubator spaces and classrooms for food manufacturers, vendors, and service providers, while also serving as a nexus for wholesale food and urban agriculture.

YMPJ's approach to activating the space is grounded in the belief that free, vibrant public arts and cultural programming create a vital entry point for residents into larger advocacy initiatives. The proposed art installation will support efforts to fully activate this space by emphasizing the diversity of local culture.

As a first step, YMPJ is applying through NYC Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) to designate the 7,500 sq ft portion of the space closest to Bronx River Avenue as an official DOT plaza. This year's art installations will be installed as part of NYC DOT Art's Artventions Program, and will be at the center of the first pilot activations of this newly-designated DOT plaza space.

The final budget allocated will be determined based on various factors, including (but not limited to) the art medium and requisite fabrication/installation costs.

Considerations for Artists:

Site constraints and regulations will inform the type of art that can be permitted on site. Any artwork we install, either newly created or already-existing, is temporary: Artists can expect their work to be on display through the end of 2024, with the option to extend up to an 11-month display period.

We especially welcome proposals incorporating:

- Digitized 2D artwork for print onto vinyl adhesives



("I am a Stranger and I am Moving," Source: NYC DOT)

- Sculpture/3D works



("Social Block", Source: NYCDOT)

- Art displays



("In Their Hands: Women Taking Ownership of Peace." Source: NYC DOT)

- Vinyl banners and fence design interventions (e.g., yarn, zipties)



("Personal Mythologies," Source: NYC DOT)

Artists are encouraged to propose pieces that consider the following:

- Placemaking - Foster a sense of place through your installation
- Community Storytelling - Incorporate dialogue, history and storytelling in the conception of the installation
- Lighting - Consider how the proposed piece changes based on the amount of lighting available, both natural and artificial
- Durability - Propose an installation that is resilient to natural outdoor weathering
- Tactility - Conducive to physical interaction and active engagement by members of the public
- Mobility - Consider how the installation can be installed, moved, and de-installed in emergencies or at the end of the exhibition

Artists should also consider how their proposal reflect any of the following themes:

- Environmental justice and climate resiliency

- Gentrification, displacement, and affordable housing
- Community organizing and neighborhood culture of Soundview

Proposed Timeline (Subject to Change)

February 12, 2024 RFP Published

February 22, 2024, Pre-application info session
6-7pm

March 6, 2024 RFP Submission deadline

March 22, 2024 Artist selection notification

April 1, 2024 NYC DOT Art Artervention Program application submission

July 1-15, 2024 Installation Dates

September 2024 Kick-off event

December 2024 Deinstallation, with opportunity to extend permit up to 11 months

Application Instructions

Applicants must prepare and submit the following requirements via email (zip file) to madhur@ympj.org and jhochman@publicworkspartners.com by **11:59 PM (EST) on March 6th, 2024**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Submissions must include:

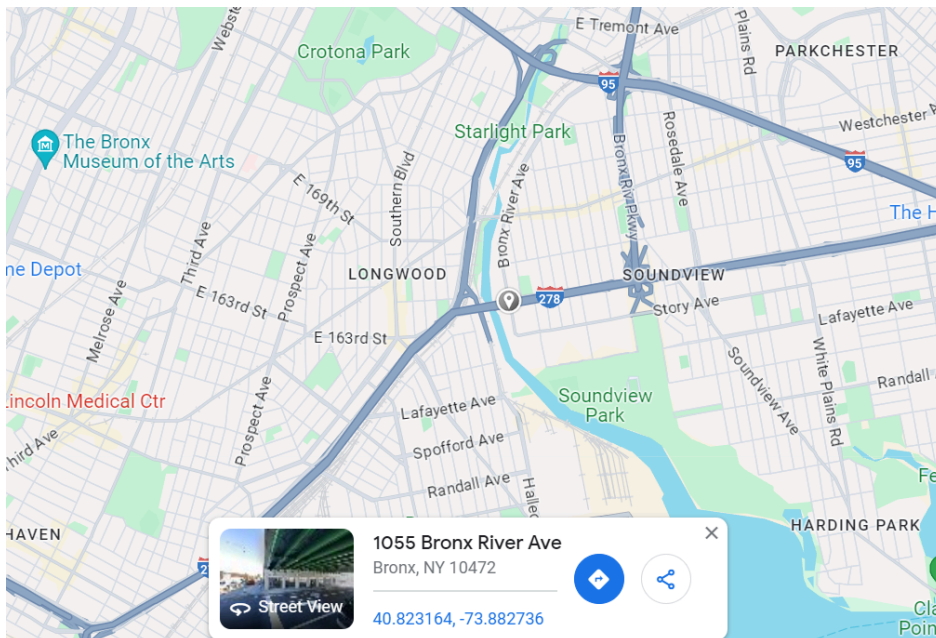
- **Artist Concept Statement:** (Max. 2 pages): Please include a brief description of your work, artistic vision, and the proposed artwork to be installed. Be sure to include:
 - **Brief description of the proposed art installation** - Describe the proposed installation. You may include sketches, drawings, renderings, or photographs if desired, but it is not a requirement at this phase. Your piece(s) should scale appropriately to designated art display areas. If proposing to install existing piece, include the space dimensions and approximate weight.
 - **Artist statement:** Highlight the concepts, themes, and ideas you explore and present in your practice, and any background experience that makes you a good fit for this project. If you have a relationship with Soundview or the Bronx, describe that here. Team applications should clearly describe the contribution of each collaborator.
 - **Artistic medium/materials** (e.g., light displays/projections, vinyl, photography, mural, painting, sculpture, mixed media, etc.). Include any potential maintenance concerns given the proposed materials.
 - **Fabrication/Installation requirements:** Clarify whether the piece already exists in some form or if it will need to be created. Describe the fabrication and installation methods and include a list of relevant materials, hardware and equipment required to produce and/or install the artwork.

