Application Deadline

Tuesday, May 1st, 2023 at 11:59PM EST.

Selected artists will be notified in May 2023.

Project Description

The Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity (RISE) is soliciting proposals for the 2023 Art Underneath the Elevated IV initiative, which will commission 2-3 artists to envision, produce, and exhibit temporary public art installations underneath or adjacent to the elevated A-train in Rockaway, Queens.

This exciting initiative will use art and creative placemaking as a catalyst to temporarily transform and animate this fragmented and underutilized roadway into a vibrant and active public space. Through this initiative, RISE hopes to inspire the community to re-imagine the potential of Rockaway Freeway to reconnect the Peninsula and serve as an adaptable civic space.

This call for proposals invites an individual or a group of artists to submit a project proposal for temporary public artworks. Two to three projects will be selected. Potential project mediums include lighting installations, digital projections, street furniture, signage, murals, or sculptures. The RISE Center (58-03 Rockaway Beach Blvd) will serve as the hub of activity, and it’s gallery for public programs and community engagement that build on the chosen projects.

Selected artists will receive a $6,000 to 8,000 production grant to support all costs associated with their project and a one month community engagement residency that includes access to the resources and facilities at the RISE Center.

Project Background

Located below the elevated A-line subway tracks, the five mile long Rockaway Freeway currently acts as a de facto community corridor for bikers and pedestrians. As part of its Wellness Way Initiative, RISE has been working since 2012, in partnership with NYC DOT, residents and stakeholders, to re-envision this much needed, yet underperforming and dangerous underpass into a safe and inviting public space that has the potential to serve as an important cross-peninsula connection for pedestrians and bikers.
Selection Criteria

Projects will be reviewed based upon the following criteria:

1. **Record of artistic excellence and successful execution of installations.** Artists should provide information and references to speak to their experience and history of completing similar projects.

2. **Record of community collaboration.** Artists should speak to their experience incorporating meaningful community collaboration and/or education components in past work, especially that invite mutual respect for differing beliefs and values.

3. **Community Collaboration or engagement.** Applicants should propose a youth education or community collaboration component. Examples include a workshop with K-12 youth or street interviews with local residents. Applicants can review RISE’s roster of youth and public programs for ideas.

4. **Livability in the public realm.** Projects should enhance livability by improving quality of life in the community, such as through providing ample opportunities for social, civic, and cultural engagement; public safety; ease of transportation; and an aesthetically pleasing environment.

5. **Innovation in the public realm.** Projects are strongly encouraged to think creatively about the space and to take into account both complex and unique characteristics of the communities surrounding the sites.

6. **Safety, installation, maintenance, disassembly, and material disposal plan feasibility.** Applicants should discuss how their design allows for safety in a well trafficked area where it is likely that people with climb, walk, and sit on the piece. Installations should be able to be disassembled without leaving significant traces and allow for a minimal degree of maintenance for the life of the piece.

Process and Timeline

Completed applications received by the deadline (May 1, 2023 at 11:59pm) will be reviewed by the selection committee in May. The selection committee will be composed of arts and culture experts and local residents. The selection committee will make a final decision on up to three projects to be announced in June.

Following the recommendations of the selection committee, RISE staff will contact applicants individually to discuss proposed projects before confirming the final selection. The selected artists will meet with RISE in June to map out the schedule for the installation and programs.
The installation and all associated workshops must take place between July-December 2023. RISE will host an opening event to unveil the new pieces. The artwork will remain in place for a minimum of one month and a maximum of five months. RISE will provide maintenance for the piece. The final artwork upon installation will become the property of RISE.

**Site**

Prior to preparing proposals, applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the site, a stretch along or adjacent to Rockaway Freeway from Beach 60th St to Beach 62nd St. Competitive applications will thoughtfully use space, material, and/or process to create a conceptual or physical public experience. Visiting Rockaway Freeway will give applicants a clearer idea of the physical and environmental factors that will influence installations.

**Submission Requirement**

Only proposals sent to Alana Danieu, Community Programs Coordinator will be reviewed. There is no fee to apply.

*Application Components*

1. Cover Sheet
2. Resume & References
3. Images & Corresponding Image List (Limit 3-5 projects)
4. Proposal (limit 1 page written narrative about the project)

*Please download the more detailed application instructions at riserockaway.org for more information*

**QUESTIONS**

Email Art Underneath the Elevated Project Coordinator Alana Danieu at adanieu@riserockaway.org with questions or concerns.

*Art Underneath the Elevated is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts’ ArtWorks program.*