



NYC Parks

City of New York
Parks & Recreation
www.nyc.gov/parks



Temporary Public Sculpture: Park Avenue Malls

Guidelines and Information

The Sculpture Committee of The Fund for Park Avenue and
NYC Parks, Art in the Parks Program

The Park Avenue malls on New York City's Upper East Side provide a unique opportunity to present sculpture to the public. Exhibitions are first proposed to the Sculpture Committee of The Fund for Park Avenue, who then recommends them to NYC Parks' Art in the Parks Program for approval. Exhibitions are presented under the auspices of both organizations in collaboration with the chosen artists, their galleries, and/or other arts organizations. Please note that spectators are not encouraged to walk on the malls and sculptures are seen from the street, crosswalks and sidewalks, so artists should take this perspective into consideration when planning the placement of their artwork.

Installations may be proposed for malls north of Grand Central at 46th Street up to 96th Street; however most projects are staged on malls between 50th and 57th Streets as these locations are commercial, instead of residential, in nature. There are fewer instances of concrete planters (which can be moved in certain instances at the exhibitor's expense), taxus hedges, ornamental trees and subway air vents in these locations.

Weight/Size Limitations and Physical Characteristics

- **Size:** Malls are approximately 200 ft long and 19'6" wide (east-west). The flower beds at each end are roughly square, about 19' north-south and 18' east-west.
- **Weight:** 5,000 lbs. on no less than 3' x 3' base; and no more than 8,000 lbs. on any one mall. As the malls are situated over the train tracks leading to Grand Central these limitations are strictly enforced. Approval from MTA is required.
- **Height:** for maximum visual impact against landscaping, a minimum of approximately 12' in height (with or without base) is recommended.
- **Number of works:** discretion of the artist (with Committee and NYC Parks input); use of at least three or more malls is encouraged.
- **Sculpture** may be installed mid-mall on the grass and/or at either end of each mall behind the flower beds, an approximate 20' north-south placement area. Depending on seasonal plantings, sculpture placement may be permitted within the flower beds with approval from The Fund for Park Avenue.
- **Sculpture** should not obstruct driver sight lines to traffic lights on Park Avenue (both north and south bound lanes).
- Regardless of size, all artworks should be properly secured to prevent theft or dislodging.
- Supplemental lighting and/or artworks that rely on electricity are discouraged. Pole taps are handled through the Department of Transportation, with no guarantee of approval and are time-limited.



Guidelines and Information

Continued

Exhibition Periods (exact timeframe to be determined on a case by case basis)

- Winter: mid/late January-March
- Spring: April-June
- Summer: June-August
- Fall: September-mid-November

Planting Schedule for flower beds

- Tulips are planted in November.
- Tulips and bulbs are removed in May and replaced in June with begonias, which are removed in September.
- Chrysanthemums are planted in September, which are removed in mid-November
- In early/mid November / early December fir trees are placed at the ends of the malls in memory of those who died in our nation's wars. These are removed in mid-January.

Please Note:

- Exhibitors must retain professional riggers/installers, who obtain lane closure permits from the Department of Transportation.
- Transport/Installation: Artists or their galleries must arrange for sculpture delivery, installation and de-installation on the malls in coordination with NYC Parks.
- Liability insurance must be covered by the exhibitor. To date, in the sixteen continuous years of the Park Avenue Sculpture Program, there has been no instance of damage or theft to the sculpture or of accident or injury to pedestrians or motorists.
- Artist and/or sponsor must provide a maintenance and restoration bond in the form of a certified check (amount to be determined, usually between \$2,000 and \$5,000 depending on sculpture size and quantity).
- Installation is usually done late at night on weekdays or in the early morning on weekends per DOT regulations.
- Trees and shrubs on malls should not be part of any installation except in the least intrusive way. (Care should be taken to avoid damage to permanent plantings and trees during sculpture placement and deinstallation. Alteration or replacement of the plantings will be at the exhibitor's cost.)
- In addition to other requirements, exhibitors must obtain community board(s) approval prior to the issuance of a license agreement.
- Once a proposal has been reviewed and approved by The Fund for Park Avenue and NYC Parks, exhibitors must submit signed and sealed engineering drawings and calculations, provided by a New York State engineer. These will be submitted to the MTA Metro-North for their review and approval.
- As necessary, NYC Parks and The Fund for Park Avenue will assist potential exhibitors in obtaining approval from MTA Metro-North and the Grand Central Partnership.



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Proposal Reviews

Sculpture Committee Review Process

The Sculpture Committee of The Fund for Park Avenue reviews all proposals and makes recommendations to the City of New York's Department of Parks and Recreation, Public Art Program.

Send Proposals to:

The Fund for Park Avenue Sculpture Committee
c/o Barbara McLaughlin
445 Park Avenue, Suite 1000
New York, NY 10022
barbaramclaughlin@fundforparkavenue.org

-AND-

Public Art Coordinator
City of New York, Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park, Room 20
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065
(212) 360-8163
artandantiquities@parks.nyc.gov

Please review the following page for submission requirements.



Public Art Proposal: Submission Requirements

As Regulated by NYC Parks' Art in the Parks Program

Submission Requirements

- A written description of proposed artwork, including: title (for Committee/Dept. reference), medium, dimensions (H x W x D), weight, installation method and anchoring procedure.
- If proposing existing work: Photographs or slides of artwork; include reference to human scale.
- If proposing a new work: working drawings and/or photograph of maquette to scale. Include dimensions.
- Artist's statement and resume
- Installation BUDGET, including a description of the sponsoring organization or other method of financing. Include the name, address and phone number of the contact person.
- Proposed DURATION and EXHIBITION PERIOD of the exhibition
- The LOCATION of specific site(s) for the installation
- Up to ten images of the artist's previous work. All images must be clearly labeled with the name of the artist, title of the work, media and dimensions (H x W x D).
- For initial consideration by the Committee, the above information should be sent in one document as a PDF by email
- There is no deadline for proposals.
- For initial consideration by the Committee, the above information should be sent by email with jpeg images

Parks Department Review Process

A departmental panel, including the Commissioner of NYC Parks or his representative, reviews the proposals recommended to it by the Sculpture Committee of The Fund for Park Avenue (www.fundforparkavenue.org). Issues of particular concern to NYC Parks include safety and durability of the artwork, and its suitability to the site. **Following the approval of a proposal, a license agreement is issued to an artist and/or sponsoring organization.** For many projects, depending on the scope, it may be necessary to obtain the approval of the local community board.

The artist and/or sponsoring organization is responsible for FUNDING, INSTALLATION, INSURANCE, MAINTENANCE, TIMELY REMOVAL of the artwork, and RESTORATION OF THE SITE.

