City of Cleveland
Public Art Program

Public Artwork for East 140th Street Streetscape Project

CALL FOR ARTISTS
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

AUGUST 2022

The City of Cleveland, Ohio, through its Public Art Program, is requesting qualifications from artists, designers, or teams thereof who may be interested in producing a large scale painted mural on a city-owned retaining wall that is near a CSX-owned railroad overpass. This artwork will accompany streetscape improvements along East 140th Street, between St. Clair Avenue and Lakeshore Boulevard.

Rather than submit pre-conceived proposals, artists will be chosen for further consideration based on their qualifications. The selected artist(s) will work with city staff, neighborhood residents, and other stakeholders to develop innovative, original art that will be relevant to the neighborhood.

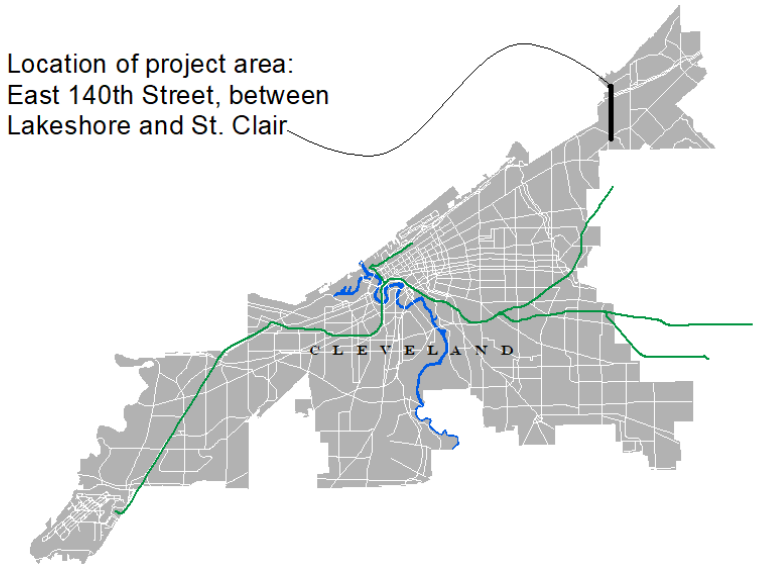
The Public Art Program
The City of Cleveland's Public Art Program requires that certain major capital projects undertaken by the city set aside 1.5% of their budgets (in this case, the streetscape portion of the overall project budget) for use toward a public art component.

The program requires the artwork to be in proximity to the improvements that generated the funding for the artwork.

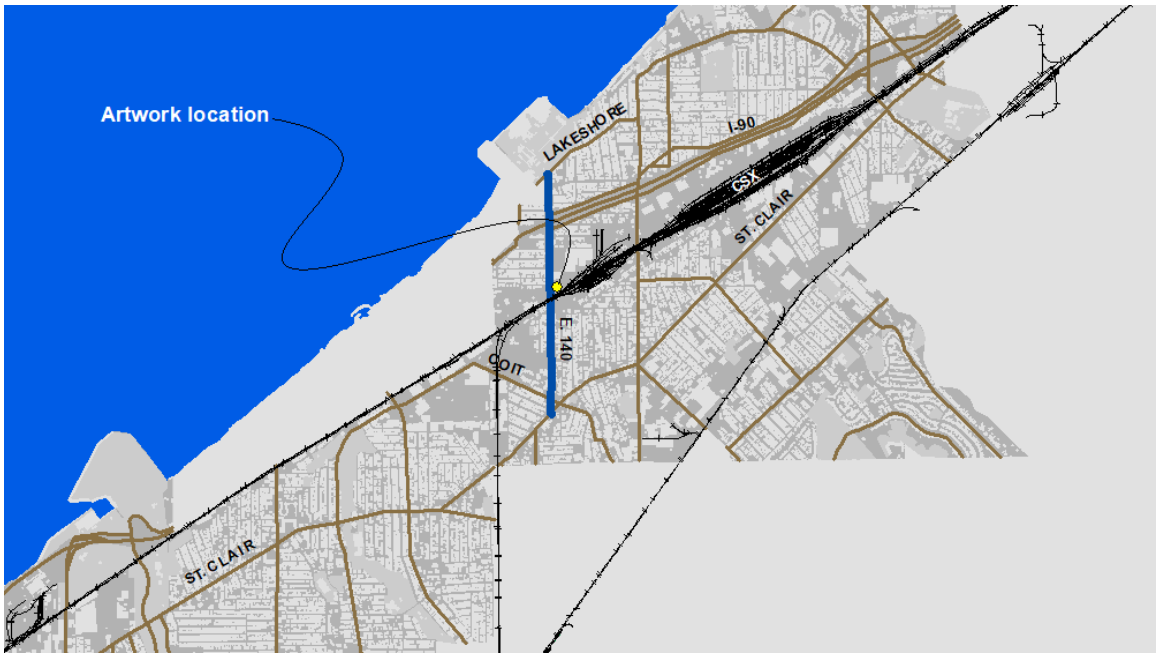
Eligibility
This competition is open to qualified artists, designers, or teams thereof, aged 18 or over. Artists with connections to Collinwood or adjacent neighborhoods are especially encouraged to apply.

Proposed artwork location
The maps below show, at various scales, the proposed artwork location on East 140th Street near its intersection with Deise Avenue.

