



City Canvas Pre-Approved Art Portfolio

Nikki Scioscia, *Plant Walk*, 2024

City Canvas

Pre-Approved Art

There are more than 300 miles of construction fences, sidewalk sheds, and scaffolding in New York City. While these temporary protective structures are important for pedestrian safety, they are often unappealing components of the urban landscape. City Canvas is a program of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) which allows the installation of temporary visual art on eligible temporary protective structures. City Canvas both improves the pedestrian experience for NYC residents and visitors across the five boroughs, while providing opportunities for local artists to display their work in prominent locations across the five boroughs.

City Canvas was initiated as a temporary pilot program in 2018 and made permanent in September 2023 through a local law which amended the New York City Charter and Building Code to permit the display of artwork on temporary protective structures (i.e., construction sheds, fences, and scaffolding). When filing an initial application permit for a temporary protective structure, property owners are automatically enrolled in the program and are offered an opt out option. Under the City Canvas program, there are two avenues for property owners to install artwork on temporary protective structures, Site-Specific Artwork and Pre-Approved Artwork.

Pre-Approved Artwork (one example of which is featured in this document) is commissioned directly by DCLA through periodic open calls pursuant to section 2508 of Chapter 67 of the New York City charter. Each commission complies with all expected standards and may be licensed by property owners for a fee to be negotiated with artists. Visit our Licensing and Fee Guidelines online at nyc.gov/citycanvas

Each Pre-Approved Artwork includes a suite of three components designed for each type of temporary protective structure: construction sheds, fences, and scaffolding. Each component can be used discretely or in ensembles. All Pre-Approved Artworks are designed to be highly flexible and can adapt to a wide range of construction site contexts and conditions. The mockups presented here are for a 100 foot wide construction site that is nine stories tall. Each component mockup is accompanied by a verbal description written by the artist.

For questions and inquiries email: citycanvas@culture.nyc.gov

Step by Step Process

- Select a piece from the Pre-Approved Artwork Portfolio.
- Review the Licensing and Fee Guidelines online at nyc.gov/citycanvas
- Email citycanvas@culture.nyc.gov a request to use selected Pre-Approved Artwork.
- DCLA will liaise a connection with Artist.
- Negotiate and complete a licensing agreement with Artist.
- Artist will provide the art files.
- Prepare a print layout with a fabricator.
- Confirm print layout with Artist.
- Send DCLA final layout and completed license agreement.
- DCLA will review, sign, and send back an approval notice.
- Upload the approval notice to DOB NOW.

Other Artworks in The Pre-Approved Art Portfolio

Ebony Bolt, *The Jungle and The City*, 2024

Lauren Camara, *Paper Stories*, 2024

Venazir Hannah Martinez, *The Shaping of New York*, 2024

Neko Jiang, *Hidden Forest*, 2024

Denae N. Howard, *Little Titans Run New York*, 2024

Dennis RedMoon Darkeem, *Travelers*, 2024

Bayeté Ross Smith, *Our Kind Of People* and *Mirrors*, 2024

Nikki Scioscia, *Plant Walk*, 2024

Zazu Swistel, *The Urbanite's Clinic For Decadence and Decay*, 2024

Annette Weintraub, *The Myrtle Walks*, 2024



Nikki Scioscia, *Plant Walk*, 2024

Artist Statement

Nikki Scioscia (b. 1992) is an illustrator, designer, and author who explores the connection between people and plants. Her work is rooted in emotion and informed by her studies of biology, spirituality, and activism. Primarily using brush and ink on paper, Nikki creates visual stories that symbolize personal and collective transformation.

Project Description

Nikki Scioscia's illustration for the City Canvas program celebrates the lively people — and plants — of her Brooklyn neighborhood. With brush, ink, and digital tools, she created a New York City sidewalk scene that pulses with patterns. Characters stride across the sidewalk in a continuous running sequence, representing harmony with each other and their environment. This piece emphasizes some of the wild urban plants that thrive amongst the city's busy streets and public parks, often overlooked yet omnipresent. Based on her research, Nikki illustrated New York City plants that hold generations of medicinal, mystical, and multicultural significance (from left to right): violet, yarrow, burdock, dandelion, milkweed, mullein, mugwort, chicory, and clover. Learning the patterns of wild urban plants can help curious New Yorkers develop a connection with the earth — even on the sidewalk. Nikki shares, "When we learn to see beauty in this unexpected environment, we can become more compassionate towards ourselves and our communities."



