

Open Call: Sites of Beauty Art Installations

Deadline to apply: June 19, 2023

The City of Detroit has a vision for neighbors to feel connected to each other, to foster a sense of belonging, and have a collective say for what happens in their neighborhoods. Residents will have the opportunity to share their perspectives and bring their expertise to inform the artwork that will be created in their space, and that will provide inspiration to envision a positive future for themselves, their children, and the built environment.

The commission is being managed by City Walls Detroit in conjunction with Spacelab Detroit, The Parks and Recreation Department, Planning & Development Department (PDD), and the Arts, Culture, & Entrepreneurship Department (ACE).

Vision Statements:

Community/Arts Professionals:

Equitable beautification lies at the heart of the "Sites of Beauty" initiative, which seeks to enhance public parks in Detroit's neighborhoods through the integration of art installations and sculptures. With the City Walls community-driven approach, this project embraces the diverse culture and spirit of Detroit's residents, acknowledging the role of art in shaping neighborhood identity. As the teams spearhead this endeavor, the goals extend beyond mere aesthetics; they aim to create inclusive and engaging parks that reflect the unique character of each park in each of the city's seven council districts. By moving forward with this vision, we envision a future where art plays a central role in enriching public space and fostering a sense of pride and belonging among residents.

Detroit Parks & Recreation:

To improve the quality of life for all Detroiters through parks, greenways, recreation centers, and programs, using an equity framework.

ACE:

If the Office of Arts, Culture and Entrepreneurship had a motto, it would be "*Beauty and Business.*" The goal of the office, Detroit ACE, is to raise awareness about how talented Detroit's creative workforce is and to increase opportunities for our fine and performing artists to work, be successful and be recognized for their excellence. The *Sites of Beauty* project is just one more way that ACE is happy to collaborate with others to pair artists with neighbors to make Detroit look and feel like the city residents deserve.

City Walls Detroit:

As we have learned through the pandemic, outdoor public spaces are our most important spaces. Even when we couldn't be with each other we could be outside. It's now more important than ever to ensure our public spaces are healthy, safe, inviting, and empowering. What we see plays a pivotal role in how we see. Our built environment influences who we are, how we feel, and what we become. This project aims to harness public space and help to ensure we continue to move in that direction.

City of Detroit Planning & Development Department:

The City of Detroit's Planning & Development Department envisions a healthy and beautiful Detroit, built on inclusionary growth, economic opportunity, and an atmosphere of trust. As part of that vision, we hope to create inspirational art throughout each of the Seven Council Districts. We also hope to see some 3-d installations, where sculpture can be included as part of the installations. These spaces will be integrating a multifaceted approach to enhancing public space by focusing on an essential urban element: such as the city wall of a prominent structure, front door entrances, park entrances, trail heads of bike lanes, and other civic spaces. "The Sites of Beauty" project will help local artists express the personality of the neighborhood's past, present, and future. This beautification effort is a strategy that will undoubtedly be embedded in the fabric of the community.

The Project

Project Location Scope

Locations will be located throughout the city and the size of selected work will vary.

- Alkebu-lan Village
- Meade Cut Thru
- Conner Creek Greenway
- Maheras Gentry Park
- Piwok Park
- Dexter Elmhurst
- Bailey Park

Project Schedule

- May 29, 2023: Call to Artist Released
- June 15, 2023: Deadline for Questions
- June 19, 2023: Deadline to Submit
- Late July 2023: Selected Artist Announced
- September 2023: Art Install Begins

Artist Scope of Work

Artist/Artist Team Responsibilities:

- The selected artist/artist team will be required to work in collaboration with City of Detroit. Artist/artist teams should be prepared to share their personal practice with the community as this is inherently a group project.
- Conducting research to better understand the site, the project, the community's history and current culture, along with any other elements deemed helpful to their creative process
- Develop concepts and renderings for the project site
- Present concepts and refinements
- Create a final approved concept and design
- Fulfill the responsibilities within the contracted budget and timeline
- Participate in an unveiling

City Walls Detroit responsibilities:

- Coordinate reviews and permissions regarding artist selection and concept development
- Coordinate marketing, documentation, and public engagement
- Assist in the coordinating applicable permits and right of entry for install

Budget

The overall budget: \$69,565 per Project

This budget is all-inclusive, including but not limited to artist's fees, artist's assistant costs, artist's studio costs, materials and supplies, installation, specify consultants, and community engagement participation.

Artist Selection Process

Eligibility

We are seeking artists or artist teams who can make a commitment to working in Detroit as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this project. Any artist or artist team is encouraged to apply.

Process

This will be an open call. Qualifications, portfolios, and statements will be solicited by City Walls Detroit. City Walls Detroit and its selection panel will review the artist submission and identify one artist/artist team per project to be selected for the project. There are a total of 7 projects available.

Selection Criteria

Winning artists/artist team will be selected based on the section panel’s evaluation of the following criteria:

Points	
10	Experience in Community Engagement
10	Artist Statement
10	Detroit Based Artist
20	Preliminary Sketch/Project Proposal
25	Ability to accomplish projects of a similar complexity within the budget, timeline, and technical constraints presented, based on examples of prior works
25	Experience in Creating Permanent, Durable, Outdoor Public Artwork
Total	100

The Selection panel consists of 1 member from each category below:

- Parks and Recreation Department
- City Walls
- PDD
- ACE
- Arts Professional in District 1
- Arts Professional in District 2
- Arts Professional in District 3
- Arts Professional in District 4
- Arts Professional in District 5
- Arts Professional in District 6
- Arts Professional in District 7

Application

Along with completing the online form, interested artist/artist team should submit:

- A project brief page including the name(s) and contact information
- Structure Installation Plan
- Structure Maintenance Plan
- Structure Fabrication Timeline
- List of proposed materials
- Scale drawing or model of the proposed project.
- A CV or resume for each artist (1 page per artist)
- Up to 3 images of past work you consider relevant to this project (JPEG & Unlocked/Downloadable)

- Upload 1 sheet with the following information per image
 - Image name
 - Title of artwork
 - Location
 - Date of completion
 - Budget
 - Medium
 - Dimensions
 - Up to 4 sentences of project description
- 2 references of previous public art clients
- Up to 3 images of preliminary designs for the project
 - All Digital images must be JPEG files
 - Each image must be unlocked and downloadable for viewing

Additional information will be required of finalists including, but not limited to:

1. Conducting Research: Exploring different materials and techniques that align with the vision for the space. The proposed exhibit must be evaluated to be feasible, with convincing evidence of the sponsor's ability to mount the exhibit as proposed. Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to: project budget, timeline, the artist's experience, soundness of materials, The proposed exhibit must not impede the typical uses of the site.
2. Design Logistics: The exhibit must not present a safety hazard. It must comply with all applicable building codes and disability access requirements. Determining the appropriate size, scale, and location for the sculpture or installation. Consideration should be given to the environment and surroundings to ensure the artwork harmonizes with the space while also making a distinct visual impact.
3. Installation Plan: Sourcing specific materials, collaborating with fabricators or technicians, and/or acquiring the equipment needed for construction. **Attention should be paid to selecting durable materials that can withstand the elements due to artwork being displayed outdoors ensuring the overall integrity of the piece.**
4. Maintenance Plan: Finalists should provide guidelines or instructions to City Walls to ensure the artwork is properly preserved and protected over time. This may involve periodic maintenance, restoration, or necessary repairs to guarantee its longevity and continued impact.

If chosen we will require: Structural engineer drawings to ensure safety and stability of proposed installation.

Questions can be submitted to citywalls@detroitmi.gov