

Fall 2016

Community Commissions

Request for Proposals



Kirk Finkel
Nest

Richmond Terrace, Saint George Ferry Terminal (Staten Island)

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Since the launch of the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) Art Program in October 2008, DOT Art has installed over 240 engaging temporary art installations throughout New York City. The Program partners with community-based organizations and artists to present murals, sculptures, projections and performances on public property. These temporary art installations create attractive corridors and activate public space for passersby. Projects are presented within four program tracks: Community Commissions, Barrier Beautification, Arterventions and Art Display Case Exhibits.

Additionally, DOT Art produces special projects, such as: the 191st Street Tunnel Beautification Project, Summer Streets Interventions and Asphalt Art Activations.

COMMUNITY COMMISSIONS BACKGROUND

As part of the Community Commissions program, DOT Art commissions artists to produce temporary site-responsive art in collaboration with community-based organizations. Twice a year in fall and spring, NYCDOT owned plazas, fences, medians, triangles, sidewalks and step streets in all five boroughs are announced as priority sites for art. The NYCDOT Borough Offices and Operating Units identify sites that are: 1) in need of beautification; 2) large enough to accommodate artwork; and 3) accessible to a diverse audience.

For the first time in the program's history, DOT Art has identified community-based partners to collaborate with DOT Art throughout all project phases, including the selection process. During the application phase, artists are no longer required to partner with organizations this round since the agency has already secured such commitments from partner organizations. The partners were identified by NYCDOT to present temporary art because the organizations have experience planning public programs and/or public art projects, the ability to monitor and maintain the artwork, the capacity to hold the liability and indemnify the City of New York for the artwork, and most importantly, the interest in and ownership over the site due to their locale. (Appendix A: Fall Priority Site and Partner List.)

Artists are invited to submit proposals in response to the priority site and partner list by a set deadline. The DOT Art Committee will review all submitted applications and rank two to three finalists per site. After the initial selection panel, all finalists will be invited for an interview with the designated partner organization and DOT Art. Once one artist or artist team is selected per priority site, DOT Art will act as the liaison between the artist and the partner organization throughout the commissioning process. Selected artworks may remain installed for up to 11 months and selected artists are eligible to receive up to \$12,000 toward direct project costs. In addition, NYCDOT will arrange for an engineering review by a NYS licensed engineer for all sculptural work and provide the necessary permits to install on City-owned property. NYCDOT may provide additional services on a case-by-case basis to assist with project implementation; i.e. material donation and installation assistance.

Past examples of successful Community Commissions projects include: Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and Laura Alvarez, *KHCC Grows*, 231st Street and Kingsbridge Terrace, Bronx; Arts Gowanus and Miguel Del Real, *Intersections*, 4th Avenue and Prospect Avenue, Brooklyn; Columbus Amsterdam BID and Carin Mincemoyer, *Dandelions*, 97th Street between Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattan; International Studio and Curatorial Program and Mohamed Sharkawy, *Birds*, Vernon Boulevard and Queens Plaza South, Queens; and El Centro del Inmigrante and Lina Montoya, *Las Mariposas Amarillas*, Richmond Terrace and Jewett Avenue, Staten Island. (Appendix B: Past Community Commissions.) For additional photos of past Community Commissions, visit www.flickr.com/photos/nycstreets.

PROGRAM PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

NYCDOT works closely with selected artists to implement projects within eight months of approval. The DOT Art Program Director, the artist, a representative from the partner organization and other NYCDOT staff make up the project team. Throughout implementation, the project team meets to review the design, confer on budget, develop a project schedule, assess the engineering documentation and sign the legal agreement. The artist is responsible for: 1) fabrication and installation; 2) maintenance of the artwork during the display period; 3) removal of the artwork upon completion of the display period; and 4) restoration of the site to its original condition.

