REQUEST FOR DESIGN PROPOSALS

Be-Spoke: Artist-Designed Bike Racks for Newburgh

The Newburgh Arts and Cultural Commission (NACC) in partnership with the Orange County Arts Council (OCAC) is commissioning six artist-designed bike racks to be installed in locations around the City of Newburgh. We are inviting artists to submit original designs for unique, creative, functional bike racks. Up to six selected designs will be fabricated by a fabrication company contracted by the City of Newburgh and the Orange County Arts Council. They will be installed by the City of Newburgh’s Department of Public Works. The Orange County Arts Council (OCAC) is providing project management services to NACC for this project. We invite all artists age 18 and older living or working in the 13 counties along the Hudson River from Brooklyn to Albany to apply.

This project is made possible through the support of Orange County Arts Council, City of Newburgh, NYS Senator James Skoufis, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York and the New York State Council on the Arts. Partners include the Newburgh Transportation Advisory Committee.

Project Goals

The NACC and OCAC are undertaking this project to achieve the following goals:

- Demonstrate that public art is integral to the vibrancy of the City of Newburgh and encourage the City and others to commission more public art.
- Bring public art into a variety of areas in the City of Newburgh.
- Create opportunities for the community to experience and interact with art in their everyday lives.
- Create paid opportunities for regional artists, with an emphasis on Newburgh artists.
- Promote the economic vitality of the region through supporting the creative economy.
- Manage the project in an equitable, inclusive, and accessible way that is sensitive to the needs and desires of Newburgh residents and artists.
Artwork Goals

Artists submitting designs for this RFP should consider and respond to the following goals when developing their proposals.

The bicycle racks commissioned through this project should:

- Beautify the city and reflect its creativity
- Reflect specific stories and aspects of Newburgh’s culture and what makes Newburgh unique
- Encourage environmentally-conscious transportation and promote a bike-friendly community by providing functional and visually compelling bike racks
- Promote Newburgh’s image to both residents and visitors as a creative, art-friendly destination
- Bring new artistic energy and life to the public realm

Sites

Site selection is being finalized based on community input and feedback to a list of sites approved by the City of Newburgh. Final sites will be posted on the NACC website in mid October. Artists may apply with an idea meant for a specific site or an idea that could work at any of the sites. The footprint and technical specifications are the same for all sites.

Anticipated Timeline

RFP released: September 22, 2022

Optional Q&A session for artists via Zoom: October 11th at 6pm  Link to join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87076219616

Deadline for questions November 1, 2022. Answered posted by November 8, 2022

Proposals due: November 15, 2022 midnight

Artists selected by December 23, 2022

Artists to work with NACC, OCAC, and Fabricator: January -March, 2023

Expected installation date: Spring/Summer 2023

Fee

Each artist selected will be awarded $5,000.00 for their design and all tasks involved with working with the fabricator, NACC, and OCAC to realize the design, as necessary. This all-inclusive fee includes any revisions to the design that may be needed to meet technical and safety specifications. Artists are expected to attend a dedication/unveiling celebration as well.

The payment schedule to artists is anticipated to be 20% upon selection, 50% after design finalization, and 30% upon completion of installation.

Technical Considerations

All designs must adhere to the City of Newburgh’s bike rack standards for safety and operability:
- Must be capable of securing at least two standard bicycles - each of which is two feet wide by six feet long - upright by their frames using standard bike locks, including a U-lock.
- Fit in a maximum footprint of 60” long X 12” wide.
- Provide a minimum of two points of contact – at least 6” apart - for each bike, e.g. touch each bike on two wheels or one wheel and the frame for stability. The points of contact should be at least 32” above ground.
- Rack tubes should be no larger than 2” to accommodate the use of smaller U-locks.
- Be boltable to the cement ground by a surface flange mount in a way that will prevent the racks from being removed from the location. (City of Newburgh Department of Public Works will bolt the racks to the ground. Selected designers can work with the fabricator to incorporate bolt holes into their designs.)
- Include no sharp edges or other potential safety hazards. Rack must not create a trip hazard for pedestrians.
- A bicycle should not have to be lifted off the ground in order to be secured to the rack. Racks that would be easy to climb are not encouraged. It is important to consider the ‘friendliness’ of the rack to the bike (i.e. holding the bike upright, hazard free, etc.).
- Use of the bike rack should be intuitive and not require written instructions.
- Designed so that bicycle is parallel to the street.

Eligibility, Selection and Review Process

Artists ages 18 and older living and working in the 13 counties along the Hudson River from New York City to Albany are invited to submit proposals. These counties are: Albany County, Rensselaer County, Greene County, Columbia County, Ulster County, Dutchess County, Orange County, Putnam County, Rockland County, Westchester County, Bronx County, New York County, and Kings County. OCAC and NACC intend to select at least two artists who live or work in the City of Newburgh.

Proposals will be reviewed for technical considerations by a Technical Committee composed of representatives from NACC, OCAC and The City of Newburgh. The final selection will be made by an Art Selection Panel made up of representatives from the NACC, OCAC, community stakeholders, and project stakeholders in Newburgh. The Panel will recommend up to six designs for approval by the NACC.

To Submit

Please send the following materials by midnight November 15, 2022:

1. A physical representation of your proposed bike rack in the form of a sketch, model, or other rendering, with indication of proposed scale and measurements.
2. A brief letter (1 page) or link to a video (max 3 minutes) describing your idea and noting any experience you have working with fabricators or teams to realize projects.
3. Your contact information including name, email, phone number, and home or studio address indicating eligible County.

Please email your submission to publicart@ocartscouncil.org. If you have any questions, please email or call Aliza Schiff, Project Manager at publicart@ocartscouncil.org or 845-402-0029.
About the Newburgh Arts & Cultural Commission

The Newburgh Arts & Cultural Commission is committed to fostering a thriving and vibrant cultural life in Newburgh through the arts. As a volunteer-led extension of City Government, the Commission works to promote the City’s artistic and cultural activities and creative industry for all residents and visitors. The Commission advises the City of Newburgh and its agencies on all matters of arts and culture, develops strategies and recommends priorities to the City, liaises between the City and the arts and cultural community, creates and sponsors public arts projects and cultural events, encourages cultural tourism and the economic impact of the arts, and works to strengthen arts education, accessibility, and participation for all persons.

About the Orange County Arts Council

The Orange County Arts Council is a private, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to meeting the growing need for local arts advocacy and serving as a county-wide arts resource. A diverse Board of Directors made up of community leaders, business leaders, arts enthusiasts, and professional artists oversees the Orange County Arts Council. The Orange County Arts Council’s mission is to support and empower artists, foster diverse forms of expression and promote access to the arts through educational programs, cultural events, public projects and participation that is integral to the economic development and collective well-being of our community.