



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of New York Unveils Shortlist of Artists for Post-9/11 Fallen Service Member Memorial

Four Artists Selected for Final Design Concept Consideration

New York, NY - The New York City Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) and the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) are proud to announce the shortlist of artists and artist teams who have been selected as finalists following an open call for submissions to design the Post-9/11 Fallen Service Member Memorial. This important monument will honor the lives and legacy of U.S. Service Members who made the ultimate sacrifice during combat activities in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, as part of the Global War on Terror.

Chosen by an advisory panel composed of individuals who reflect diverse facets of New York City's Veteran community, from an impressive pool of dozens of submissions, the shortlisted artists have been recognized for their unique vision, creativity, and dedication to this project. Their work will contribute to creating a permanent site of reflection, remembrance, and education—one that will resonate with all New Yorkers, regardless of the extent of their connection to the events of 9/11 and the conflicts that followed.

“The talented artists selected for this project have been entrusted with the solemn and profound responsibility of creating a space that will allow all who bear witness an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by the nearly 100 New Yorkers who died in defense of our freedom,” said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom**. “As we move forward in this process, we are grateful for their vision, understanding, and commitment to honoring those brave men and women.”

“The artists selected by the Memorial Advisory Committee embody a dedication and vision in their work that reaffirms the deep respect we hold for those who have given their lives in defense of this nation,” said **NYC Department of Veterans' Services Commissioner James Hendon**. “The design that is ultimately commissioned will undoubtedly serve as a powerful reminder of service and sacrifice, creating a space for future generations to gather and remember.”

“As Gold Star parents, this process has been profound. Each artist we reviewed carried a deep sense of respect for our Post-9/11 fallen service members, and selecting the finalists was both a difficult and emotional task,” said **the Ollis family, Gold Star parents to Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis**. “We look forward to seeing each of the artists' final concepts and are hopeful their designs will not only honor those who gave their lives but also offer a space for reflection and healing for families like ours.”

“Public art is a powerful, lasting way to commemorate and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and we look forward to working with these artists to develop a vision



that will give New Yorkers a way to reflect on and remember those we've lost," said **DCLA Commissioner Laurie Cumbo**.

The memorial will not only commemorate the 7,064 U.S. Service Members who lost their lives in these operations, including the nearly 100 individuals from New York City, but also serve as a lasting "thank you" and "welcome home" to our Post-9/11 Veteran community. This special site will provide a space for future commemorations, honoring both the fallen and the broader Veteran community, including those who continue to live with the visible and invisible wounds of war.

Shortlisted Artists:

- Joan Benefield, Mixed-media Sculptor
- Douwe Blumberg, Bronze Sculptor
- Cloud Architecture
- Joseph O'Connell, Installation Artist

The final artist or team will be selected through the City's [Percent for Art commissioning process](#), with the winning concept announced in early 2025.

The City and its partners extend their gratitude to all those who participated in the artist open call, particularly those who brought forward compelling proposals that reflect the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of our service members and their families.

For more information about the memorial and updates on the project, please visit nyc.gov/vetmemorial.