The identified partner organizations will sign a legal agreement with NYCDOT and provide a certificate of insurance naming the City as an additional insured on behalf of the artist. As per the agreement, the artist receives credit, sole ownership, and copyright of the final design and artwork, but is required to extend to the City and the partner organization the right to a royalty-free, perpetual license to use any depiction of the artwork for non-commercial purposes.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Artists are invited to submit proposals in response to the list of priority sites by **Friday, January 6, 2017**. Applicants are notified of selection within one month of the submission deadline. Funding is not guaranteed with project selection.

Interested artists are invited to submit a single application. Artists are only eligible to receive one commission per fiscal year. All applicants must select a priority site and provide a conceptual design for consideration.

For submission specifications, review the Community Commissions Application Cover Sheet.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Art Advisory Committee, a panel of appointed arts professionals from varying disciplines, the designated partner and NYCDOT will review all proposals based on the following selection criteria:

Public Safety

- Proposal does not present any public safety hazards.

Artistic Merit

- Proposed artwork is aesthetically pleasing and appropriate for the public realm.
- Artist's past work demonstrates proficiency in the proposed medium.
- Artist has exhibited in the public or private realm and participated in team and/or community-based art projects.

Site Suitability

- Artwork is suitable for the site based on size, scale, and form.
- Proposal considers the variety of audiences at the site.
- Proposal considers the social, historical, architectural, geographical and/or cultural context of the site.
- Proposal illustrates community involvement during design, fabrication, and/or installation.

Artwork Durability

- Artwork will be made of durable materials to withstand outdoor weather conditions.
- Artwork is carefully planned ensuring sound fabrication and installation.

ADDITIONAL LEGAL INFORMATION

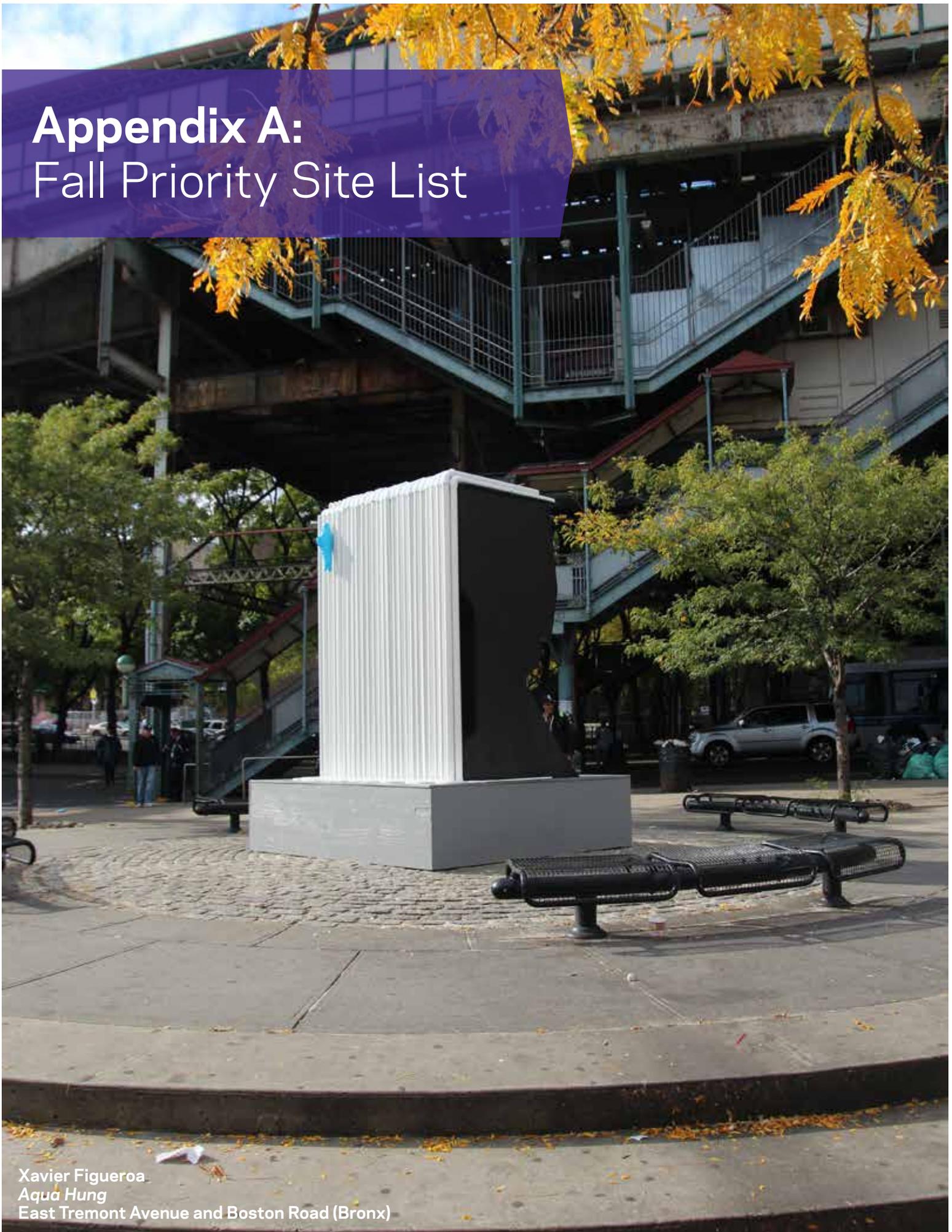
Please note the following:

