2020

# Asphalt Art Activations

## Request for Qualifications

Carla Torres
*The World is Our Oyster*
Thieriot Avenue, Bronx

NEW YORK CITY DOT ART

## INTRODUCTION

As part of the NYC Department of Transportation's (DOT) efforts to make our streets more pedestrian friendly, the agency continues to reclaim underutilized street space for pedestrian use whether it be a curb extension to create larger waiting areas at corners with a more direct crosswalk; a slip lane closure to encourage pedestrian circulation along the curb line adjacent to a heavily trafficked sidewalk; or an entire street transformation from that of a thoroughfare for cars into an active public space for pedestrians to stop and linger.

To highlight these infrastructure changes, the NYC Department of Transportation's Temporary Art Program (DOT Art) is partnering with internal teams, including Bike Share; the Pedestrian Unit; Public Space; Research, Implementation and Safety (RIS); and Urban Design to commission temporary treatments that will be painted onto repurposed asphalt street spaces transforming them from ordinary asphalt spaces into canvases for art. DOT Art is seeking to identify qualified artists to be included in a registry for potential asphalt art commissions to be implemented between spring and fall 2020.

## ASPHALT ART ACTIVATIONS BACKGROUND

Over the past five years, DOT Art has implemented asphalt art murals at several sites citywide through Asphalt Art Activations. In 2013 and returning again in 2016, DOT Art collaborated with two artists, Emily Caisip and Imani Shanklin-Roberts, to beautify an asphalt space surrounding a Bike Share station located at Franklin Street in the Borough of Manhattan, and also in 2016, with Queen Andrea at a Bike Share station located at Roebling Street in the Borough of Brooklyn. Additionally, DOT Art has partnered with a number of business improvement districts in Brooklyn and Manhattan including the Chinatown Partnership, DUMBO Improvement District, Garment District Alliance and the Lower East Side Partnership to implement unique designs on plazas and Seasonal Streets. In 2018 and 2019, DOT Art produced a series of murals in partnership with the Pedestrian Unit and School Safety on pedestrianized spaces in Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx in partnership with artists Annabelle Popa, Combo Colab, Ellen Picken and Kim Carlino.

For more information on the DOT Art Program, visit: **www.nyc.gov/dotart**.

## PROJECT SCOPE

All interested professional architects, artists and/or graphic designers (the "Artists") are eligible to submit past work in response to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to be selected to develop and install a final design at one of a series of asphalt street spaces (the "Project Sites") designated by DOT. All of the Project Sites are a minimum of one thousand (1,000) square feet. Due to the scale of the Project Sites, the selected Artists will be required to prime the site and produce enough stencils or prepare an efficient implementation plan to execute their design within a one to two week period, weather permitting. Artwork will remain installed for a minimum of one month and a maximum of a one year period. Artists are responsible for maintaining the artwork over the specified display period and removing the Artwork upon completion of the display period.

**The selected Artist(s) shall accomplish the following tasks:**

- Complete one (1) conceptual design and, once approved, complete one (1) final design for review and approval by DOT Art;
- Produce stencils or develop an implementation plan to translate a design onto asphalt; and
- Paint the design onto the asphalt with support from a group of assistants and/or volunteers.

Artists should consider past examples of asphalt street murals to understand the types of designs that are most successful in the public realm **(See Exhibit A: Past Examples of Asphalt Art Activations)**. Designs will be implemented throughout 2020 beginning in early spring.

## SITE SPECIFICATIONS

**Asphalt spaces are designated by DOT for beautification for the following reasons:**

- Recently developed pedestrianized spaces (bike share stations, curb extensions, public plazas, Seasonal Streets and slip lane closures);
- Large asphalt areas (minimum of 1,000 square feet);
- In relatively good condition (limited potholes, cracks, utility covers); and
- In close proximity to commercial areas, schools, community centers or arts institutions.

Project Sites are located citywide; therefore, selected Artists must be willing to work in any of the five boroughs. For examples of upcoming potential site types: **(See Exhibit B: Potential Project Site Types)**.

## MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

All designs must be implemented using exterior grade enamel or a similar material that meets DOT requirements. A concrete primer is recommended prior to painting the design on-site. Utilities at the Project Site may not be painted. Final clear coats will not receive approval from DOT as removal is problematic upon completion of the display period. Artists are required to submit a materials list for approval by DOT Art in advance of purchasing. In addition, selected Artists must prepare a detailed implementation plan including a proposed schedule for review and approval by DOT Art.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

**The DOT Art Advisory Committee and DOT staff shall review and identify Artists to be included in an Artist Registry based on the following criteria:**

- Past artwork demonstrates proficiency in design and ability to translate the design; and
- Previous experience demonstrates ability to collaborate with a large agency on a public project.