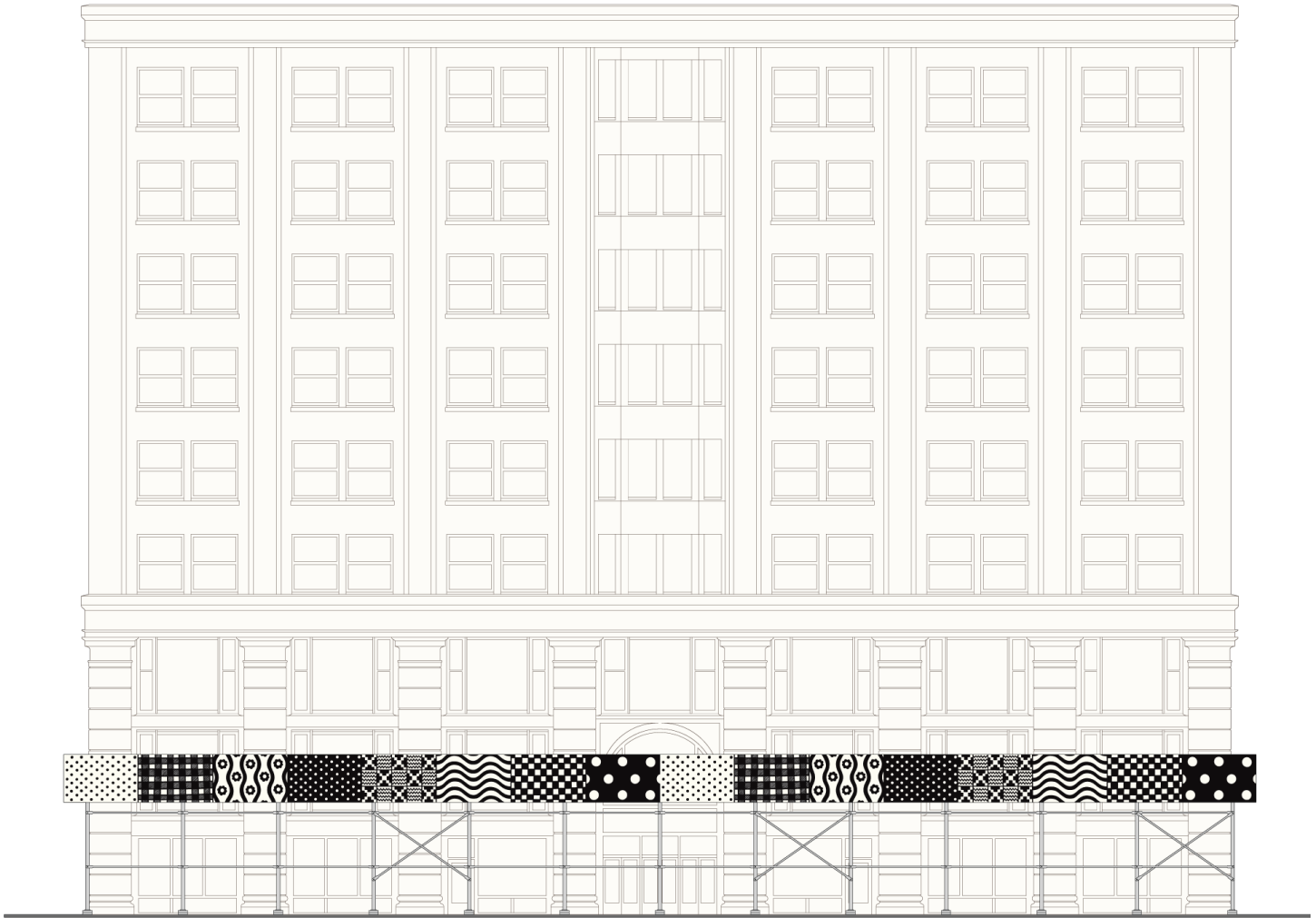
Nikki Scioscia, *Plant Walk*, 2024

Supported Scaffold / Netting Artwork Description

This monochromatic illustration emphasizes three wild urban plants against a black background, made with brush, ink, and digital tools. The yarrow plant, left, has feathery leaves and bunches of white flowers that reach to the sky. The burdock plant, middle, has broad, rippling, heart-shaped leaves. The chicory plant, right, has toothed leaves and flowers with radiating petals. Illustrated sparkles hover above the plants, alluding to their medicinal, mystical, and multicultural significance.

Supported Scaffold / Netting

Scaffold is a temporary elevated platform, including its supporting structure, erected at a construction site to support workers and/or materials and providing aboveground access to the building's exterior. A scaffold may also serve as a frame for installing safety netting. Artwork displayed on supportive scaffolds will be printed directly onto netting and secured using zip ties that loop directly through it. More information is available on the [Department of Building's website](#).