- This RFP is not intended as a formal offering for the award of a contract or for participation in any future solicitation;
- NYCDOT does not intend to grant or issue any additional agreements on the basis of this RFP;
- NYCDOT, the City and their officials, agents and employees make no representation or warranty and assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the information set forth in this RFP;
- 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 NYCDOT nor the City shall be liable for any costs incurred by any respondent in the preparation, submittal, presentation or revision of its submission. Neither NYCDOT nor the City shall be obligated to pay and shall not pay any costs in connection with the preparation of such submissions;
- All submissions shall become the property of NYCDOT and the City and shall not be returned; and
- NYCDOT at its sole discretion reserves, without limitation, the right to:
 - Withdraw the RFP at any time;
 - To discuss various approaches with one or more respondents (including parties not responding to the RFP); and
 - Change any terms of this RFP.

QUESTIONS

All inquiries regarding Community Commissions should be sent to: arts@dot.nyc.gov.

Appendix A: Fall Priority Site List



Xavier Figueroa
Aqua Hung
East Tremont Avenue and Boston Road (Bronx)

FALL PRIORITY SITE LIST

BRONX

Site: Roundabout, Dawson Street and Intervale Avenue

Partner: BronxArtSpace

BROOKLYN

Site: Sidewalk, West 10th Street and Boardwalk

Partner: Alliance for Coney Island

MANHATTAN

Site: Bus Bulb, Broadway between Grand Street and Howard Street

Partner: SoHo Broadway Initiative

QUEENS

Site: Vernon Boulevard and Queens Plaza South

Partner: Local Project

STATEN ISLAND

Site: Chain-link fence, Bay Street and Victory Boulevard

Partner: Staten Island Makers Space

BROOKLYN

Sidewalk: West 10th Street and Boardwalk

Site Photo + Map



Past sidewalk installation for reference:



Carin Mincemoyer, *Dandelions*, 97th Street between Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue (Manhattan)

Restrictions/Considerations:

- **Only** sculptures will be considered for the sidewalk.
- Pedestrian circulation must be maintained at all times.

