

City of Albany

Call for Artists

ALBANY CREATIVE JUSTICE ART PROJECT



Release Date: November 8, 2021

Submission Due: February 8, 2022, 4:00 PM

ALBANY CREATIVE JUSTICE ART PROJECT
Presented by the Albany Arts Committee

“Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.” – James Baldwin

The Albany Creative Justice Art Project invites artists to submit proposals for the creation of a new, public artwork that will actively engage residents of Albany in creatively addressing past, present, and future issues of social justice in the city and region. Applications are welcome from individuals as well as teams, collectives, and collaborators.

Proposed projects should aim to address and prompt discussion on experiences of race, ethnicity, identity, and justice in Albany by inviting openness, exchange, and a healthier civic environment within the city. Proposals in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, the Stop Asian Hate movement, Indigenous rights and recognition, and other movements centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion are strongly encouraged.

The artist should consider working with various constituencies (youth/students, civic leaders, seniors, community groups, public agencies, etc.) for the purpose of informing and collaborating on the production of the artwork, broadly conceived.

Locations to consider within Albany may include the Solano Ave and San Pablo Ave business corridors, the Ohlone Greenway, public parks and pathways, as well as more dispersed, distributed, or discursive sites.

Project proposals may include diverse contemporary art strategies, including but not limited to: community art, social practice, socially-engaged art, collaborative art, interactive public art, process-based art, research-based art, relational aesthetics, and other community-focused approaches. In keeping with local arts funding ordinances, the final work must be resolved in one of the following formats: sculpture, monument, mural, fountains, fresco, relief, painting, drawing, etching, original print and collage, mosaic, ceramic, weaving, carving, stained glass, wood, metal, plastic, textile, earthworks, digital art, or electronic art. Aspects of proposed projects may be process-based or durational and are open to all media, including, but not limited to, visual and performing arts, media arts, socially-engaged art, and various community art practices.

A strong proposal will consider specific audiences, contexts, sites and forms of community engagements. Additionally, all proposals must include a plan for a final exhibition as well as documentation of the community engagement processes.

The selected artist(s) will develop the submitted project proposals in collaboration with key community members and with the support of the projects program manager.

Qualifications:

- Evidence of professional achievement.
- Familiarity with Albany and its neighborhoods.
- Strong interest in engaging themes of social justice.
- A professional, artistic commitment to ethical engagement.
- Expertise in one or more: visual arts, performing arts, media arts, or other contemporary art practices.
- Experience with community arts, socially-engaged art, social practice art, interactive public art, and/or collaborative art practices. Experience with and sensitivity to an urban setting.
- Strong communication skills.
- Experience working collaboratively.

Duties and Responsibilities

Once selected that artist(s) will:

- Collaborate with community members, Program Manager, and project participants to further develop and finalize the proposal.
- Develop a production schedule.
- Oversee the collaborative processes of production.
- Develop community aspects of the project, including, if the project calls for it, content for community arts workshops, meetings, and events.
- Attend regular meetings with Program Manager about the progress, achievements, and challenges of the project. In partnership with Program Manager, identify and gather materials and resources for project production and final exhibition. In partnership with Program Manager, develop and participate in public outreach, promotion and media strategies.
- Produce and install documentation and/or work in a final exhibition at the Albany Community Center or other site as determined by the proposal.

Schedule and Location

All projects will take place in Albany. Specific locations may be proposed by the artist(s) and developed in conversation with their community collaborators.

Project Timeline*:

Applications due: February 8, 2022.

Notification of finalists: no later than April 15, 2022.

Finalists' proposals due: June 3, 2022.

Models on Display at Community Center or City Hall: June 6, 2022 – August 6, 2022.

Finalist interviews: September 2022.

Notification of Artist Selected: September 2022.

Installation complete: March 2023.

**Please note that this is an estimated timeline and is subject to change.*

Budget:

The total budget for proposed projects should not exceed \$30,000, including an artist fee and all production costs. Depending on specific project needs some material costs, equipment, space, or services may be available through municipal resources or community partners. Specific requests of this nature should be noted in the proposed budget.

