



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Public Art Project

Downtown Denver 16th St Mall

Budget: \$700,000.00 USD

Eligibility: International

DEADLINE: Monday, October 18, 2021, 11:59 pm MST

Introduction

The City of Denver's Public Art Program seeks to commission an artist or team of artists to create original public artworks for the renovation of Denver's 16th Street Mall. The outdoor pedestrian/transit mall runs 1.25 miles along 16th Street in the heart of downtown Denver from Wewatta Street to Broadway. A selection panel of community representatives, arts professionals, and civic leaders has been assembled to identify art opportunities and to select and recommend an artist or artist team for this project. Locations for proposed artworks are to be determined once a shortlist of finalists is chosen. This commission is open internationally to artists or artist teams. The budget is \$700,000.00 USD.

Project Goals

The selection panel members have set forth specific goals and parameters for this public art project with the hope of creating unique and inspiring works of art for the diverse communities that visit, work at, or near, and enjoy the 16th Street Mall. The panel is looking to commission artwork that will be beacons or gateways to the City of Denver and draw visitors to the Mall. Artworks should enhance the experience and engage multiple senses, harnessing tactile, light, and/or sound components to achieve these aims. Ground space on the Mall is limited and must remain open for public activity; therefore, works that utilize vertical, overhead, or other space-conserving strategies are encouraged. The selection panel is open to artwork in all media and materials suitable for outdoor display. **However, the panel is not looking for two-dimensional artwork.** Artists are asked to be mindful and respectful of the Mall's functionality, programs, and users.

The 16th Street Mall

The 16th Street Mall is Denver's premier public space and is the connective tissue that brings all walks of life together, serving as the public commons that anchors the City in a shared and inclusive space. Since its establishment in 1982, the Mall has served as a nationally recognized symbol of Downtown Denver's vitality and civic identity. As one of the world's longest pedestrian and transit malls, the 16th Street Mall is the backbone of the center city and the main attraction for a rapidly growing number of visitors and conventioners. The Mall has received accolades for its visionary design. It continues to draw national attention as cities worldwide look to create a sense of place that encourages community growth and economic development.

Today, the 16th Street Mall is on the verge of being reimagined, with extensive redevelopment plans underway and construction set to begin in 2022. The new 16th Street Mall will build on the strengths of Denver's main street by enhancing the pedestrian and retail experience, growing the tree canopy, and continuing the free shuttle mall bus ride. The redesign and reconstruction will consolidate amenity zones, create larger, more accessible areas for people of all ages and abilities, and enhance technology for a better 21st-century experience.

The 16th Street Mall - HISTORY

The 16th Street Mall opened in 1982 and has been the centerpiece of Downtown Denver since. It dramatically revitalized 16th Street, which was the premier retail destination in the Rocky Mountain Region since the 1890s but had begun to lose some of its lusters starting in the 1960s. The redesign of a city street into a street focused on walking and transit was led by the internationally-renowned firm of I.M. Pei and Partners, in collaboration with landscape architects Hanna/Olin Ltd., and opened in 1982 to pedestrians and shuttles only. Today, the 16th Street Mall serves as a live/work/play destination for the Denver metro area.

Mobility

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) FreeMallRide carries 40,000 passengers each weekday and is directly connected to seven light rail lines and three commuter rail lines. It serves as a critical connection between Denver's two regional transportation hubs of Civic Center Station and Denver Union Station and connects to eight bike lanes, three of which are protected.

Tourism

The 16th Street Mall is the number one visitor destination in the metro area. Annually, more than 1.5 million visitors stay near 16th Street in the 8,759 hotel rooms located within two blocks of 16th Street (80% of the total number of hotel rooms downtown).

People

More than 100,000 people work in the 24 million square feet of office space within two blocks of 16th Street (2/3 of downtown's employees); 10,000 people live within two blocks of 16th Street (1/3 of downtown residents), and 500,000 people live within five miles of 16th Street (70% of the City of Denver's population and 17% of the metro area's population).

An average of 20,000 people walked on each block of the 16th Street Mall every day before the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, pedestrian traffic has been reduced but remains higher than any other street in Downtown Denver.