Partner:

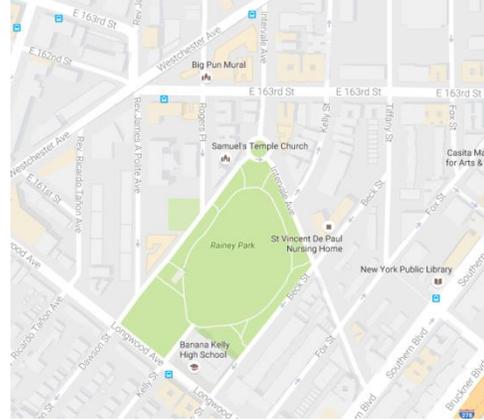


Formed in 2012, the Alliance for Coney Island is a sustainable civic body that is dedicated to continuing the transformation of Coney Island into a year-round, world-class recreational destination by the sea. To carry out this mission, the Alliance assumes management and maintenance tasks, organizes new initiatives, partners with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and advocates for resources and policies that support the ongoing revitalization of "the People's Playground." (www.allianceforconeyisland.org)

BRONX

Roundabout: Dawson Street and Intervale Avenue

Site Photo + Map



Past sidewalk installation for reference:



Allen Glatter, *TALLY HO*, York Street and Front Street (Brooklyn)

Restrictions/Considerations:

- Only sculptures will be considered for the roundabout.

Partner:



BronxArtSpace supports underrepresented and emerging artists and fosters arts education through theme exhibitions and events in Mott Haven in the South Bronx. BronxArtSpace is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts services organization, and is supported in part by public funds from NYC DCLA in partnership with City Council and the NYS Council on the Arts. (www.bronxartspace.com)

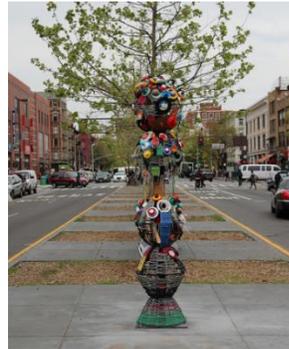
MANHATTAN

Bus Bulb Median: Broadway between Grand Street and Howard Street

Site Photo + Map



Past median installations:



Tang-Wei Hsu, *Monkey Magic*, 9th Avenue and 36th Street (Manhattan) and Michael Kelly Williams, *Liturgy for Lenox Lounge*, 124th Street and Lenox Avenue (Manhattan)

Site Restrictions/Considerations:

- **Only** sculptures will be considered for the median.
- Artwork will **only** be permitted within the indicated area in the above site image.
- Artwork must be installed 18" from the curb adjacent to vehicular traffic.
- Artwork must not block the bus boarding and off-loading pedestrian areas.
- Only tall, narrow and vertical artwork will be permitted.

Partner:

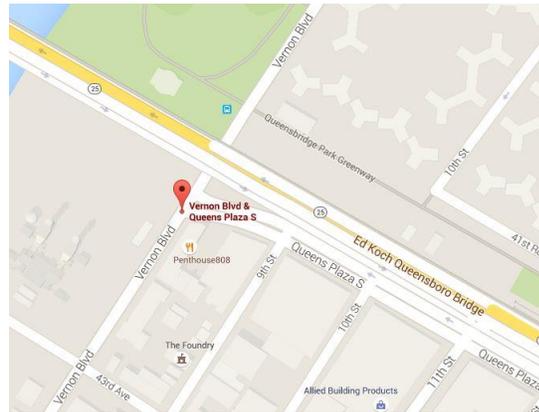


The SoHo Broadway Initiative is a small not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization that represents the business improvement district for SoHo's Broadway from Houston to Canal. The Initiative is a public private partnership whose purpose is to foster a unique, vibrant, mixed-use district with enhanced maintenance and public safety, effective advocacy and administration, technical and professional services for its members, and strategic capital improvements. The Initiative primarily serves those who live, work or operate a business in the District. (www.sohobroadwaybid.com)

QUEENS

Corrugated Fence, Vernon Boulevard and Queens Plaza South

Site Photo + Map



Past fence installation for reference:



Mohamed Sharkawy, *Birds*, Vernon Boulevard and Queens Plaza South (Queens)

Restrictions/Considerations:

- **Only** two-dimensional proposals will be considered for the fence.
- Artists must utilize existing attachment method.
- The suggested material for printing artwork is Sintra board with UV coating.

