

URBAN PARKS ART GRANT PROGRAM

The Downtown Seattle Association is seeking artists to help enliven Occidental Square and Westlake Park. As our public spaces are reflections of our shared sense of community, the DSA feels strongly that these two critical public spaces should serve to bring greater opportunities for artists to connect with residents, workers, and visitors to our downtown neighborhoods.

The Urban Parks Art Grant is a semi-annual fund that is intended to showcase a revolving series of public art installations. This grant is available for any artist who is interested in creating an installation that will live in our parks for a season. So long as the work can be on display in an outdoor, public environment, we are open and interested in all variety of concepts/media.

Evaluation Criteria

The goals of the Urban Parks Art Grant are to support and increase the presence of art in downtown public spaces, bring a greater number of users into our public spaces, increase engagement of historically underserved communities, support and increase the number of positive, family-friendly interactive activities downtown, celebrate diversity, and promote artistic expression. Proposals submitted to the program will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Quality of Concept:** Clear, well-conceived, authentic relationship to the park/neighborhood, promotes arts participation and community relationships.
- **Community Impact:** Project plan describes meaningful efforts to create community participation and reach diverse and underserved audiences. Organizations and individual artists representing underserved communities including low-income, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities of color are encouraged to apply.
- **Feasibility:** The individual/organization has a proven track record of producing this and/or other installations. Concept should have a clear realistic budget for fabrication and installation. Artists should demonstrate a proven ability to collaborate on design teams, with design professionals, and with community stakeholders.

Funding

Funding for each call period is capped at \$10,000 and is competitively awarded based on applications received. Selected artists will receive funding at one of three tiers:

- \$5,000
- \$3,000
- \$1,500

As there is no partial funding for awards, 2-6 artists will be selected for each call depending on the amounts requested and the quality of concepts submitted. It is not required that awarded installations only use funding from this grant, so selected artists may use other outside funds as available.

Awarded artists may use funding, as they see fit, for any of the following:

- artist fees
- marketing and promotional fees
- project management and personnel costs
- supplies
- equipment rentals or other production-related costs
- required permits (see DSA parks permit)

Grant funds may not be used for fundraising efforts, gifts, administrative costs not directly related to the project, or the purchase of equipment or software.

Project Timeline

There are two open call periods per year for artists to choose from depending on when they intend to have their art displayed. Applications received within the current open call period will only be considered for the current award, but we encourage all artists to apply for future rounds, as well.

CURRENT OPEN CALL PERIOD

- Artist call open June 1 - July 31.
- Applications due by 5PM, July 31.
- Selected artist(s) notified by August 15.
- Artworks may be installed September - December 2019.

NEXT OPEN CALL PERIOD

- Artist call opens October 1 - November 31.
- Applications due by 5PM, November 31.
- Selected artist(s) notified made by December 15.
- Artworks may be installed January - April 2020.

Application Materials

All applications must be submitted by emailing: callsforartists@downtownseattle.org

Applications must include the following information. Please either include each element in a single document or package your files before emailing:

- **Letter of interest** (not to exceed one page)
 - Please provide a statement describing your interest in this project, addressing your qualifications, as well as your interest in improving the public realm, urban design, and community engagement.
- **Resume or CV**
- **Design concept**
 - This should include any graphics that help visualize your concept including vignettes, plans, drawings, renderings etc.
 - Your concept does not need to be finalized for the application, but any details on materials, construction methods, and installation plans will be useful for the selection panel to consider.
- **Up to 5 images of past works**
 - Where possible, submit examples of projects installed in public spaces.
 - Descriptions of the past work are encouraged
- **Park preference and funding request**
 - Indicate where you'd intend the art to be located. You may propose to install in either or both of the parks
 - Awarding is competitive based on applications received, so indicate what funding level you'd like to be considered for

Selection Process

The selection process will be completed by a panel of arts and design professionals, DSA staff, and City staff members. The panel will review the applicants' images, qualifications, and other materials based on the program evaluation criteria. Depending on the scope or complexity of the project, applicants may be requested to take part in an interview process.