As a Project Site becomes available, DOT Art shall review the Artist Registry and invite two (2) of the ranked Artists to participate in a phone interview to discuss the potential Project Site and run through a short question and answer segment to better acquaint the agency with the Artists' past work and artistic process. Final selection shall be based on both the written response to the RFQ and the phone interview.

The DOT Art Committee shall assign each selected Artist to a Project Site. Upon selection, each Artist shall develop a site-responsive design for implementation at a designated Project Site within a minimum of two months of notification. As additional Project Sites become available throughout the year, DOT Art will review the Artist Registry and contact ranked Artists to respond to these opportunities.

## PROJECT FEES

DOT Art will provide selected Artists with up to **twenty thousand dollars ($20,000)** towards direct project costs associated with designing, installing and removing the Artwork including but not limited to all labor, paint, materials and equipment. In addition, studio space, storage rental, sink rental, etc. must be included as part of the overall budget. All selected Artists are entitled to an Artist Fee not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total budget, but may also be entitled to an hourly labor fee not to exceed an additional ten percent (10%) of that total budget. All Artists will be required to enter into a legal agreement with DOT, and in order to receive payment, will be required to submit a W9 form, Doing Business Form, Quote Form and invoices to receive payment. The legal agreement must be signed in advance of receiving any payments. Selected Artists shall agree to extend to DOT the right to a royalty-free, perpetual license to use any depiction of the Artwork for noncommercial purposes.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Interested Artists are invited to submit a single application, and Artists are only eligible to receive one commission per fiscal year. Submissions should consist of the following materials either by e-mail as PDF or JPEG files or by mail as printouts with an accompanying USB drive:

- Asphalt Art Activations Application Form;
- Artist curriculum vitae; and
- No more than four (4) photographs of past artwork in JPEG format (resolution of 72 to 150 dpi) and an associated image list that includes: title, date of completion, medium, dimensions, location, sale price or commission budget, description of artwork, and list of partners.

Submitted materials will **not** be returned and incomplete applications will **not** be considered.

## DEADLINE

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis but to be considered for 2020 projects, submissions must be postmarked or submitted via email no later than **Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST**. Hand-delivered proposals will not be accepted.

All submissions should be emailed to arts@dot.nyc.gov or mailed to:

**Attn: Emily Colasacco, Director**
**Art & Event Programming**
**NYC Department of Transportation**
**55 Water Street, 6th Floor**
**New York, NY 10041**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

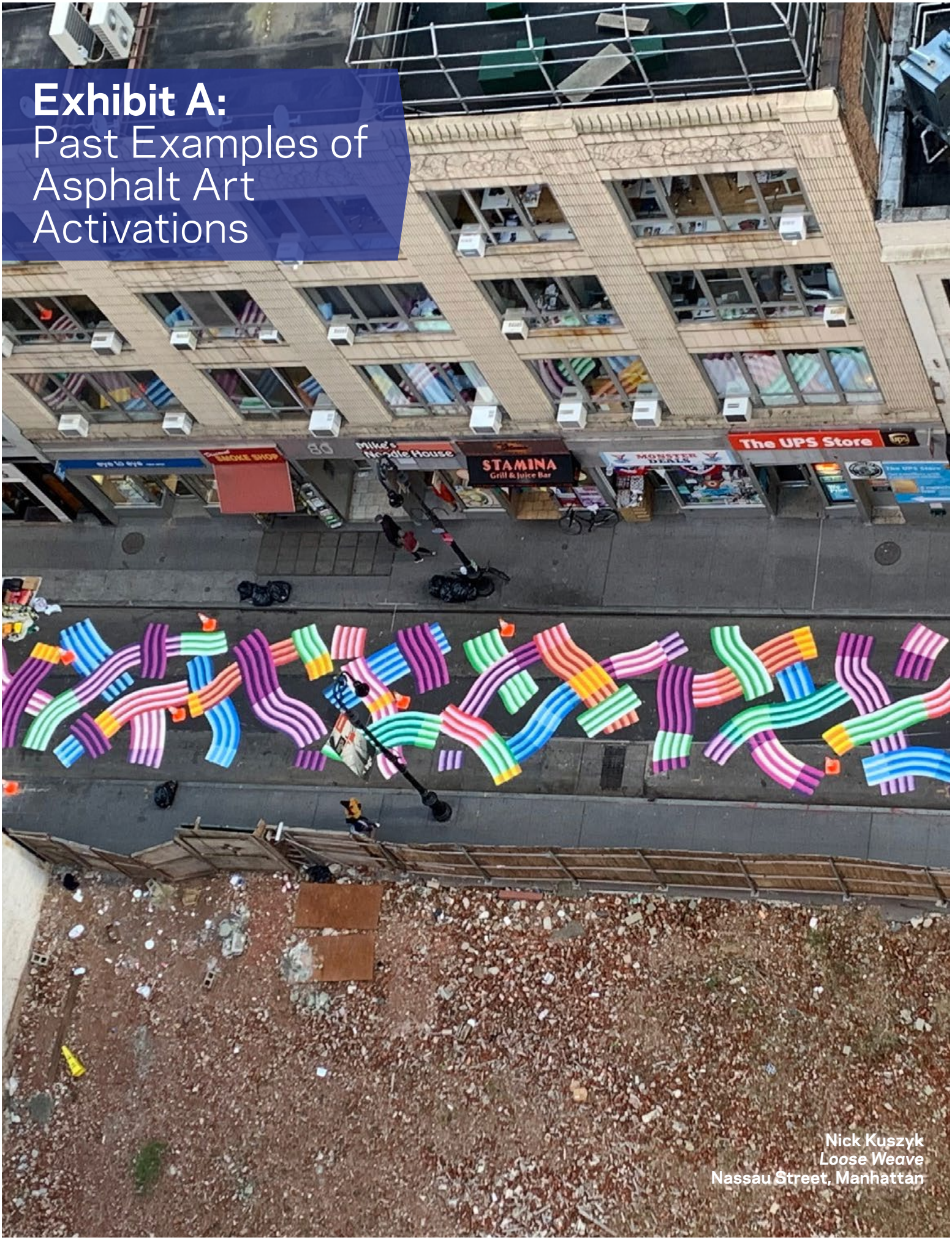
Please note the following:

- This RFQ is not intended as a formal offering for the award of a contract or for participation in any future solicitation;
- NYCDOT does not intend to grant or issue any additional agreements on the basis of this RFQ;
- NYCDOT, the City and their officials, agents and employees make no representation or warranty and assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the information set forth in this RFQ;
- No information contained in submissions shall be deemed confidential and such information may be shared with other governmental entities. Therefore, please do not submit any information that may be deemed proprietary in nature;
- Neither NYCDOT nor the City shall be liable for any costs incurred by any respondent in the preparation, submittal, presentation or revision of its submission. Neither NYCDOT nor the City shall be obligated to pay and shall not pay any costs in connection with the preparation of such submissions;
- All submissions shall become the property of NYCDOT and the City and shall not be returned; and
- NYCDOT at its sole discretion reserves, without limitation, the right to;
    - Withdraw the RFQ at any time;
    - To discuss various approaches with one or more respondents (including parties not responding to the RFQ); and
    - Change any terms of this RFQ.

## QUESTIONS

All inquiries regarding Asphalt Art Activations should be sent to: **arts@dot.nyc.gov.**

# Exhibit A:
## Past Examples of Asphalt Art Activations




Nick Kuszyk
*Loose Weave*
Nassau Street, Manhattan

**Queen Andrea**
*Big City of Dreams*
Roebling Street and North 4th Street, Brooklyn

**Annabelle Popa**
*Cast Into the Deep*
Columbia Street and Dwight Street, Brooklyn

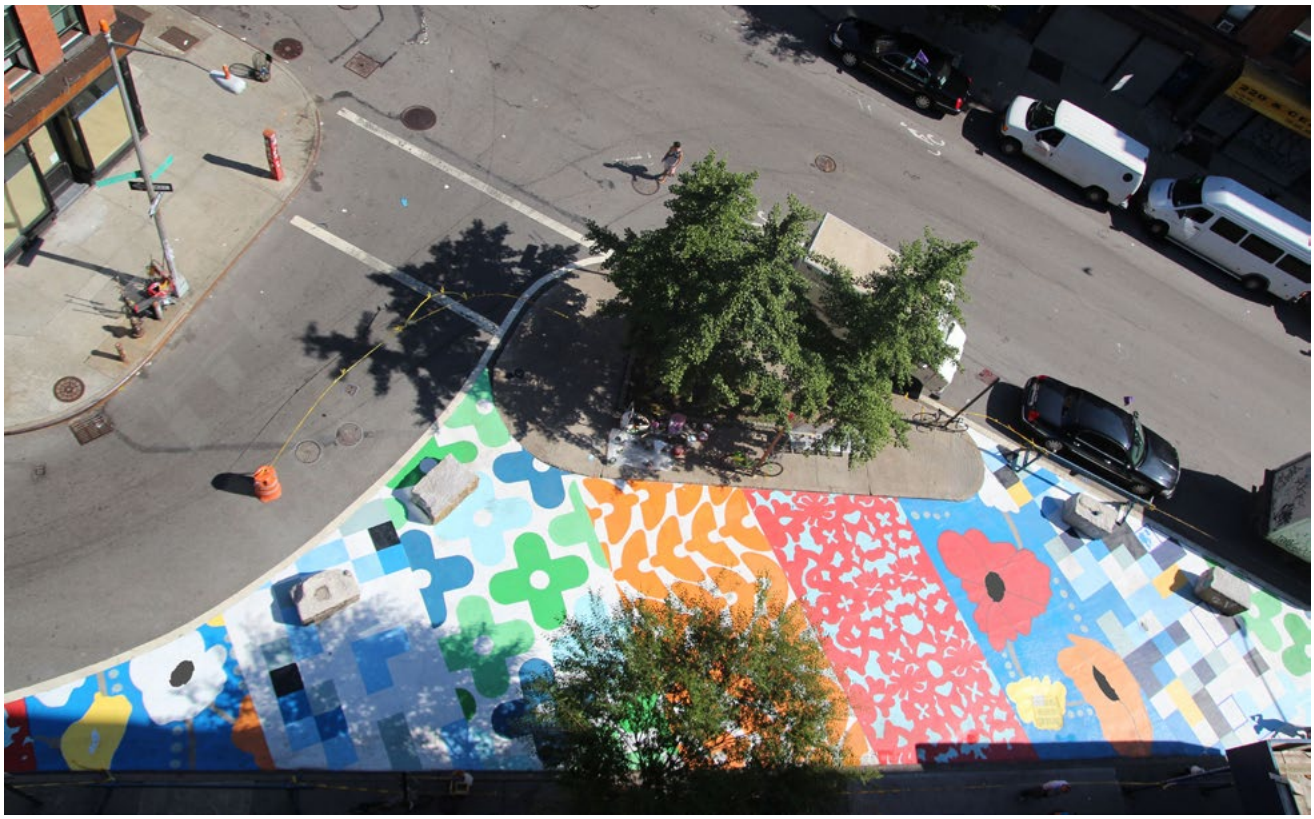
**Ellen Picken**
*Up and Down River*
Hooper Street and Division Avenue, Brooklyn

**Carla Torres**
*The World is Our Oyster*
Thieriot Avenue and Soundview Avenue, Bronx

**Combo Colab**
*Tidal Bay*
Beach Channel Drive and Far Rockaway Boulevard, Queens

**Imani Shanklin-Roberts**
*Xola (Stay in Peace)*