Partner:

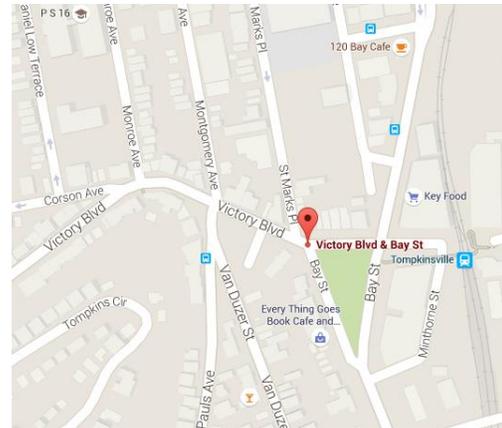


Local Project is a non-profit organization committed to building an educational forum for emerging artists of exceptional vision and creating synergy between the exhibition of their work and the public. We believe diversity is essential to growth. Founded in 2003 by a group of artists and friends, LP is committed to offering year-round exhibitions, arts mentoring, classes, co-working space, art residences and bilingual programming, while building bridges with other institutions; LP is creative harbor for all, where artist and community can collaborate towards a richer and fuller development of both. (www.localproject.org)

STATEN ISLAND

Chain-link fence: Bay Street and Victory Boulevard

Site Photo + Map



Past chain-link fence installation:



Lina Montoya, *Las Mariposas Amarillas*, Richmond Terrace and Jewett Avenue (Staten Island)

Site Restrictions/Considerations:

- **Only** exterior grade materials such as, yarn, fabric, zip ties, etc. that can be easily installed and removed will be approved.
- The proposed design must allow for visibility and cannot completely cover the chain-link fence.

Partner:



Staten Island MarkerSpace is a non-profit workshop that helps artists, craftspeople, engineers, inventors and entrepreneurs make their ideas come to life by offering low cost access to industrial and digital fabrication equipment and tools. They also provide fabrication and prototyping services and skill building classes for all ages. Our newest project, Maker Park, is an outdoor sculpture park and community work space that provides opportunities for artists to make and exhibit temporary public art projects. (www.makerspace.nyc)