Time Commitment:

Artists will commit to participate in community workshops and for the development and presentation of project proposals. Hours slated for production of the art work to be determined by artist. Artists will create a schedule in collaboration with community collaborators.

How to Apply

Please complete the Application for Albany Creative Justice Art Project (page 8) and submit the following to the Albany City Clerk at cityclerk@albanyca.org no later than **4 pm on February 8, 2022**.

- Letter of Interest
 - Your letter should be one page maximum.
 - Summary of your interest/practice as an artist (3-4 sentences).
 - Career highlights (awards, important exhibits, etc.;;) list no more than 3 or 4.
 - Summary of past or current experience that may relate to the skills or experience needed for this project.
 - If you are collaborating with another artist, address the reason for the collaboration.
 - If you have never done a public artwork, address how you might translate your work for this context.
- Resume / CV
- Artwork Proposal
 - Brief description of the project you envision (max. 500 words).
 - Finalists will be asked to submit complete proposals including budget, timeline, logistics, etc.
- Supplementary materials that you feel may be applicable including documentation, slides, video, audio. No original artwork will be accepted.

Note

- Only digital submissions will be accepted. No physically mailed submissions will be accepted.
- People of Color and women are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Collectives and artist collaborations are welcome to apply in addition to individual artists.

Online Proposal Submission Questions:

1. Please provide a short project description outlining the process and intentions of the project. (500 words max)

2. What form will the project take in its final realization? If you are proposing a process-based work that doesn't have a predetermined form, describe as best you can the types of realization you imagine, and also how its final form will be determined. (500 words max)
3. How do you envision collaborating with community members?
4. Will you be collaborating with local and/or regional community organizations? Do you have any pre-existing relationship to these, or to similar organizations located elsewhere?
5. Do you envision specific audience(s) for the work?
6. Please include a proposed production schedule or timeline for this project.
7. Please include a project budget (not to exceed \$30,000 inclusive of fee, all production costs, and production of documentation for community exhibition as needed).

Deadline to apply - Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 PM, on February 8, 2022, at the following address: CityClerk@Albanyca.org

Proposals not received by the deadline will not be accepted. Late proposals and mailed parcels not received by the deadline will not be accepted. No faxed applications will be accepted.

Selection Process and Criteria

A Selection Panel made up of artists, Arts Committee members, and community representatives will review all applications and select, from those that meet the specifications described in this Call for Artists, 3 finalists to prepare designs and models for final consideration. An honorarium will be paid to the finalists. The Selection Panel's decisions are subject to final approval by the Albany Arts Committee. Selection Panel participants are to be announced. The criteria to be used in selecting the finalists are as follows:

1. Artistic merit (excellence, originality) as evidenced by representation of relevant past work in slides and other supporting material.
2. Appropriateness of the artist's medium, style, and experience in relation to the project goals and settings.
3. Responsiveness of the application narrative to the specifications of this Call for Artists
4. Experience with projects of a similar scale and scope and/or adequate professional experience (studio and employment experience included) to fulfill the requirements of this project.
5. Experience should include familiarity with public agencies, the public review process, and/or collaboration with city agencies and community groups. Artists must have good communication skills and be able to work with diverse city representatives and community members.
6. Completeness of the proposal package, including design sketches drawings and images to convey the finished installation, public interactivity features, and adaptability to existing conditions.
7. Ability to assist residents in shaping the course of public art at the park.
8. Capacity to improve the overall appearance of the vicinity and to create a community asset and sense of place.
9. Demonstrated ability to recognize, honor, and link together significant historic, cultural, and natural resources representative of a site and surrounding community.
10. Availability to fabricate and install the project during the time period identified for this project.