Franklin Street and West Broadway, Manhattan

**Kim Sillen**
*Modern Tapestry*
Intersection of Division Street, Ludlow Street and Canal Street, Manhattan



**Dan Monteavaro (Moncho1929)**
*Connected Stories*
Doyers Street and Bowery Street, Manhattan

# Exhibit B:
# Potential Project Site Types

David Ellis
*PST*
Pearl Street Triangle, Brooklyn

**Seasonal Street: Doyers Street, Manhattan**

**Bike Share Station: Roebling Street, Brooklyn**

**Street Closure: Theiriot Avenue, Bronx**

**Sidewalk Extension: Alexander Avenue, Bronx**

# **Asphalt Art** Activations

Application Form

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Artist name:** _____

**Address:** _____

**City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

**Email:** _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Materials should be submitted either by e-mail as PDF or JPEG files or by mail as printouts with an accompanying USB drive. Proposals will be reviewed by a project-specific committee. All items must be included as part of the submission package or applications will not be reviewed.

**Submissions should consist of the following materials:**

- Asphalt Art Activation Application Form;
- No more than four (4) examples of past artwork in JPEG format (resolution of 72 to 150 dpi) and associated image list that includes: title, date of completion, medium, dimensions, location, sale price or commission budget, description of artwork, and list of partners.

**All submissions should be emailed to arts@dot.nyc.gov or mailed to:**

**Attn: Emily Colasacco, Director, Art & Event Programming, NYC DOT, 55 Water St., 6th Fl, New York, NY 10041**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Artist Statement** Describe your vision and body of work as an artist in 200 words or less.

**Artist Interest** Describe your interest in collaborating with DOT Art on an Asphalt Art Activations project in 200 words or less.

**Artist Bio** Describe your past experience producing large-scale murals or projects in the public realm in 200 words or less.