

Car-Free Earth Day Art Interventions

Call for Artists: Request for Proposals
2025



Natalie Collette Wood
EcoHarmony, 2024

Broadway between West 38th Street
and West 39th Street, Manhattan

Car-Free Earth Day Background

The New York City Department of Transportation's (NYC DOT) mission is to provide for the safe, efficient, environmentally responsible movement of people and goods in the City of New York and to maintain and enhance the transportation infrastructure crucial to the economic vitality and quality of life of our primary customers, City residents. Car-Free Earth Day is a single day, annual car-free event held the Saturday before or after Earth Day, April 22. This year's event will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Programming will be presented at signature locations across all five boroughs. Routes and event time may be subject to adjustments at any time leading up to the event.

Car-Free Earth Day transforms NYC streets into active and attractive public spaces with the addition of public art, performances, workshops, and demonstrations. Environmental programming is offered by City agencies and nonprofit organizations along the routes to promote activism and education surrounding climate change, sustainability, and other relevant topics. See examples of past programming in [Appendix B: Past Car-Free Earth Day Events](#). Visit the Car-Free Earth Day webpage, nyc.gov/carfreeenyc for event information and visit NYC DOT's Flickr for images of past Car-Free Earth Day events, [flickr.com/nycstreets](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nycstreets/).

Project Scope

NYC DOT invites all professional artists to submit proposals for new or existing artwork to be installed at Car-Free Earth Day sites as designated by NYC DOT as a one-day installation. The display structure and attachments must be compliant with the requirements stipulated. The majority of available sites for art installations are concrete sidewalks or asphalt street spaces. Up to two (2) artists may be selected.

Selected artists for one-day installations will be responsible for the following:

- Installing one (1) final artwork on site of event on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The event will be held rain or shine.
- Being available to meet and coordinate with NYC DOT throughout all project phases from February through April.
- Providing a signed and sealed technical memo prepared by a NYS licensed engineer upon proposal approval, pending project scale.
- Removing installation after the event completion. Installations may not remain installed following the event.

Selected artists for one-day installation shall receive up to \$10,000 to cover all expenses to design, fabricate, present the artwork including, but not limited to, costs associated with the following: labor, materials, fabrication, engineering, installation, equipment rental and transportation. NYC DOT Art will determine final funding based on the complexity of the project and overall proposed budget.

More information on artwork types can be found in [Appendix A: Artwork Types and Examples](#).

Application and Deadline

Artists are invited to submit proposals by **Sunday, February 9, 2025, 11:59 pm EST**. Artists are only eligible to receive one commission per fiscal year.

Please submit applications through our Submittable portal at nycdotart.submittable.com/submit.

By submitting an application, all selected artists agree to enter into a contract with NYC DOT in advance of the event and shall receive funding following participation at the event.

Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet the requirements will not be considered.

Selection Process

The NYC DOT Art Advisory Committee and project specific selection jury shall review and rank all submissions based on the following criteria below. A strong proposal will be inclusive and consider the access needs of all attendees.

Car-Free Earth Day Goals

- Interactive: Engage Car-Free Earth Day participants mentally and potentially, physically.
- Activate: Reimagine the routes and become a destination for event participants.
- Event Enrichment: Enhance and draw attention to Car-Free Earth Day's mission to promote environmental protection and education surrounding climate change, pollution, and sustainable modes of transportation.

Artistic Merit

- Proposed artwork demonstrates art/design excellence and is appropriate for the public realm.
- Artist's past work demonstrates proficiency in the proposed medium including design, fabrication, and implementation.
- 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. The event will be held rain or shine.
- Artwork is carefully planned ensuring sound fabrication and installation.

Public Safety

- Proposal does not present any public safety hazards.

About the NYC DOT Art Program

New York City Department of Transportation Art (NYC DOT Art) partners with community-based, nonprofit organizations and professional artists to present temporary public art on NYC DOT property throughout the five boroughs for up to eleven months. Artists transform streets with colorful murals, dynamic projections and eye-catching sculptures. Sidewalks, fences, triangles, medians, bridges, jersey barriers, step streets, public plazas and pedestrianized spaces serve as canvases and foundations for temporary art. Since 2008, NYC DOT Art has produced over 475 temporary artworks citywide. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dotart and [@nyc_DOTArt](https://www.instagram.com/nyc_DOTArt) on Instagram.

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;
- NYC DOT does not intend to grant or issue any additional agreements on the basis of this RFP;
- NYC DOT, 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 NYC 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 NYC DOT 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 NYC DOT and the City and shall not be returned; and
- NYC DOT at its sole discretion reserves, without limitation, the right to;
 - + Withdraw the RFP at any time;
 - + 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 the Car-Free Earth Day Art Interventions RFP should be sent to: arts@dot.nyc.gov.
Other inquiries regarding the event and programming should be sent to: carfreenyc@dot.nyc.gov.

Appendix A:

Artwork Types and Examples



Amanda Thackray and Wendell Jeffrey
Kelp Parade, 2024
Broadway between 22nd and 21st
Streets, Manhattan

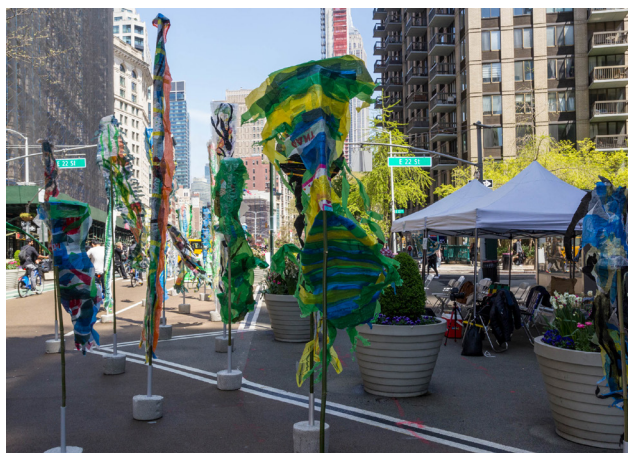
One Day Installation

Considerations:

- Installations must be easily installed and removed and may not remain installed following the event
- Most available sites for art installations are concrete sidewalks or asphalt street spaces
- Proposals should engage Car-Free Earth Day participants mentally and potentially physically, reimagine the route, become a destination for event participants and enhance and draw attention to Car-Free Earth Day's mission



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Appendix B:

Past Car-Free Earth Day Events



Car-Free Earth Day 2018

Photos from Past Car-Free Earth Day Events

