

2015

191st Street Tunnel Beautification

Request for Qualifications

191 Street Subway Station 1



INTRODUCTION

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) is soliciting qualifications from artists who specialize in producing large-scale murals to beautify a nine hundred foot tunnel located in Washington Heights, Manhattan at 191st Street and Broadway (the “Tunnel”). DOT Art will select a minimum of four artists to paint murals within the Tunnel to create an attractive corridor for pedestrians walking to and from the 1 train at 191st Street.

The Tunnel is nestled within the Washington Heights community connecting Broadway and St. Nicholas Avenue to the 191st Street station. The station is one of the deepest in the New York City Subway system sitting approximately 180 feet below street level. Although the Tunnel connects to the MTA Subway System, the Tunnel is mapped as a street and is thus owned and maintained by DOT. The Tunnel has undergone several renovations since its construction with the most recent renovation completed by DOT in 2014. In an effort to continue revitalizing the Tunnel, DOT is interested in commissioning artists to produce temporary murals on the Tunnel walls. (Exhibit A: 191st Street Tunnel Site Background.)

In 2008, the DOT Art Program partnered with Groundswell Community Mural Project, the YM + YWHA of the Washington Heights and Inwood, and artist Belle Benfield to paint, “New York is a Roller Coaster” on the entrance to the Tunnel. A vivid tableau of the history and diversity found in Washington Heights was depicted as the number 1 train, “roller coaster,” zoomed around the Cloisters, past city works, and over the George Washington Bridge. DOT Art also partnered with City Year and over 100 volunteers to paint the interior of the Tunnel with simple, colorful motifs that corresponded to the entrance mural. (Exhibit B: Past 191st Street Tunnel Mural Project.)

PROJECT SCOPE

All interested artists with significant experience in producing large-scale murals are eligible to submit an application along with examples of past work to this open call.

Selected artists shall accomplish the following tasks:

- Complete one (1) conceptual design, and once approved, submit one (1) final design; and
- Paint a mural at a designated location within the Tunnel.

Murals will be implemented over one weekend in **mid-May**.

SITE SPECIFICATIONS

The Tunnel is located between Broadway and St. Nicholas Avenue at the entrance to the 191st Street Subway station. Selected artists will implement artwork at the Tunnel by June 2015. The total length of the Tunnel is 900 feet. Each artist will receive two wall segments measuring 200 feet in length and 10 feet in height.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The DOT Art Advisory Committee shall review and rank all submissions based on the following criteria:

- Past artwork demonstrates proficiency in design and implementation; and
- Previous experience demonstrates ability to collaborate on a team-based project with a government agency.

PROJECT FEES

Artists are eligible to receive up to \$15,000 toward direct project costs, including but not limited to an artist fee and all costs associated with materials, storage, transportation, etc.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please submit one (1) hardcopy of your proposal and one (1) copy on a CDROM or USB drive in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint or Adobe PDF format.

Submissions should consist of the following materials:

- 191st Street Tunnel Beautification Application Form; and
- No more than three (3) examples of past artwork in jpeg format (resolution of 72 to 150 dpi) and associated image list that includes: title, date of completion, medium, dimensions, location, sale price or commission budget, description of artwork, and list of partners.

Submitted materials will not be returned and incomplete applications will not be considered.

DEADLINE

Submissions must be postmarked no later than **Friday, March 20, 2015** to be considered. Hand delivered proposals **will not** be accepted. All questions should be emailed to arts@dot.nyc.gov no later than Friday, March 13, 2015. Selected artists will be notified no later than Wednesday, April 1, 2015. All submissions should be mailed to:

Emily Colasacco, DOT Art Program Director
NYC Department of Transportation, Design, Art and Wayfinding
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

ADDITIONAL 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;
- DOT does not intend to grant or issue any additional agreements on the basis of this RFQ;
- DOT, the City and their officials, officers, 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 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 DOT nor the City shall be obligated to pay and shall not pay any costs in connect with the preparation of such submissions;
- All submissions shall become the property of the DOT and the City and shall not be returned;
- NYCDOT at its sole discretion reserves, without limitation, the right to:
 - Withdraw the RFQ at any time;
 - To discuss various approaches with one or more respondents (including parties not responding to the RFQ); and
 - Change any terms of this RFQ.