- **Budget** – Include a simple, preliminary budget for any fabrication, material, transportation, and installation costs related to the proposal.
- **Resume:** (Max. 2 pages) Tell us about your professional experience and your accomplishments as an artist. If applying as a team, submit a maximum of four one-page resumes.
- **Work Samples:** Provide up to 4 photographs in jpeg format (resolution 72 to 150 dpi) or website links of past projects that relate to the project you are proposing. For each image submitted, list the title, date of completion, medium, dimensions, location, sale price or commission budget, description of artwork, and list of partners.
- ***If Existing Art*:** Provide up to 4 photographs of proposed artwork in jpeg format (resolution of 72 to 150 dpi) Include title, date of completion, medium, dimensions, location, sale price or commission budget, description of artwork, and list of partners.

Questions: Please attend and register for the [pre-application info session](#) on **February 22nd** to ask questions directly. Additional questions may be submitted via email to jhochman@publicworkspartners.org.

Location:

The art installation will take place within 7,500 square feet of underutilized space underneath the Bruckner Expressway facing Bronx River Avenue. Included are photos of the current site and anticipated areas for art installations:





The space between the existing fence and the first row of columns is 7,500 sq. ft.



We encourage proposals that incorporate the existing fence

Equipment & Technical Specifications

Artists are required to be on-site for setup with support provided by YMPJ. The technical specifications of the available equipment is as follows:

- Access to standard power outlet(s)
- Extension cord(s)
- Lighting
- Modular art displays
- Shipping Container (for storage)

If installation requires special equipment beyond the above, the artist will be responsible for providing it.

Durability, Safety, & Maintenance

Artists must consider the durability of the piece within the context of an enclosed but exposed space. YMPJ is responsible for maintaining the piece throughout the duration of the exhibition, but artists should consider the impact of safety, vandalism, and general wear-and-tear in their proposals.

Because this space is under the combined jurisdiction of the NYC DOT and New York State DOT, art pieces must be movable or easily disassembled upon reasonably short notice.

Although YMPJ will assume on-site display and storage responsibilities during the exhibition period, artists are responsible for transporting their pieces to and from the site under our supervision.

Artists must account for any short, medium, or long-term storage plans in the event of urgent NYC DOT or NYS DOT access.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

This call is open to artists, designers, artist teams, and community groups led by professional artists. Arts and design students will also be considered. Community groups must submit their application in conjunction with a professional artist or designer who meets the eligibility requirements.

Submissions that meet the eligibility requirements will be evaluated by a selection committee of art and design professionals and community representatives. Competitive proposals must first demonstrate adherence to NYC DOT Art Interventions program criteria at a minimum, including:

- **Public Safety:** Proposal presents no public safety hazards.
- **Artistic Merit:** Proposal is appropriate for the public realm. Artist's past work and resume demonstrate proficiency in the proposed medium and has experience exhibiting in the public realm.
- **Suite Suitability:** Artwork is suitable based on size, scale, and form, considers the variety of audiences at the site and if applicable, addresses Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.
- **Durability:** Artwork is made of durable materials that can withstand outdoor weather conditions.

Competitive proposals will be further evaluated according to:

- Overall impression of the application
- Connection of artist to Soundview or The Bronx
- Alignment with the Soundview Economic Hub program goals and with its architectural, historical, geographical, and cultural context
- Originality: creativity and uniqueness of the proposed design concept for this project

Budget

Artists or artists teams will be selected and awarded a stipend of up to \$10,000 for artwork, contingent on the fabrication and installation needs of the proposed piece. The budgeted amount will cover all costs associated with the project, including, but not limited to:

- Artist Fees
- Materials and Equipment
- Fabrication
- Transportation
- Installation

YMPJ is responsible for costs associated with permitting and government approvals. YMPJ will ensure to return art back to the artist upon completion of the temporary exhibit.