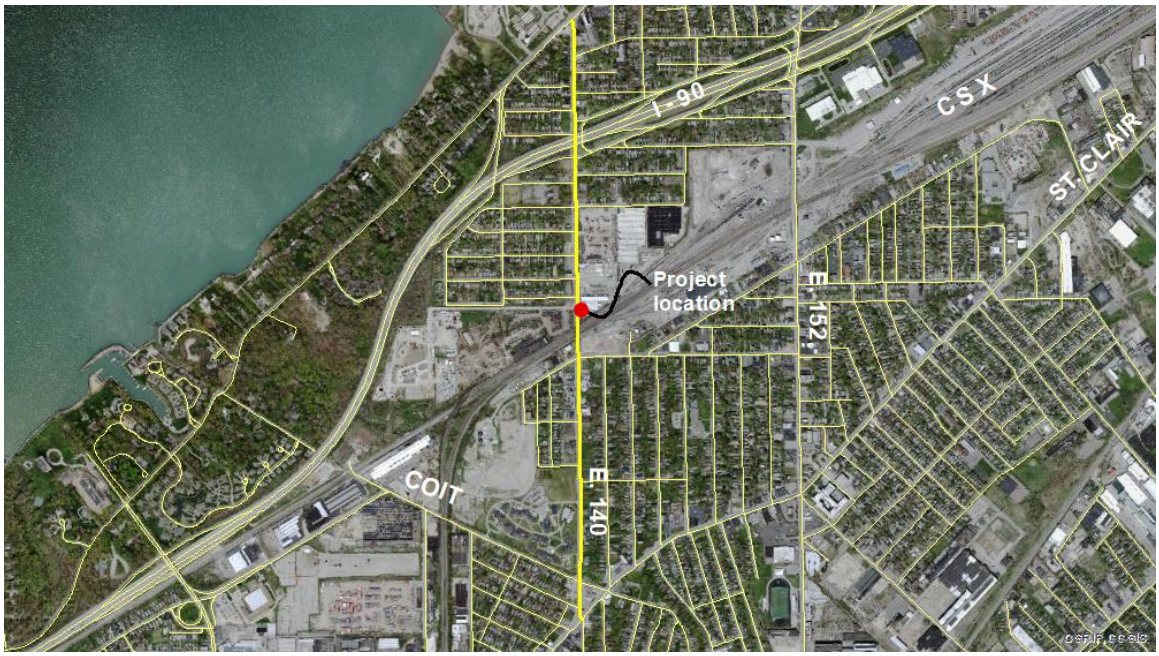
Map 1. Location in the City of Cleveland



Map 2. Closer-in view of project area and artwork location



Map 3. Aerial view of artwork location's immediate vicinity



Project information
Planned street reconstruction and streetscape improvements along East 140th Street are designed to calm traffic, add bike lanes and pedestrian amenities, and restore a residential atmosphere to the street. The street will be narrowed in many places and stretches of sidewalk will be buffered with newly created tree lawns. On-street parking will still be permitted but only on the west side of the street. Work will take place primarily in the 2023 construction season.

The public art component of the project will consist of a painted mural on a city-owned wall located along the east side of the street, just north of the CSX-owned railroad overpass.

The wall is 125 feet long and ranges in height from 8 to 15 feet. It will be patched and primed to prepare for the artwork, and, soon after the artwork is installed, it will be covered with a clear protective coating that will prevent damage from graffiti and other intrusions. The current fencing along the top of the wall will be replaced with black vinyl-coated chain-link fencing. The cost of these improvements will be covered by the capital project budget and will not draw from the funding set aside for public art.

Project budget
The budget for this project is $54,375—$10,000 for design and $44,375 for installation. The budget is all-inclusive and required to cover all public art-related expenses.

Submission requirements
Artists or teams are required to electronically submit a one-page narrative describing their qualifications, explaining why they would be interested in working on this project, and stating any ties they may have to the neighborhood or Greater Cleveland. Artists should indicate what general vision they have and approaches they would take on this project and make note of how they usually go about involving neighborhood residents and others in developing their designs.

Additionally, artists are required to submit, in electronic format (we *cannot* accept zip files):

- An up-to-date CV or resumé,
- Up to 10 images depicting completed relevant work in JPEG or PNG format (none of the images may contain identifying information, and please note that multiple images of the same artwork will count as individual images toward the 10 requested), suitable for inclusion in a PPT or PDF presentation, and
- An annotated slide list for the depicted artworks, including location, commissioning agency, materials, and total project budget. Submitters should note what their role was in producing the works depicted.

Incomplete submissions based on the requirements stated above will not be considered for review.

Up to four artists, designers, or teams thereof will be invited to interview with the City of Cleveland's Public Art Committee.

Please note that artists are not being asked to submit developed proposals at this time.

Submission deadline
Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. EST, on Monday, September 19, 2022. Entries must be submitted electronically to both Tarra Petras, the city's public art project coordinator, at tpetras@clevelandohio.gov, and Vince Reddy of LAND studio, at vreddy@land-studio.org. We **cannot** accept zip files.

Direct questions to Tarra or Vince at the e-mail addresses above.

Photographs of the artwork site and surroundings, along with a plan of proposed improvements, can be found on the following pages.

Photos of East 140th Street public art site and vicinity

Above: Approaching the CSX railroad bridge from the south. The project wall is on the other side of the bridge, on the east side (the right side, in this picture) of the street.

Below: The mural wall. As noted, the wall will be patched and primed before the artwork is installed, and the fence along the top of the wall will be replaced.