Appendix B: Past Community Commissions

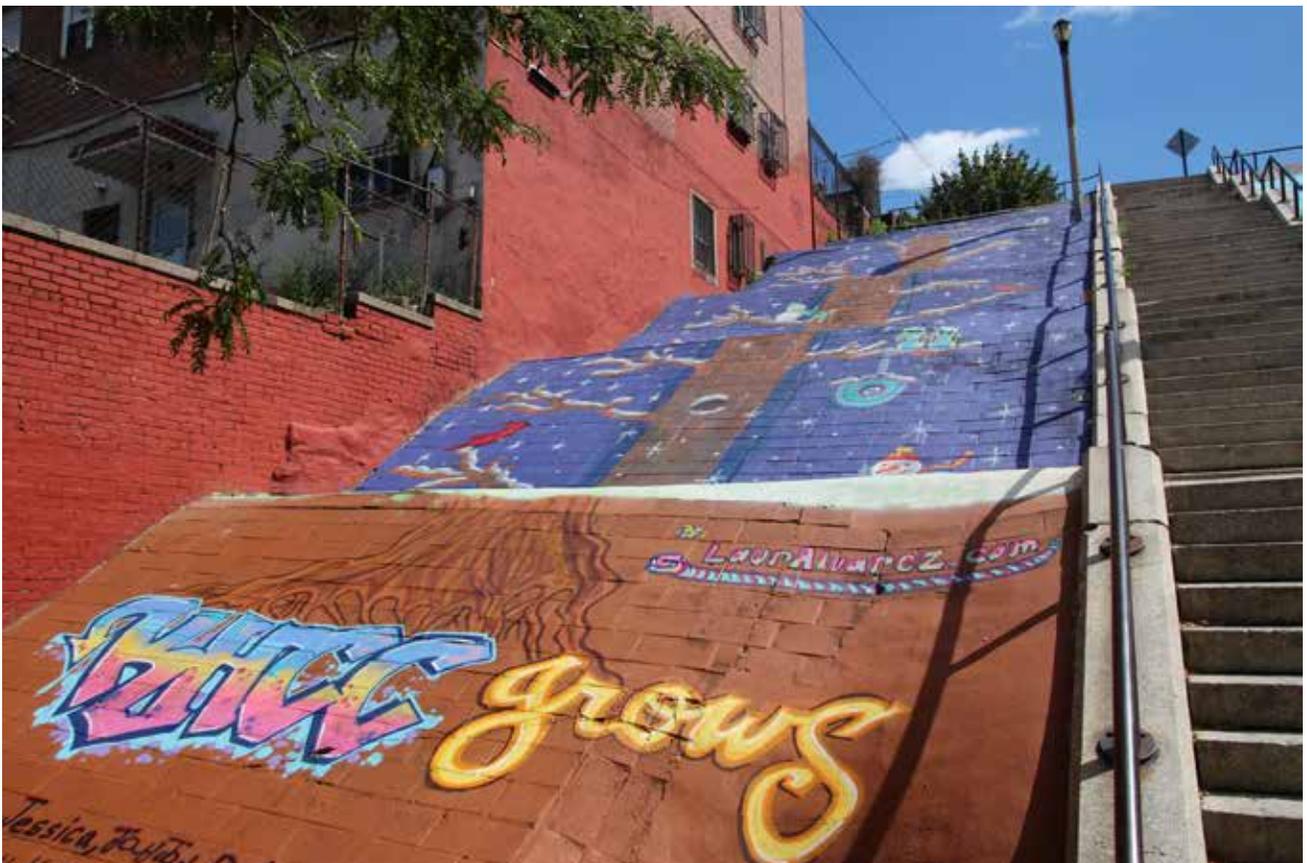
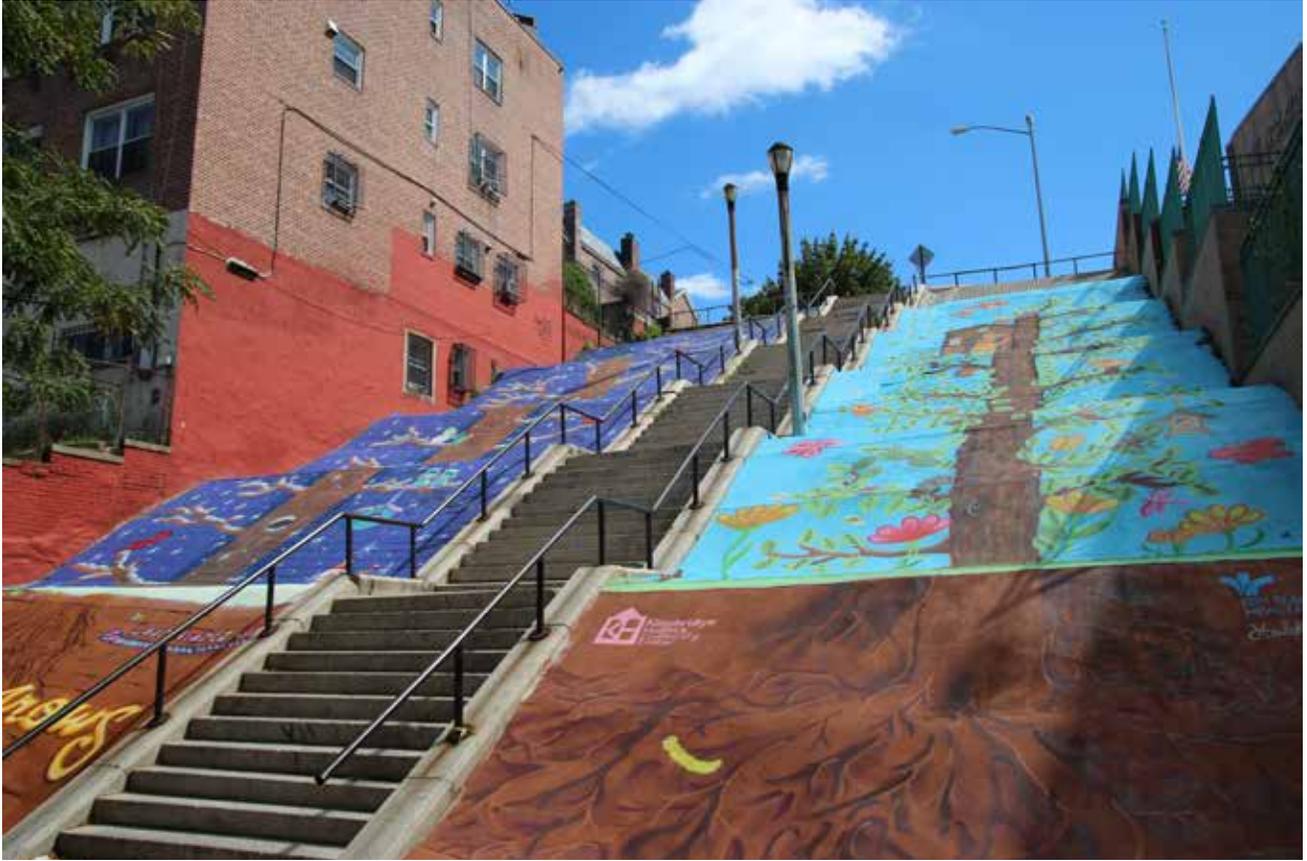


