



# **Erie County Arts in Public Places**

**2026 Call for Artists  
Virtual Information Session  
March 24, 5:30PM**

# Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction: Arts in Public Places Committee & 2026 Call for Artists – Alexa Wajed, Chair of the Arts in Public Places Committee

2. Review of questions received, as well as copyright and insurance information – Colette Balisteri, Assistant Project Coordinator

3. Questions from Participants

4. Thank you & Contact Information

# Questions Received

**Question:** Is the (up to) \$75,000 budget per location or total?

**Answer:** The total budget **per location** is \$75,000.

# Questions Received

**Question:** Is this call geared more towards sculptural or wall-mounted work?

**Answer:** Proposals are for the Art in Public Places Major Works Program which typically calls for larger pieces including but not limited to murals, sculptures, etc. What is proposed by the artist is up to their discretion and should take into consideration what is appropriate for the public art location, including maintenance, etc.

# Questions Received

**Question:** For sculptures, will artists be required to carry insurance after installation, or will Erie County carry the insurance after installation? If the artist is required to carry insurance after the installation, how long?

**Answer:** The artist would be required to carry insurance during the design, fabrication and installation process but after installation when the work is complete, the work will become the property of Erie County and fall under the county's property insurance.

# Questions Received

**Question:** If a sculpture is proposed for one of the sites, is the artist responsible for hiring and budgeting for the concrete base and below-ground footings or can Erie County provide the work?

**Answer:** Erie County Department of Public Works would provide the concrete foundation needed for the sculpture.

# Questions Received

**Question:** Are any major materials (i.e. boom and scissor lifts) provided by Erie County, or should this all be encompassed in our budget?

**Answer:** Please include the cost of any and all materials and rentals in your budget.

# Questions Received

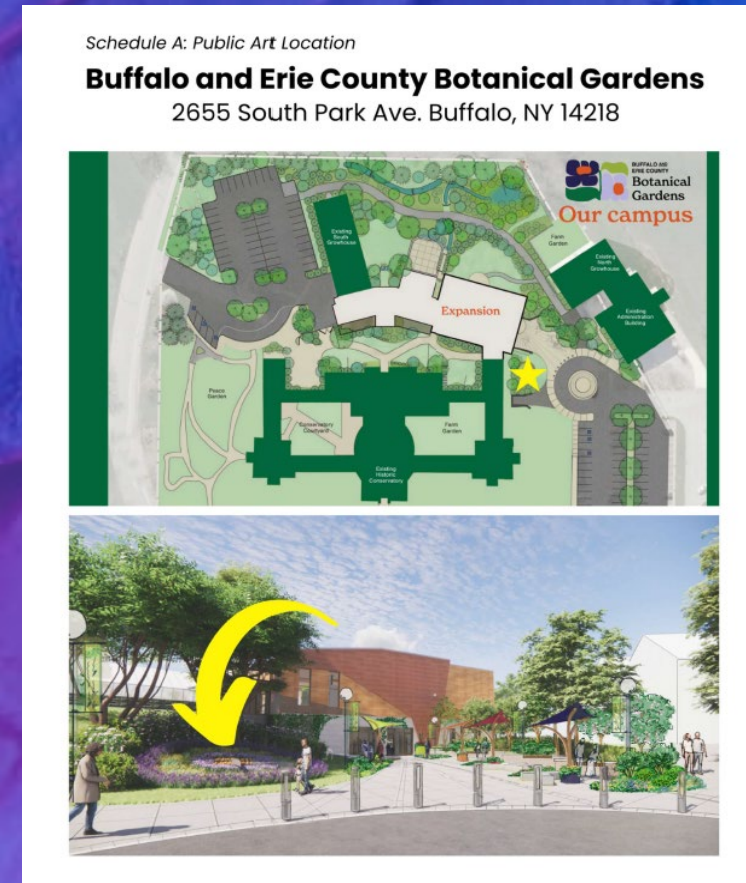
**Question:** Is it allowable to enter 2 separate proposals to the same location?

**Answer:** An artist cannot enter 2 separate proposals for the SAME location but an artist may enter separate proposals for EACH location.

# Questions Received

**Question:** Regarding the Botanical Gardens location, the rendering shows trees in the surrounding area that could possibly limit the size of a sculpture. Will these trees definitely be part of the final public art location?

**Answer:** There are no trees currently in the project location. The landscape plan for this area can change depending on which art piece is selected.



# Questions Received

**Question:** For the Botanical Gardens site, could you confirm the exact dimensions and any flexibility in the footprint, and advise whether artists can influence the surrounding landscaping and ground treatment (e.g., concrete or pebble) to support an immersive, year-round, walk-through installation?

