

Grant Guidelines & Eligibility

Apply by January 31, 2025

Supporting arts-driven street redesigns with outsized impacts

The current round of the Asphalt Art Initiative grant application is open to cities in Canada, Mexico, and the United States with populations of 50,000 or more. **The deadline to apply is January 31, 2025.** The program will award 10 cities grants of up to \$100,000 each, as well as on-call technical assistance from the tactical urbanism firm Street Plans and impact

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Previous Asphalt Art Initiative grant rounds awarded \$25,000 per project. Building on the success of the 90 funded projects to date, this year's grants will award up to \$100,000 for large-scale projects that will make signature streets safer and more accessible, create dynamic new public spaces, or enact other similarly transformative roadway redesigns.

A recording of a virtual information session and Q&A with the program managers is available [here](#).

The Asphalt Art Initiative grant program is designed to fund visual art on roadways, pedestrian spaces, and public infrastructure in cities with the following primary goals:

- Improving street and pedestrian safety

- Revitalizing and activating underutilized public space

- Promoting collaboration and civic engagement in local communities



Please refer to the example projects listed below as well as the to gather inspiration from successful asphalt art projects in cities around the world.

In addition, the Bloomberg Associates *Asphalt Art Guide* includes detailed guidance and best practices for implementing similar projects, with cost- and time-saving advice on every step of the project, from site selection to implementation and maintenance.

Eligible Applicants

This grant program is open to cities in Canada, Mexico, and the United States with populations of 50,000 or more. Each city may only submit one application; multiple applications from one city will not be considered. Please contact arts@bloomberg.org with questions about eligibility and visit [Submittable](#) for technical support.

The Project Team must include a Lead City Agency which is the primary government agency with oversight of the project. This agency should be the one with jurisdiction over city streets. If that agency is not the project lead, they must still be a part of the project team. Applicant teams are encouraged to include collaborative partners, such as other city agencies, nonprofit community or arts organizations, and/or individual artists or consultants.

If selected, the Lead City Agency is encouraged to select a Fiscal Sponsor to receive the funds directly. The Fiscal Sponsor should be a charitable organization that is a 501(c)3 Public Charity (or an equivalent entity in Canada or Mexico).

In addition, each application must identify which entity or individual is responsible for project management (day-to-day coordination and implementation) and which is responsible for artistic direction (selection of

Eligible Projects

Reflecting the larger grant size in this latest round, proposed projects should be ambitious arts-driven street designs with the goal of catalytic improvements to a key location in the city. Improving road safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, must be a component of all proposals. Applicants may demonstrate the intended impact through a variety of approaches:

Critical Intersections: Enhancing safety, mobility, and access in crossings with concentrated pedestrian, bicycle, and/or vehicular traffic

Major Corridors: Transforming one or more important streets to enhance the walking or cycling network, including significant reallocation of space for non-motorized transportation

Signature Destinations: Improving access to culturally, historically, or otherwise significant locations at the neighborhood or civic scale

Large New Public Spaces: Creating or activating plazas or other pedestrian space with amenities such as seating, greenery or space for cultural programming

Catalysts for Future Projects: Launching or expanding ongoing programs or policies (g., Vision Zero safety program, plaza program, etc.) in the city or the region

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lanes and new pedestrian spaces along a 1.3 mile corridor

Mexico City, Mexico - Large new painted pedestrian plazas around the grand Zocalo central square with seating, shade and safer connections to surrounding streets

New York, NY - Large new painted pedestrian plazas, public space activations, and traffic safety improvements in world-famous Times Square

Reno, NV - Painting and activation of a block-long concrete cap over a railway bed to create a downtown hub for public events

Toronto, Canada - Painting, activation, and creation of new public spaces along the Bentway under a downtown elevated freeway

Mazatlán, Mexico - New crosswalks, curb extensions, and a neighborhood plaza for community events and local businesses

Site

Each application must have a site identified for the proposed asphalt art project (or sites, if multiple are feasible within the budget). Eligible sites should be on or adjacent to active roadways, have the potential for active pedestrian usage, and may include crosswalks, intersections, vehicle/parking lanes, pedestrian plazas, sidewalks, or highway underpasses. Sites may be located in and managed by one or multiple jurisdictions (city, state or county, public utility, regional transit authority, etc.) but must be largely or completely on public property and be fully open

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Applicants should define a significant challenge with the site that can be addressed by an asphalt art intervention (e.g., a major destination that is difficult to access, lack of useful public space, or a street with a high volume of pedestrians, cyclists, or drivers). Applicants are encouraged to include all available data about traffic and pedestrian volumes, crash and injury histories, speeds or other relevant metrics.

Duration

If selected, projects must be designed to last a minimum of two years after being installed, with plans for maintenance of the artwork itself as well as any additional materials (planters, protective bollards, seating, etc.) After at least two years required by the grant, all proposals must include a description of plans to further maintain, remove or replace the project (e.g. as part of a planned or proposed capital project.)

Goals & Metrics

A critical component of the Asphalt Art Initiative is to identify priority goals for each project and to make a plan for collecting metrics to determine how successful the project is at meeting those goals. Goals and metrics may differ from project to project, but proposals with clear safety-related goals will be prioritized. See our [List of Common Metrics](#) for reference.

Budget

Each application must include a proposed budget outlining the size of the grant requested (up to \$100,000) and how the grant will be spent. Typical costs covered by the grant include artist fees, paint and other supplies,

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Competitive proposals will include in-kind support from the municipality, particularly from the engineering or transportation department, such as permitting, resurfacing, engineering drawings, installation of signs and markings, bollards or other traffic barriers, traffic control during installation, and/or maintenance. Proposals may also make use of additional funding or in-kind support from outside sources, if applicable.

Content

Funded projects cannot include obscenity, hate speech, political messages, religious content, commercial advertisements, or depict illegal activity or imagery that is prohibited by regulatory entities.

Selection Criteria

Competitive proposals must clearly demonstrate:

Impact

The chosen site is significant to the city (e.g., central location, concentrated pedestrian and vehicular traffic, cultural or regional significant).

The proposed project addresses a relevant and meaningful challenge faced by the identified site, the surrounding neighborhood, or the city (e.g., traffic safety, underutilized

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The proposed project clearly benefits the local community and engages residents/stakeholders in its planning, development, execution, and post-installation activation.

The proposed intervention would produce sufficient, appropriate metrics to determine success.

Viability

The characteristics of the proposed site (e.g. physical layout, traffic or pedestrian volume, neighborhood context) are such that the proposed intervention has a high likelihood of success.

The project team and partners have the necessary authority and expertise to oversee a project of this nature.

The project has demonstrated support from city and community stakeholders, through existing partnerships or a thoughtful outreach/engagement plan.

The proposed budget and timeline are realistic and demonstrate notable in-kind city support.

Quality & Visual Interest

The process for artist selection and design development is well-defined and appropriate for the proposed project, and will be overseen by someone with appropriate expertise.

If the artist has already been selected, the chosen artist has demonstrated creative skill and the potential to develop a visually compelling design.

The surface being painted is in good repair or there is a reasonable plan to repave or otherwise treat it to be receptive to the chosen materials.

Contact

Please direct any questions to arts@bloomberg.org and visit [Submittable](#) for technical support.

APPLY NOW

Dates & Deadlines

September 2024

Grant round announced

January 31, 2025

Application deadline

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