Carla Reyes
Seasons of Kew Gardens
80th Road Bridge between Austin Street and Grenfell Street (Queens)

Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and Laura Alvarez

KHCC Grows

Step Street: 231st Street and Kingsbridge Terrace (Bronx)



Arts Gowanus and Miguel Del Real
Intersections
Bridge: 4th Avenue and Prospect Avenue (Brooklyn)



Columbus Amsterdam BID and Carin Mincemoyer

Dandelions

Sidewalk: 97th Street between Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue (Manhattan)



International Studio and Curatorial Program and Mohamed Sharkawy

Birds

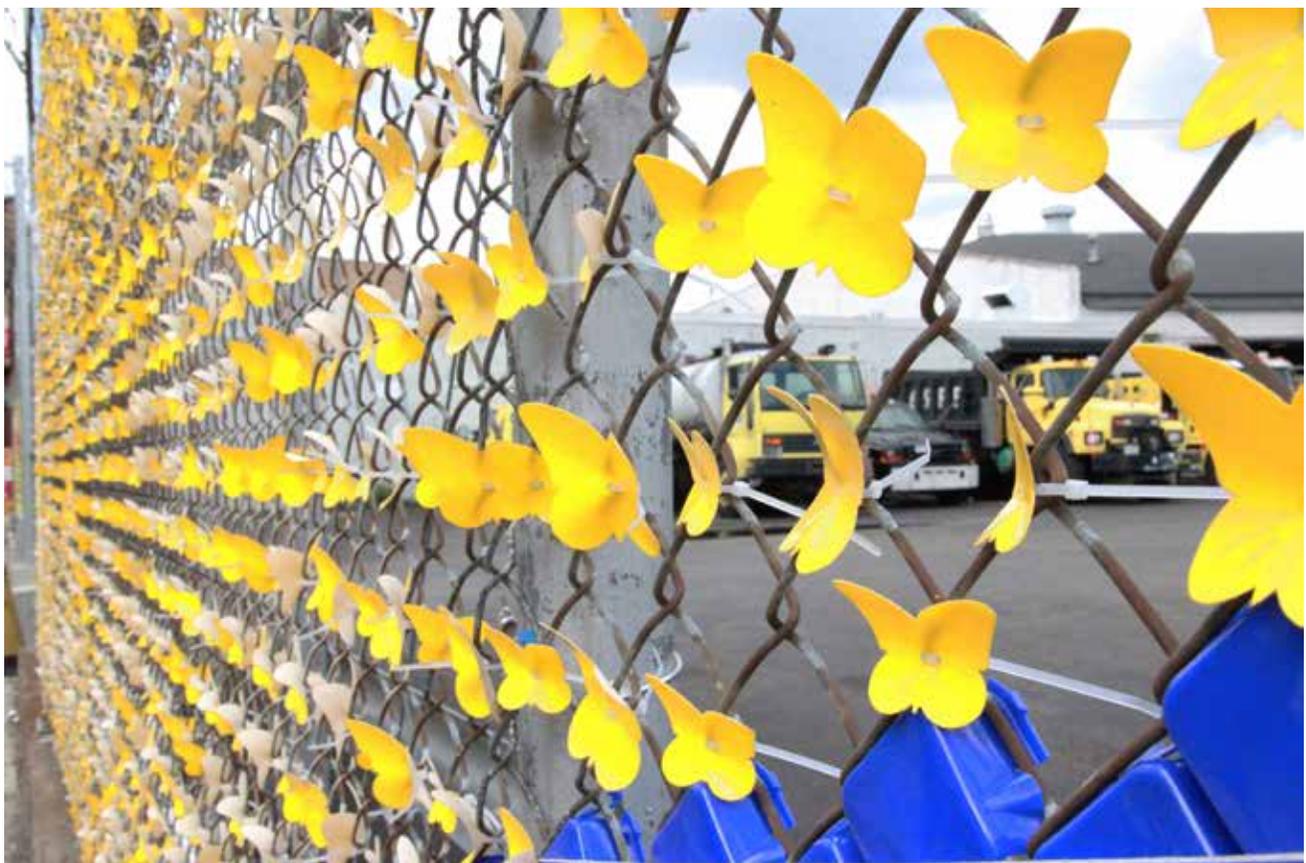
Corrugated Fence: Vernon Boulevard and Queens Plaza South (Queens)