Process for Finalists

Finalists will receive an honorarium to meet the following requirements:

- submit a model of the proposed project by the deadline announced when finalists are selected
NOTE: The model will be displayed publicly (at Community Center) for a public comment period prior to the artist's presentation of the model to the Arts Committee.
- provide the following additional materials:
 - a materials list and samples of all materials to be used
 - a detailed budget for the project
- present the model to the Arts Committee in an in-person, public interview

Artist will be selected to develop proposals based upon the following criteria:

- a) Is the site location and public visibility of the artwork appropriate?
- b) Is the artwork appropriate for the project site, environment, and community?
- c) Is the artwork potentially offensive to the public?
- d) Does the artwork create a physical or visual safety hazard to the public?
- e) Is the scale of the artwork appropriate for the intended location and surroundings?
- f) What physical elements (i.e. rain, sun, irrigation, landscaping) might change the appearance of the artwork over time?
- g) Is the artwork protected from vandalism or graffiti?
- h) Does the applicant have a maintenance plan for the artwork to ensure longevity?
- i) Does the artwork include appropriate night or accent lighting?
- j) Does the artwork include an identification plaque, with the artwork title, artist name and date of installation?
- k) Does the project preserve and integrate with any natural features of the project site/environment? Natural features may include trees or other features of the natural terrain.
- l) Does the artwork have compatibility of design and location within a unified design character or historical character of the site?

The artist whose work is selected for the project will be required to sign a contract that will include, among other obligations, the following:

- give a brief public presentation as part of the opening ceremonies after the installation of the sculpture
- document the artwork once it is installed (in photos) and provide documentation to the committee
- provide a description of maintenance required for the artwork installed

Acceptance of Proposals

The Albany Arts Committee and City of Albany reserves the right to reject all design proposals submitted in response to this Call for Artists as well as the right not to award any contracts for this project. This Call for Artists does not constitute an agreement to fund artwork for the site described above. All information contained herein does not constitute either an expressed or implied contract. The provision of this Call for Artists are subject to change.

Retention of Proposal Materials and Models

In the event that an artist is provided an honorarium to develop drawings and/or a model of a proposal, the following policy shall apply:

- a. The Albany Arts Committee, at its sole discretion, have the unconditional right to maintain ownership of any model, drawing or other materials used for its evaluation and selection process, as part of commission awards.
- b. The Albany Arts Committee may at its option choose to retain all such requested models, drawings and other materials until completion and final approval of the project installation, at which time such materials may be returned to the artist.

Models and proposals submitted to the Albany Arts Committee shall be original, and unique in design and fabrication, and shall convey the proposal concept with reasonable accuracy, scale and detail.

For more information about the project, direct inquiries to Liam Kelly
lkelly@albanyca.org, (510)-528-5716



Application for Albany Creative Justice Art Project

Deadline: February 8, 2022, 4:00 PM

Name(s) _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____
Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____
Website address(es) _____

Application Checklist -

- Letter for Interest
 - a. Your letter should be one page maximum.
 - b. Summary of your interest/practice as an artist (3-4 sentences).
 - c. Career highlights (awards, important exhibits, etc.;;) list no more than 3 or 4.
 - d. Summary of past or current experience that may relate to the skills or experience needed for this project.
 - e. If you are collaborating with another artist, address the reason for the collaboration.
 - f. If you have never done a public artwork, address how you might translate your work for this context.
- Resume/CV
- Artwork Proposal
 - a. Brief description of the project you envision (max. 500 words)
 - b. Finalists will be asked to submit complete proposals including budget, timeline, logistics etc.
 - c. Photographs of the existing site;
- Supplementary materials that you feel may be applicable including documentation, slides, video, audio. No original artwork will be accepted.
- A preliminary estimate of all costs related to creating and installing the artwork.
- A project timeline including design process, all city reviews and installation.
- A suggested maintenance plan indicating schedule, instructions, life expectancy of work, etc.

Incomplete or incorrectly assembled applications may not be accepted. Neither the Albany Arts Committee nor the City of Albany staff may be held responsible for lost, missing, or damaged materials submitted. The City of Albany reserves the right to refuse all entries.

Send Application Form and materials no later than **4 pm on February 8, 2022** to:
Albany City Clerk, CityClerk@Albanyca.org