Maintenance & Durability

All applicants are expected to consider the issues of long-term conservation and maintenance of public art, along with time and budget. These projects are located in the public realm and may therefore be exposed to weather and physical stresses, as well as be subject to vandalism. Public art projects should be fabricated of highly durable, low-maintenance materials. Finalists are encouraged to consult with a professional conservator prior to the submission of a final proposal. Artist proposals awarded contracts will be reviewed by the City of Denver's Public Art Committee to ensure conformity with city standards of maintenance and durability, as well as ADA standards. All finalists are expected to stay on budget and to complete work in an approved time frame.

Who May Apply

This project is open to all artists internationally. Denver Public Art is committed to building a public art collection that represents a broad diversity of artists based on race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion, marital status, political opinion, or affiliation, or mental or physical disability. The selection panel is especially interested in artists who can demonstrate a deep understanding of pedestrian transitways in the heart of cities (the local, regional, and international draw), as well as the area's history, urban landscape, surrounding neighborhoods, and current social and cultural events which fill Denver's main street with the sounds of community and connection.

Can a team apply?

Applicants may apply as a single artist or multi-person collaborative group. If applying as a team, please submit one résumé for the team, with no more than one page per team member.

Applying for these opportunities

In response to this RFQ, applicants will be asked to submit six digital images, a résumé, and a statement of interest no longer than 2,000 characters via www.callforentry.org (CaFÉ™). The selection panel will choose three to five finalists who will create site-specific proposals and be interviewed in a virtual format from these applications. Artists will be paid an honorarium for this work. Artists/teams selected as finalists will be required to submit a Diversity & Inclusiveness Form for their proposals to be considered, which will be provided upon notification. As directed by Executive Order 101, this form must be submitted for all city solicitations of proposals. Denver Arts & Venues Public Art Program staff can provide guidance on filling out this form. Based on the interview and proposal, an artist or artist team will be selected for this commission. The selected artist or artist team will work with the Public Art Program staff and the Downtown Denver 16th Street Mall design and executive teams when finalizing their designs for installation.

Diversity and Inclusiveness

Denver Executive Order No. 101 establishes strategies between the City and private industry to use diversity and inclusiveness to promote economic development in the City and County of Denver and to encourage more businesses to compete for City contracts and procurements. The Executive Order requires, among other things, the collection of certain information regarding the practices of the City's contractors and consultants toward diversity and inclusiveness and encourages/requires City agencies to include diversity and inclusiveness policies in selection criteria where legally permitted in solicitations for City services or goods. Diversity and inclusiveness means inviting values, perspectives, and contributions of people from diverse backgrounds and integrates variety into its hiring and retention policies, training opportunities, and business development methods to provide an equal opportunity for each person to participate, contribute, and succeed within the organization's workplace. "Diversity" encompasses a wide variety of human differences, including differences such as race, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, physical disabilities, appearance, historically underutilized and disadvantaged persons, as well as social identities such as religion, marital status, socio-economic status, lifestyle, education, parental status, geographic background, language ability, and veteran status.

Budget

This commission's budget is \$700,000.00 USD, allocated to the artist/team selected. These funds come from the City of Denver's 1% Percent for Public Art Ordinance resulting from the Downtown Denver 16th Street Mall renovation. This contract amount is inclusive of all costs associated with the project including, but not limited to: the artist's design fee, other consultation fees such as structural engineering consultation, insurance (including Colorado Workers Compensation), tools, materials, fabrication, transportation, installation, any building or site modification required, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, a contingency to cover unexpected costs, and any other expenses. For all work done on city property, prevailing wage requirements will be applied.

Timeline

(Except for the online application deadline, the timeline is subject to adjustments)

Monday, October 18 - 11:59 P.M. MST
November 2021
December 2021

Deadline for entry (via CaFÉ™ system)
Finalist Selection
Selected Artist or Artist Team Notification

Project Selection Panel

According to Denver's Public Art Policy, the project selection panel plays an active role in acquiring public art for Denver. The 16th St Mall selection panel is comprised of 13 voting members and additional non-voting advisors. The selection panel is responsible for reviewing the site, establishing criteria for a request for qualifications, reviewing applications, selecting and interviewing finalists, and selecting an artist or artist team for the commission.

