



Nine Mile Linear Park Public Art Exhibit: Request for Artist Proposals

The City of Oak Park is pleased to launch the request for proposals process for a new public art exhibit within the City's Nine Mile Linear Park, located on the Nine Mile Corridor. This public art project is considered one of the primary enhancements in the transformation of the Corridor. Proposals are due **May 14, 2021**.

Total Project Budget:

\$40,000

Budget Description:

The project budget is up to \$40,000 inclusive of all fees and expenses, including but not limited to the artist's fee, materials, design costs, travel costs, fabrication, and installation of the artwork. The budget is designed to include up to 4 pieces of art. Applicants can submit one or multiple works of art for consideration.

Please note, the City will provide a 4-inch-thick concrete pad, but any further foundational needs must be included in the artist's proposed budget.

Project Details:

The City of Oak Park invites artists and artist teams to submit their proposals for a new public art project within the City's Nine Mile Linear Park, located on Nine Mile Road between Scotia and Rosewood Streets.

We are seeking an artist or artist team to design, fabricate, and install multiple pieces of artwork as an element of the Nine Mile Linear Park. The Linear Park is an important piece of Phase Two of the City's larger Nine Mile Redesign project. Phase One of this project included a road restructuring, dedicated bike lanes, increased and improved pedestrian crossings, pedestrian lighting, new public spaces, and other street improvement throughout the Corridor. For more information on the City's Nine Mile Redesign project, visit the dedicated webpage [here](#).

This public art project is considered one of the primary enhancements of the City's transformed Nine Mile Corridor, and an important aspect of the Nine Mile Linear Park, which is scheduled to begin construction in 2021. It will be the first ever commissioned art in the City of Oak Park.

The City is seeking design proposals for a public art exhibit that will span multiple locations along the Linear Park, as described below. The pieces should be large-scale, and visible to both automobile and pedestrian traffic, and will act as iconic landmarks on the Nine Mile Corridor. The exhibit must be suitable and acceptable for public viewing of all ages, must reflect positively on the community, and should meet at least one of the following objectives:

1. Reflect a relationship to the themes and work already underway along the Nine Mile Corridor
2. Depict the culturally and demographically diverse community of Oak Park
3. Capture the essence of Oak Park
4. Characterize Oak Park as a unique community

The selected artist will be asked to consider how their design is specific to the location. Pieces are expected to be created from material that can withstand the harsh outdoor elements of the environment for at least five years, and are prepared to be secured to foundation or footing. Artists with experience in creating public art projects and site-specific sculptures, and wishing to engage and work with communities as a component of their practice are encouraged to apply. **The exhibit must be installed by March 31, 2022.**

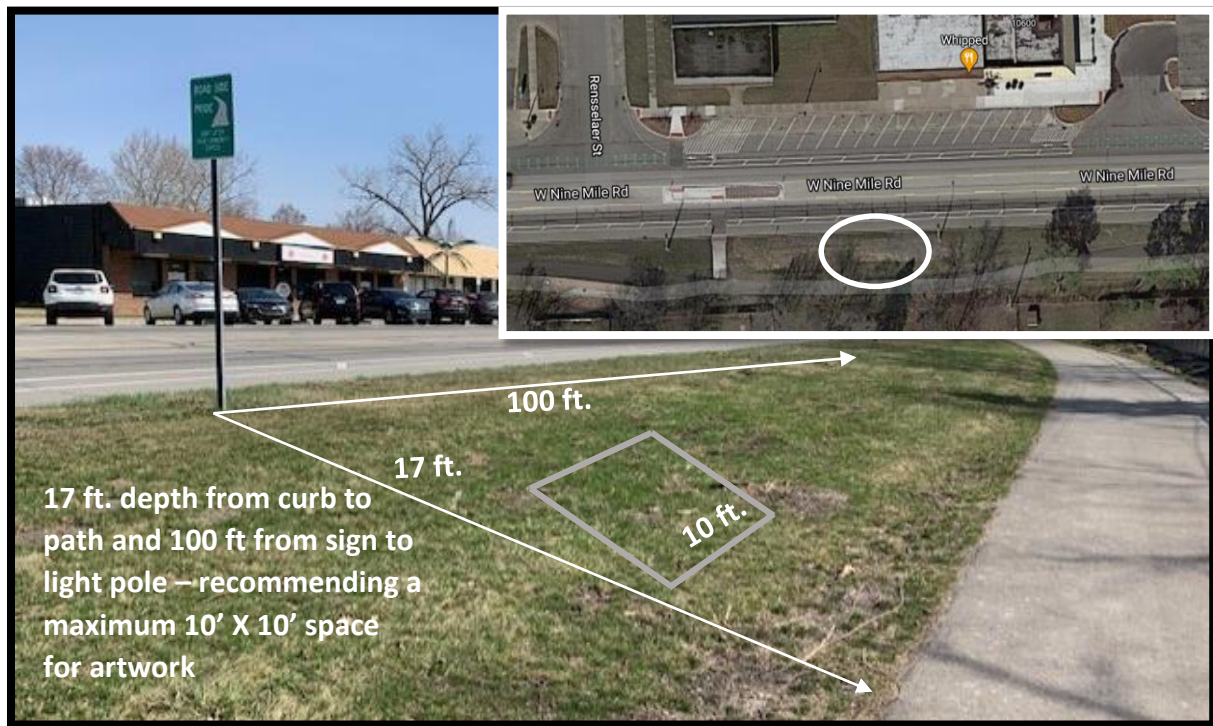
Locations:

