



Washington Square Park Guidelines and Information for Temporary Public Art Installations

Exhibition proposals are first shared with the Washington Square Park Public Art Committee, which then recommends them to the Parks' Art in the Parks program for approval. Exhibitions are presented under the auspices of both organizations in collaboration with the chosen artists, galleries and/or other related arts organizations. Preference will be given to locally based artists and organizations.

Physical Characteristics and Limitations

All artworks must weigh at least 1,000 lbs. (with or without a base) to prevent overturning and theft. Anchoring directly to hardscape surfaces in this park is not allowed.

Artworks should be constructed to withstand heavy public interaction and should not invite climbing. Artworks should have easy-to-clean surfaces in the event of graffiti. Exhibition organizers are responsible for all graffiti removal in a timely manner using their own supplies.

A space of at least 3 feet surrounding the artwork should be kept clear to comply with ADA accessibility requirements.

Exhibitions are typically 2-4 months in duration and will only be permitted between the months of November and April.

Locations

Given the heavy usage of Washington Square Park, artwork may only be exhibited in specific locations. Interested exhibitors are encouraged to examine the areas where public art is permitted to be shown in Washington Square Park.

See following pages for available locations.

Additional Requirements:

Transport/Installation: Exhibition organizers must arrange for sculpture delivery, installation, and de-installation in coordination with Parks.

General liability insurance must be provided by the artist and/or sponsor. Artist and/or sponsor must provide the Parks Department a maintenance and restoration bond in the form of a certified check (amount to be determined depending on sculpture size and quantity).

Installation is generally permitted on Mondays through Wednesdays, 6:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Exhibitors must present the exhibition to Manhattan Community Board 2 prior to the issuance of a license agreement.



Submission Requirements

- A written description of proposed artwork, including: title (for Committee/Dept. reference), medium, dimensions (H x W x D), weight, installation method and anchoring procedure.
- If proposing existing work: Photographs or slides of artwork; include reference to human scale.
- If proposing a new work: working drawings and/or photograph of maquette to scale. Include dimensions.
- Artist's statement and resume
- Installation budget, including a description of the sponsoring organization or other method of financing. Include the name, address and phone number of the contact person.
- Proposed duration and exhibition period/timeline
- The location of specific site(s) for the installation
- Up to ten images of the artist's previous work. All images must be clearly labeled with the name of the artist, title of the work, media and dimensions (H x W x D).
- For initial consideration by the Committee, the above information should be sent in one document as a PDF by email
- There is no deadline for proposals.
- More information about the submission requirements and public art process can be found at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/art-and-antiquities/temporary-guidelines>.

Please send proposals to:

Public Art Coordinator, NYC Parks, The Arsenal, Central Park, Room 20, 830 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10065 or artandantiquities@parks.nyc.gov



Selection Criteria

The City may approve or deny temporary public art proposals on NYC Parks property and may enact administrative guidelines and procedures to implement this policy. The following checklist will be used by the advisory committee when reviewing applications:

Artistic Merit

- Proposed artwork is of high quality.
- Artist's past work and resume demonstrates proficiency in the proposed medium.
- Artist has an exhibition history or experience within the public and/or private realm.
- Artist has participated in team and/or community-based art projects.

Site Suitability

- Artwork is suitable for the site based on size, scale, and form.
- Proposed artwork will not damage or unduly alter the site.
- Proposal considers the variety of audiences at the site.
- Proposed artwork does not disrupt the regular usage of the site.
- Proposal considers the social, historical, architectural, geographical and/or cultural context of the site.
- Proposal demonstrates community involvement during design, fabrication, and/or installation.

Organizational Capacity

- Organization has experience planning public programs and/or public art projects.
- Organization agrees to monitor and maintain the artwork.
- Organization has secured funding to meet budget.

Artwork Durability

- Artwork will be made of durable materials to withstand outdoor weather conditions.
- Artwork is carefully planned ensuring sound fabrication & installation.

Public Safety

- Proposal does not present any public safety hazards.



Locations



Plaza west of Alexander Lyman Holley Monument





Plaza east of Giuseppe Garibaldi Monument





Sitting area between Fifth Avenue and Washington Square North





Sitting area north of Washington Place on Washington Square East





Sitting area south of Washington Place on Washington Square East