El Centro del Inmigrante and Lina Montoya

Las Mariposas Amarillas

Chain-link Fence: Richmond Terrace and Jewett Avenue (Staten Island)



Community Commissions

Application Cover Sheet

GENERAL INFORMATION

Submission Date: _____

Site Selection: _____

Artist Name: _____

Working Title: _____

Artwork Type: Sculpture Mural Lighting Design Intervention Other

Materials: _____

Proposed Installation Date: _____ **Funding Request:** _____

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

- Community Commissions Application Form;
- No more than 4 project renderings (include: sketches, site plan, and Photoshop renderings);
- No more than 4 photographs 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; and
- Artist curriculum vitae.

All application materials should be mailed to:

**Attn: Emily Colasacco, Art Program Director
NYC Department of Transportation, Urban Design + Art + Wayfinding
55 Water Street, 9th Fl, NY, NY 10041**

Community Commissions

Application

Artist Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ **Phone #:** _____

Email: _____ **Website:** _____

Site Selection Describe your interest in producing an artwork for the selected priority site in partnership with the designated community partner.

Project Description/Artist Statement Describe the overall concept and approach for the proposed artwork and its consideration for the social, historical, architectural, geographical and/or cultural context of the site.

Community Commissions

Application

Artist Bio Describe your past experience in any significant solo or group exhibitions in the public or private realm.

Project Budget

What is the estimated total project budget? _____

Provide a line item budget (Artist Fee, Materials, Fabrication, Equipment Rental, Transportation, Installation, Maintenance, and Removal):

Community Commissions

Application

How much funding is being requested from NYCDOT? _____

If your budget exceeds the requested amount of funding, please provide the name of the committed source for funding and include a support letter from the funder.

Fabrication/Installation Describe the fabrication and installation methods and include a list of relevant materials, hardware and equipment required to produce and install the artwork.

Maintenance Describe the proposed maintenance plan to monitor and maintain the artwork throughout the display period and include any potential maintenance concerns given the proposed materials.

Project Schedule

Provide a tentative schedule for implementation.

Installation _____

Display Period _____

Removal _____