

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Neighborhood Art Project 2025-2026

Issue Date: Friday February 14th, 2025

Application Deadline: Monday March 17th, 2025

Honorarium: \$4,000 per artist (4 artists selected)



Chat Travieso, Boogie Down Booth, NYC



Various Photographers, Community Heros, NYC



Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong, AZIMUTH, NYC



Chhaya Community, Richmond Hill Art Hub, NYC



Nina Chanel Abney, NYC LOVE



Deborah Kass, OY/YO, NYC

I. Overview

The City of Lancaster invites proposals from local artists across all mediums for the Neighborhood Art Project. This year-long artist residency program encourages artists to use their creative practices to foster civic dialogue, elevate neighborhood concerns, and highlight cultural or historical stories that have been overlooked.

This program is designed to support a collective of local artists in creating temporary neighborhood art projects that engage residents in exploring the connections between art and civic government.

II. Project Goals

The Neighborhood Art Project seeks to:

1. Build connections between artmaking and local government to further the City's strategic priorities of Strong Neighborhoods, Safe Streets, Sustainable Economy, and Sound Government.
2. Support local artists in extending their studio practices into neighborhoods.
3. Encourage socially informed art projects that elevate and address the needs, wants, and concerns of City residents.
4. Use art and other non-traditional engagement methods to foster dialogue, create bonds, and deepen collective experiences.
5. Showcase cultural and historical stories that have previously gone unnoticed.
6. Form a cohort of diverse local artists committed to exploring community engagement through creative practice.
7. Task artists with creating signature art projects that address community needs, solve problems, and unite residents.
8. Provide artists with tools and resources to implement their projects effectively.

III. Artist Responsibilities

Selected artists will:

1. Choose one of the following project themes:
 - **Neighborhood Art**
 - **Cultural Art**
 - **Special Events-Based Art**
2. Research their chosen theme to explore its relevance to the City's needs.
3. Identify a neighborhood or location in the City aligned with their theme.
4. Geographically map tangible and intangible assets and resources within their chosen neighborhood.

5. Identify gaps and community needs through asset mapping to uncover creative solutions.
 6. Collaborate with residents to conceptualize and develop their signature Neighborhood Art Project.
 7. Prepare their project for installation.
 8. Work closely with Welcome Center staff and the Neighborhood Art Project manager to plan a community-engaging celebration of their work.
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IV. Artist Support

Artists will receive:

1. **Stipend and Funding:** Each selected artist will be provided a grant of \$4,000 to support project development and execution.
 2. **Resources and Tools:** Access to City resources, asset mapping guidance, and community engagement support.
 3. **Mentorship and Collaboration Opportunities:** Engagement with City officials, local stakeholders, and fellow artists in the cohort.
 4. **Exhibition and Celebration:** A platform to showcase their work and celebrate with the community.
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V. Proposal Requirements

Applicants must submit the following:

1. **Artist Statement:** Describe your artistic practice and interest in the Neighborhood Art Project.
2. **Proposed Theme and Approach:** Indicate your chosen theme and outline how your project will address community needs and foster engagement.
3. **Preliminary Project Concept:** Detail your proposed project, including:
 - Target neighborhood or location.
 - Approach to asset mapping and community engagement.

- Anticipated outcomes and community impact.
 - 4. **Portfolio:** Provide up to five examples of previous work that demonstrate your ability to execute community-focused projects.
 - 5. **Resume/CV:** Include relevant experience and qualifications.
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VI. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following:

1. Alignment with program goals and themes.
 2. Creativity and innovation in addressing community needs.
 3. Feasibility and clarity of the proposed project plan.
 4. Demonstrated ability to engage communities and foster dialogue.
 5. Artistic merits and relevance of past work.
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VII. Timeline

- **February 14th:** Call For Artist & Info Session at Lancaster Public Library. Details about information session will be released to the public via social media and upon request.
 - **March 17th:** Application Deadline
 - **March 31st:** Finalist Announced
 - **April 14th:** Artists Selected
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VIII. Submission Process

ALL SUBMISSION MATERIALS MUST BE FORMATTED AS .pdf FILES

Proposals must be submitted electronically to JBeltre@cityoflancasterpa.gov by March 17th, 2025. Please include “Neighborhood Art Project Proposal” in the subject line. For any questions or additional information, contact Joshua F. Beltre, Engagement Specialist for the Department of Neighborhood Engagement, Mobile (717) 791-9839.



APPLICATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

A complete application must be submitted by Monday, March 17th, 2025 at 11:59PM and must include the following materials:

- Completed application form
- Statement of interest
- Resume (optional)
- Drawing, sketches, and/or renderings of proposed work
- A written description describing proposed work
- Portfolio that includes 5-7 images of previous artwork relevant to the project scope

All submission materials MUST be formatted as .pdf files.

Submit materials via email to Joshua F. Beltre, Engagement Specialist, Department of Neighborhood Engagement at the following email address:

Joshua F. Beltre

Engagement Specialist, Department of Neighborhood Engagement

jbeltre@cityoflancasterpa.gov

(717) 719-1705

As an applicant for the 2025 Neighborhood Art Project, I certify that all works submitted are representative of my own work and are a product of my creation and no other. I further certify that all statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant signature: _____ **Date:** _____