

# Summer Streets Art Interventions

## Request for Proposals 2025



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Weaving Together, 2024

# Summer Streets Background

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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. Summer Streets is an annual celebration of New York City's most valuable public space – our streets.

Summer Streets takes place on select Saturdays from the morning to the afternoon. Miles of NYC's streets are open in both directions for people to play, walk, and bike along while taking a break at the route rest stops to enjoy free activities. Summer Streets provides space for healthy recreation and encourages New Yorkers to use more sustainable forms of transportation.

In recent years, Summer Streets expanded to the five boroughs creating nearly 20 miles of car-free streets. Exact dates and times for 2025 will be announced at a later date.

Find examples of past activities in [Appendix B: Past Summer Streets Events](#). Visit the Summer Streets web page, [nyc.gov/summerstreets](https://nyc.gov/summerstreets) for event information and visit NYC DOT's Flickr for images of past Summer Streets 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 along the Summer Streets event routes at sites designated by NYC DOT as a one-day installation throughout all five event dates. 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 artists may be selected.

Selected artists shall be responsible for the following:

- Installing one (1) final artwork on site of each event. Locations will vary across events.
- Being available to meet and coordinate with NYC DOT throughout all project phases from June through August.
- Attending each event to monitor artwork and engage with the public.
- Providing a signed and sealed technical memo prepared by a NYS licensed engineer.
- Installing and removing the installation after each event date is completed. Installations may not remain installed from one event to the next at any given site.

Selected artist(s) may receive up to \$20,000 to cover all expenses; large-scale installations with potential to be displayed at all seven locations across all five weekends may be eligible for a budget of up to \$50,000. Installation budgets must cover all expenses to design, fabricate, and present the artwork, including costs associated with the following: artist fee (up to 20% of budget), labor, materials, fabrication, engineering, installation, equipment rental, storage, and transportation. Project funding will be determined by NYC DOT Art based on the complexity of the project and overall proposed budgets.

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, April 27, 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](https://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 events.

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 criteria below. A strong proposal will be inclusive and consider the access needs of all attendees.

### Summer Streets Goals

- Interactive: Engage Summer Streets participants mentally, and potentially, physically.
- Activate: Reimagine the routes and become a destination for event participants.
- Event Enrichment: Enhance and draw attention to Summer Street's mission to celebrate New York City's streets.

### 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.
- Previous experience demonstrates connection to Summer Streets' mission.
- Previous experience demonstrates ability to collaborate on a team-based project.

### Site Suitability

- Artwork is suitable for the public realm based on size, scale, and form. Proposal considers the variety of audiences at the event.
- Proposal considers the social, historical, architectural, geographical and/or cultural context of the site.
- Artwork is moveable and/or can be easily installed and removed each event date.
- Artwork does not introduce any safety hazards for pedestrians and cyclists on the route.

### Artwork Durability

- Artwork will be made of durable materials to withstand outdoor weather conditions. The events 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](https://nyc.gov/dotart) and [@nyc\\_DOTArt](https://www.instagram.com/nyc_DOTArt) on Instagram.

## Additional 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;
- 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 the Summer Streets Art Interventions RFP should be sent to [arts@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:arts@dot.nyc.gov). Other inquiries regarding the event and programming should be sent to [summerstreets@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:summerstreets@dot.nyc.gov)

# Appendix A

## Example Site Types



## Appendix A: Artwork Types and Examples

### One Day Installation:

#### Considerations:

- Installations must be easily transported, installed, and removed following each event date. Installations must be stored in between event dates.
- Most available sites for art installations are concrete sidewalks or asphalt street spaces.
- Proposals should engage Summer Streets participants mentally and potentially physically, reimagine the route, become a destination for event participants and enhance and draw attention to Summer Street's mission.



**Cynthia Alberto**  
*Weaving Together*, 2024



**Risa Puno**  
*The Course of Emotions*, 2013



**Héctor Esrawe and Ignacio Cadena**  
*Los Trompos (Spinning Top)*, 2016



**Isabelle Garbani**  
*Les Fleurs du Mal*, 2018

# Appendix B

## Past Summer Streets Events



## Appendix B: Past Summer Streets Events

