

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Deadline January 26, 2024

Gateways to Change:

**BROOKLYN
STREET
DESIGN
COMPETITION**

**NATIONAL
FUND** for the **ARTS**



1.



OVERVIEW

National Fund for the Arts (NFA) is pleased to announce the Gateways to Change: Brooklyn Street Design Competition. We are looking for visionary design and public art practitioners to develop **concept designs for eight potential sites on Hanover Street**, the Brooklyn community's main commercial corridor.



GARDEN SIGN: ART WITH A HEART



MUSICAL BENCHES:

GOALS

NFA seeks designers/teams with bold visions for participatory projects that build local pride and involvement and that highlight the unique identity of the Brooklyn peninsula. The best designs will be community-centered multi-site placemaking/placekeeping

projects that invigorate Brooklyn Street and strengthen community connection to redevelopment plans for the waterfront. Ideas that address the streetscape, landscape, transit nodes, community identity and/or neighborhood history are welcomed.

THE SITES

There are the eight potential sites for placemaking project installation. They all represent an opportunity for to meet community goals for increased safety and visibility. Sites include two community gateways, a transportation hub and proposed bike lane, a budding main street, and a public safety focus area.



1. MIDDLE BROOK TRAIL/ENTRANCE



2. HANOVER BRIDGE



3. SOUTH BROOKLYN PARK & RIDE



4. HWY 895 UNDERPASS



5. 3601 S. BROOKLYN ST.



6. STAR MART FACADE (3638 HANOVER ST)



7. SOUTHERN GATEWAY (HANOVER AND ASHE STS)



8. BELLEGROVE TRIANGLE
(BELLE AND CHATHAM STS)

THE PROCESS

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants submit their letters of interest, website/work examples, and qualifications, competing for **three finalist opportunities**.

An Advisory Committee made up of community stakeholders and agency partners will review proposals and guide the selection process.

PROPOSALS

The three finalists will be paid a concept design fee of \$4,000 to develop their concept design proposals for the pre-selected Brooklyn Street sites. **Designs will be presented at an in-person public meeting** with opportunities for community input. Finalists will receive a travel stipend to present their work in-person in Baltimore at this event.

CREATION

GBA's Advisory Committee will select **one awardee** to implement their proposed project. The awardee will be commissioned to create and install the final series of works.



TIMELINE

RFQ opens November 20, 2023

RFQ deadline to submit January 15, 2023 by 11:59pm EST

Finalist Notification February 20, 2024

Concept Development February – April 2024

Finalists Proposal Due May 1, 2024

Public feedback period May – June 2024

Final Awardee Selection and Announcement September 2024

Project Implementation October 2024 – May 2025



CELEBRATING BROOKLYN MURAL: MAURA DWYER



DESIGN FOR DISTANCING: NDC, BDC, TWO POINT STUDIO, JUSTIN DUVALL ILLUSTRATION

BUDGET

Three selected finalists will receive a stipend of \$4,000 to develop concept designs.

One awardee will have a budget of \$10,000-\$30,000 per site, depending on project specifics such as impact, scale, materials and scope. Fundraising is underway for the total project budget and will be updated in the RFP process.

ELIGIBILITY

- Practitioners residing or headquartered **in the USA**.
 - We are intentionally encouraging a wide range of creative practitioners to apply; there are **no specific educational or professional requirements**.
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WHO SHOULD APPLY

- Individuals or teams with art, design, public art, and placemaking project implementation experience.
 - Students and emerging practitioners with sample design projects of a similar nature, but no implementation experience. Please note in your Letter of Intent if you are a student, and what school you attend.
 - Applicants from backgrounds under-represented in the arts and design fields.
 - Applicants with lived experience and connection to the Brooklyn community. Greater Brooklyn is made up of Brooklyn, Ashe Park, and Ashe Bay.
- We understand that qualified candidates may come from less conventional education and work backgrounds. If you think you'd be a fit for this program but don't meet the eligibility/experience listed, we still encourage you to apply.



TO APPLY

Please send a 1-2 page cover letter and statement of qualifications/resume to Sarah Less at sarah@nfa.org.

SUBMISSION MATERIALS CHECKLIST

- Your training in and/or professional experience in the fields of sculpture, public art, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, social design, community design, visual art, or other design and art-related fields, and/or relevant community work and organizing experience
- Summary of individual or firm's relevant experience designing and/or implementing quality projects in the public realm
- For group/firm proposals: include a project team list, and bios/profiles
- Optional: Your statement of practice or philosophy, or artists statement
- Optional: Any additional links to press coverage, awards or other supplemental materials (if not included in the website)



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND: RALPH DAHL & ANNIE HO

BACKGROUND

National Fund for the Arts (NFA) is a non-profit arts development organization whose mission is to act as a catalyst and conduit for equitable development and reinvestment in neighborhoods across the United States. We seek to empower community residents and working artists with opportunities and support.

Since 2004, NFA has served as the anchor for revitalization programs in Baltimore City and Garrett County. Our cross jurisdictional programs support affordable housing, economic development, beautification, transportation access, youth and education, and public safety initiatives.

The community's *Vision and Action Plan (2016)* acts as a guide for development, with the overarching goal of improved quality of life for the 26,000 residents living in the Brooklyn area.



Now in its fifth year, NFA's *Glow Up* community beautification program puts capital dollars in the hands of community groups so they can implement projects that support their revitalization goals. The program builds public support for planning initiatives including parks, trails, and commercial renovation projects. In 2020, NFA launched our Public Art Initiative, funding 38 artists to produce work in neighborhood-prioritized places.

OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Located south of Baltimore, Brooklyn serves as the southern gateway to the city. The neighborhood has a relatively diverse population, with a large growth in Latino population over the past decade.

Brooklyn Street and Ashe Avenue make up Brooklyn's main retail district, with several historic buildings (movie theaters, bowling alleys, etc.) that have been repurposed for new commercial uses. Brooklyn assets include Garrett Park, which showcases sweeping views of the inner harbor.

HELPFUL LINKS

- [NFA Vision and Action Plan](#)
- [Green Neighborhoods: A Plan for the South Baltimore 7](#)
- [South Baltimore 7 Coalition: Organization Assessment and Strategic Planning Report](#)
- [The Garrett County Green Infrastructure Master Plan \(Draft\)](#)
- [Brooklyn Elementary/Middle School: Draft INSPIRE Recommendation Brief](#)
- [NFA portfolio of prior creative placemaking projects](#)
- [Reimagine Middle Trail](#)