Selection Process

Three to five artists/artist teams will be selected as finalists. Those selected will receive more specific information regarding the site and have the opportunity to meet with the 16th Street Mall design/construction representatives and Public Art staff. The finalists will receive an honorarium to prepare and present the proposal in a virtual format. The selection panel will review the proposals, interview the finalists and recommend an artist/artist team for the commission. The selection panel's final recommendation will be presented to the Public Art Committee, the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs, and the mayor of Denver for final approval. All decisions of the City and County of Denver are final.

Materials to be Submitted

Please read this section carefully. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered. The applicant's name must appear on all materials submitted.

All materials must be submitted online via the CaFÉ™ website (www.callforentry.org). There is no application fee to apply or to use the CaFÉ™ online application system.

Digital Images—To be considered for this project, the applicant must electronically submit six digital images of **previously completed** artworks through the online CaFÉ™ system. Artists who wish to submit kinetic, sound, or media works must submit a complete CaFÉ™ application and will have the opportunity to upload up to two video files.

IMPORTANT: if submitting audio or video files, do not use them as your very first image. They must be submitted last in your image sequence.

Instructions on how to format images to CaFÉ™ specifications can be found at <https://www.callforentry.org/uploading-images-audio-and-video-files/>.

Assistance in using the CaFÉ™ system is available here: <https://www.callforentry.org/artist-help-cafe/>.

Statement of Interest—Please submit a statement briefly outlining your interest in the Downtown Denver 16th Street Mall public art project, your design approach, and your experience working on projects of this kind (3,000 characters maximum) via CaFÉ™. Please also include information on your experience working with diverse communities and stakeholders.

Résumé—Submit a one to two-page current résumé via CaFÉ™ that highlights your professional accomplishments as an artist. Please name your résumé file accordingly: *Last name.First initial* (i.e., *Smith.J.pdf*). Résumés that are more than two pages will not be downloaded. If applying as a team, please submit one résumé with no more than one page per team member.

Survey – Applicants will also be required to fill out a short demographic survey that will be sent via the Survey Monkey website to the email on file from the CaFÉ™ application.

References – Applicants who are selected to be finalists will be required to provide three professional references.

Please direct all questions about the project to:

Rudi Cerri, Public Art Program Administrator, rudi.cerri@denvergov.org

Existing granite pavers are often described as the "rattlesnake" pattern. The grey, white, and red geometric configuration was inspired by Navajo rugs and combined with a circle/square element inspired by the floor of the pantheon. Granite pattern, curbs, and transit locations in its existing configuration are shown below:



The iconic 16th Street Mall connects the Lower Downtown, Commercial Core (also being rebranded as UpDown), and Uptown neighborhoods. The 16th Street pedestrian/transitway provides a central spine through downtown linking the cultural hub, convention center, sporting facilities, hotels, residential districts, and transit connections. **Denver** [neighborhoods map](#).