Nikki Scioscia, *Plant Walk*, 2024

Sidewalk Shed Artwork Description

This illustration is a repetitious horizontal composition of black and cream patterns, made with brush, ink, and digital tools. Each design correlates with a patterned article of clothing worn by a character on the construction fence below. The patterns include small dots, gingham squares, a 1970s-style flower print, a West African-style geometric print, wavy lines, checkered squares, and large dots.

About Sidewalk Sheds

The most common temporary protective structures are sidewalk sheds which are made of wood and must be a minimum of 5 feet wide, 4 feet tall, and provide a minimum of 8 feet clearance. Artwork displayed on a sidewalk shed will be printed on vinyl that will be fastened to the outer sides and ends of sheds either by stretching it over the shed and fastening to the back or by affixing such material to self-adhesive panels that adhere directly to the shed. More information is available on the [Department of Building's website](#).



Nikki Scioscia, *Plant Walk*, 2024

Construction Fence Artwork Description

This monochromatic illustration is a rhythmic horizontal composition of people and plants on a city street, made with brush, ink, and digital tools. A sidewalk, represented by a thick wavy line, spans the bottom of the drawing. Against a black background, a series of people are depicted from the side and the shoulders down in a running sequence. The first character wears a plaid mini skirt and platform clogs while carrying a flower bouquet, the second character skateboards in cargo pants with a film camera, the third character wears 1970s-style flower-printed trousers while walking a dog, the fourth character roller-skates and also reads a book, the fifth character plays a drum in West African-style geometric printed pants, the sixth character rides a scooter with long braids and fairy wings, and the seventh character wears a polka-dot dress while holding a soft serve ice cream cone. In between these characters, wild urban plants, drawn with intricate lines, emerge from the sidewalk: violet, yarrow, burdock, dandelion, milkweed, mullein, mugwort, chicory, and clover.

About Construction Fences

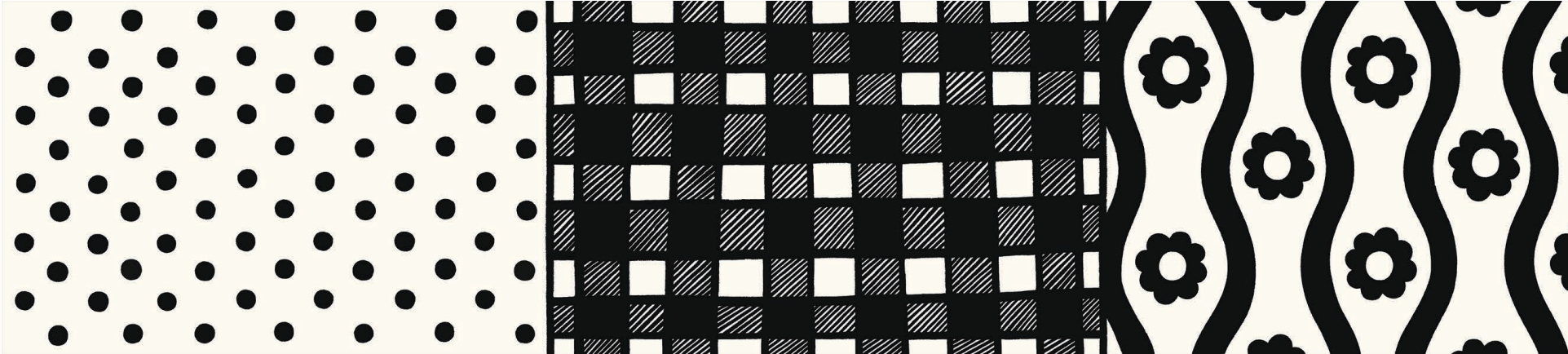
Construction fences are at least 8 feet high and may be made of wood, corrugated metal, or chain link materials. Fences made of solid materials include 1 x 1 foot plexi-glass viewing panels every 25 feet and are installed between three and six feet above ground level. Artwork displayed on a construction fence will be printed on vinyl that will be fastened to the outer sides and ends of fence either by stretching it over the fence and fastening to the back or by affixing such material to self-adhesive panels that adhere directly to the surface. Chain link fencing may require the vinyl print to include grommets in order to secure the art using zip-ties. More information is available on the [Department of Building's website](#).



Supported Scaffold / Netting Artwork



Sidewalk Shed Artwork



Sidewalk Shed Artwork, detail



Sidewalk Shed Artwork, detail

Nikki Scioscia, *Plant Walk*, 2024



Construction Fence Artwork



Construction Fence Artwork, detail



Construction Fence Artwork, detail