Exhibit A: 191st Street Tunnel Site Background

Site Map and Current Photo

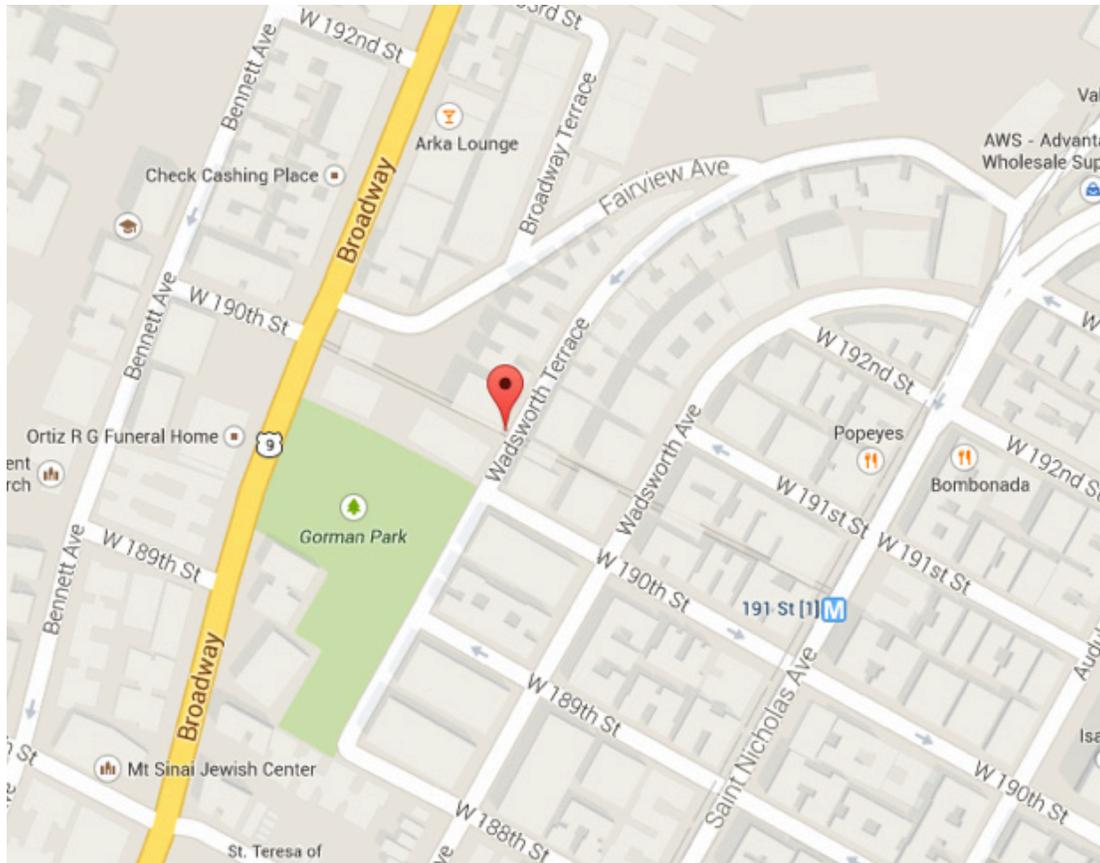
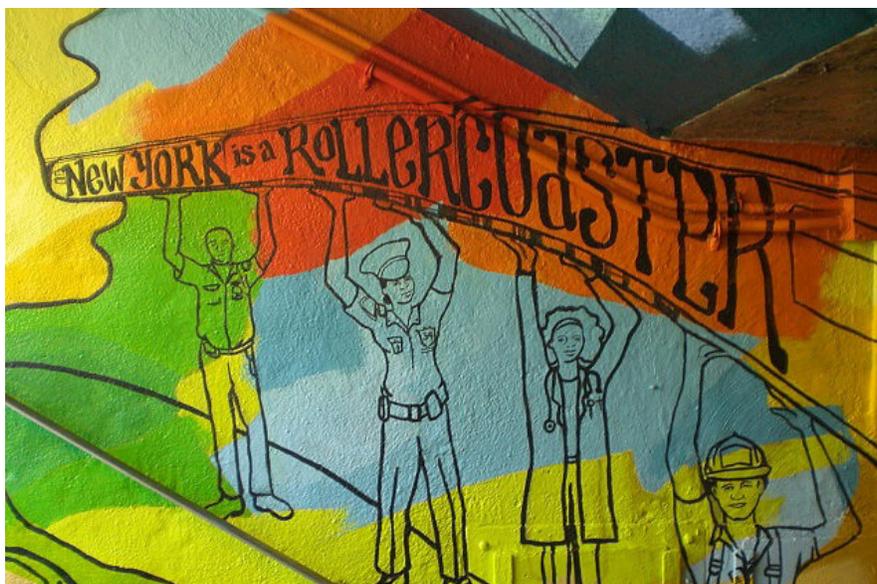


Exhibit A: 191st Street Tunnel Site Background

Current Site Photos



Exhibit B: Past 191st Street Tunnel Mural Project (2008)
Groundswell Community Mural Project and artist Belle Benfield



191st Street Tunnel Beautification

Application Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Artist name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Materials should be submitted as printed hardcopies and included on either a CD-ROM or USB flash drive. Proposals will be reviewed by a project-specific committee. All items must be included as part of the submission package or applications will not be reviewed.

Submissions should consist of the following materials:

- 191st Street Tunnel Beautification Application Form; and
- No more than 3 examples of past artwork in jpeg format (resolution of 72 to 150 dpi) and associated image list that includes: title, date of completion, medium, dimensions, location, sale price or commission budget, description of artwork, and list of partners.

**All application materials should be mailed to:
Attn.: Emily Colasacco, DOT Art Program Director
NYC Department of Transportation, Design, Art and Wayfinding
55 Water Street, 9th Fl., NY, NY 10041**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Artist Statement Briefly describe your vision and body of work as an artist in 200 words or less.

Artist Bio Briefly describe your past experience producing large-scale murals and highlight key experiences in the public realm in 200 words or less.