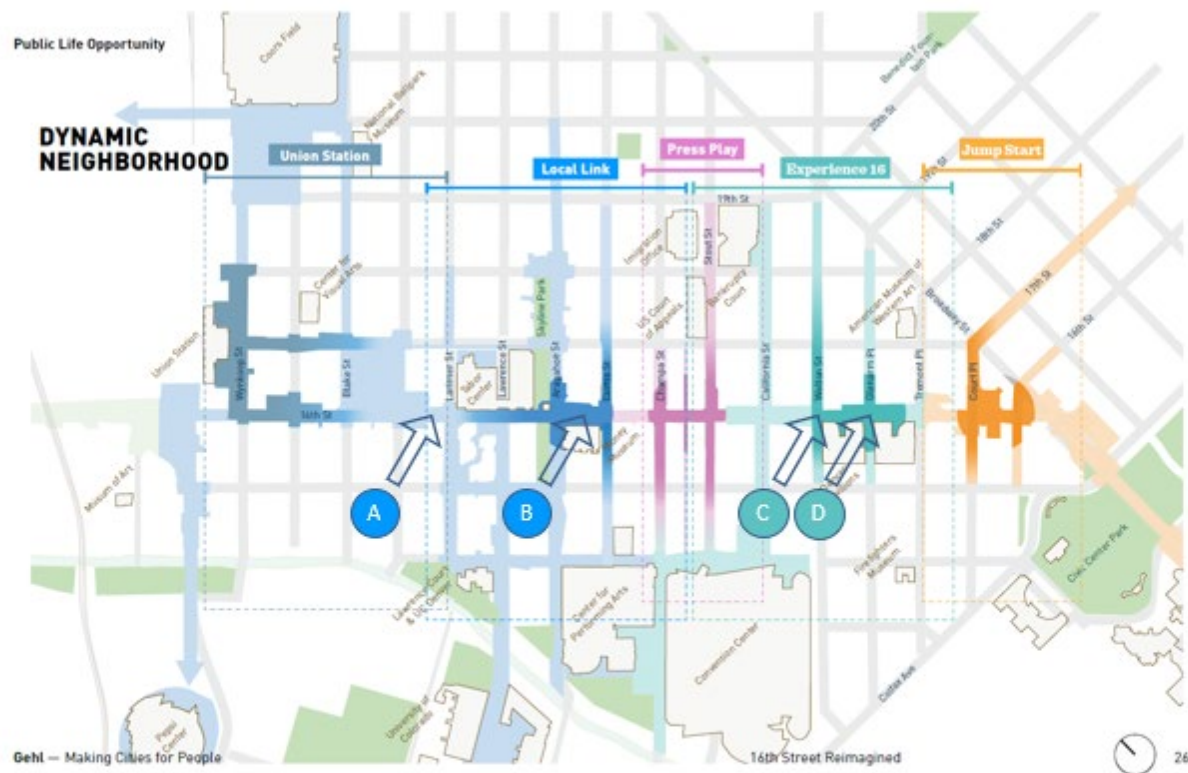
Diagram of downtown Denver neighborhoods and districts

Limit of 16th Street Mall reconstruction work.



Public art is anticipated to be an element that helps create community and interaction. Locations for Public Art are anticipated to be at the destination blocks where gathering, staying, eating, and listening are focused. These nodes of activity are noted below in the darker color zone with an unofficial name for the character areas for ease of description.

Four possible locations for art are mapped below along 16th Street Mall between Market Street and Broadway:



A 16th Street, between Market and Larimer

B 16th Street, between Arapahoe and Curtis

C 16th Street at Welton Street intersection

D 16th Street at or above Glenarm intersection

C 16th Street at Welton Street intersection



Opportunities at this location:

- Extended bulb-out area at the intersection north-east corner.
- Available multi-corner and over-intersection potential.
- New construction anticipated at Northwest corner in the following years.

D 16th Street at or above Glenarm intersection



Opportunities at this location:

- Available multi-corner and over-intersection potential.
- Located at a node of activity with adjacent three levels of exterior walkways as retail circulation with an overlook to intersection
- There are nearby spaces for eating, shopping, and buskers with the cross street (Glenarm Pl.) often closed for short term activations.
- Intended to be a block with additional retail kiosks, and children's play areas along with seating and shade structures for day and evening activation.

A 16th Street, between Market and Larimer



Opportunities at this location:

- Relocation of the existing painted metal bison.
- Wide granite sidewalk/amenity zone among two rows of trees and historic replica lights in a new configurate.
- Less activated existing building frontages on both sides of transit lanes.

B 16th Street, between Arapahoe and Curtis



Opportunities at this location:

- Located at a node of activity with steps up to a pedestrian plaza.
- Located across from the Federal Reserve Building.
- The Daniels and Fisher historic tower visible from this location.
- High pedestrian counts.
- Intended to be a block with additional food vendor carts and kiosks along with seating and shade structures for day and evening activation.

For more information on the Mall, please visit – <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Departments/Department-of-Transportation-and-Infrastructure/Programs-Services/Projects/16th-Street-Mall>