**Answer:** The footprint for this area is flexible therefore exact dimensions are not identified. Artists can collaborate with Botanical Garden's Horticulturalists to influence the surrounding landscape if integral to the design. Ground layer can be determined by the artist in their proposal.

# Copyright Information

COPYRIGHT Information included in Artist Contract: The Artist expressly reserves every right available to him / her in common law or under the Federal Copyright Act to control the making and dissemination of copies or reproductions of the Work, except as those rights are limited by the Agreement: The Artist expressly permits the County to reproduce the Work graphically for purposes strictly for the sole use and benefit of the public. All reproductions of the Work shall contain a credit to the Artist and copyright notice substantially in the following form: "Copyright, Artist's name, year of publication," in such a manner and location as shall comply with the U.S. Copyright laws. The Artist owns the design and the County owns the physical Work.

# Insurance

- a. **At all times during the duration of the Project, the Artist will maintain workers' compensation and appropriate employers' liability insurance covering any employee of the Artist engaged in activities relating to the Project in an amount acceptable to the County.**
- b. **The artist acknowledges that the County is not required to maintain insurance against damage or theft of the Work or personal property used in connection with the production or installation of the Work.**
- c. **The Artist will provide general liability insurance covering the Project with a combined single limit per occurrence of One Million dollars (\$1,000,000) for bodily injury, death, and for property damage, Three Million dollars (\$3,000,000) annual aggregate. The Artist's liability policy should name the County as additional insured.**

A microscopic image of biological tissue, possibly a cross-section of a muscle or similar structure, with blue and red color overlays. The blue areas represent certain tissue components, while the red areas represent others. The overall image has a blue tint.

# Questions from Participants

Questions submitted during the Virtual Information  
Session

# Questions Received

**Question:** For the Botanical Gardens site, is the project area outdoor or indoor?

**Answer:** The project area is outdoor.

Video timestamp: 13:45

# Questions Received

**Question:** Is the public able to physically engage with the public art pieces (walk through, touch, and be close to).

**Answer:** For the Botanical Gardens location, public interaction may be limited by the proximity to the adjacent parking area. For Isle View Park, public engagement is encouraged. For both locations, artists should be mindful of any public safety concerns with regards to the location, design, and engagement with the piece(s).

Video timestamp: 14:10

# Questions Received

**Question:** Is lighting/labels the responsibility of the artist or the responsibility of Erie County?

**Answer:** Labeling will be Erie County's responsibility. If specific lighting is desired by the artist, it should be included in the proposal/budget.

Video timestamp: 15:25

# Questions Received

**Question:** Can artists propose a mural for these locations?

**Answer:** Yes, however, artists would need to include in the proposal a way for the mural to stand/be installed and the costs for that structure and associated materials would need to be included in the proposed budget.

Video timestamp: 16:50

# Questions Received

**Question:** How can artists get an idea for what would fit in each project area?

**Answer:** Artists are encouraged to visit both locations on their own for an understanding of the project areas and what should be included in their proposals.

Video timestamp: 18:38

# Questions Received

**Question:** Can one artist be awarded both commissions?

**Answer:** No, while artists can submit proposals for both projects, a single artist will not be chosen to commission both works.

Video timestamp: 22:25

# Questions Received

**Question:** The examples of art pieces included on the Isle View Park Call for Artists are very conceptual. Are you looking for a highly conceptual art piece for this location?

**Answer:** These are examples of previous projects funded through the Submerge NY grant. With the total funding available, the expectation would be an engaging public art piece with an educational component related to the project theme of “Living Systems: Water, Land, and the Regenerative Future.”

Video timestamp: 22:47

# Questions Received

**Question:** For the artist's experience section of the application, are you required to submit five examples of sculpture works or would non-sculptural designs be sufficient?

**Answer:** Not all five examples need to be sculpture related or reflect sculptures that have come to fruition, however, if proposed, it is imperative that the examples reflect the artist's ability to successfully design and implement a sculptural piece.

Video timestamp: 33:22

# Questions Received

**Question:** Is the timeline for installation starting in the summer?

**Answer:** Yes, the goal is to have installation done in the late summer/early fall of 2026.

Video timestamp: 27:40

# Questions Received

**Question:** What amount of time should the maintenance plan cover?

**Answer:** Included in the proposal should be a maintenance plan that identifies frequency and methods of maintaining the piece. If any specific materials are necessary for maintaining the piece by Erie County, please include those in your proposal.

Video timestamp: 33:22



# Thank you

Contact Information

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