The City has identified several locations along the Nine Mile Linear Park to locate public art pieces. Three of the locations we have identified as primary locations, as we feel they are best suited to locate art pieces; two locations are identified as alternate, as they are in close proximity to the primary locations and offer smaller areas to work with or the topography is challenging. Artists are encouraged to tour the spaces in person. Artists may choose all or as many locations as they would like to locate proposed pieces. Please see below for dimensions and details of the locations. Please note we have provided a recommended maximum space for the artwork, with considerations for other planned elements around the artwork, the proximity to the road, and the slope of the ground, but we will consider dimensions outside of the recommendations.

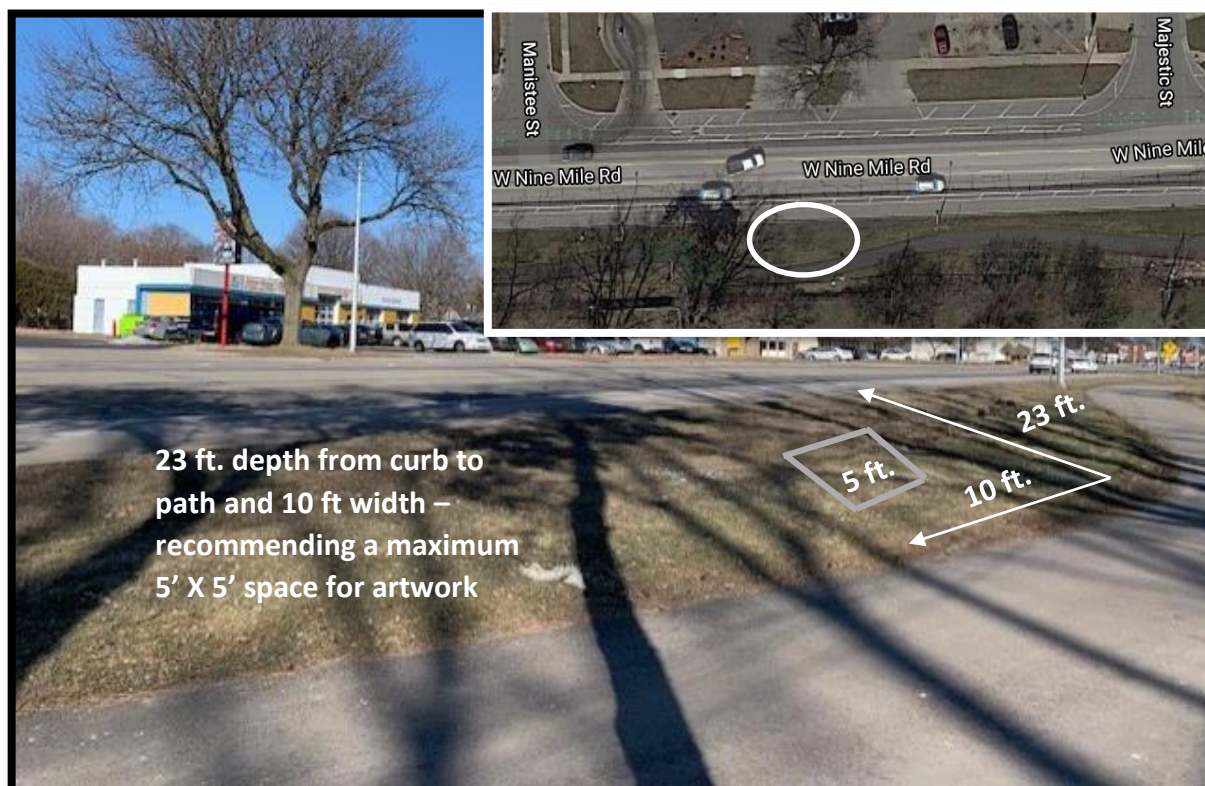
Primary Location 1 (directly in front of the Connector Park – south side of 9 Mile between Geneva & Rensselaer)



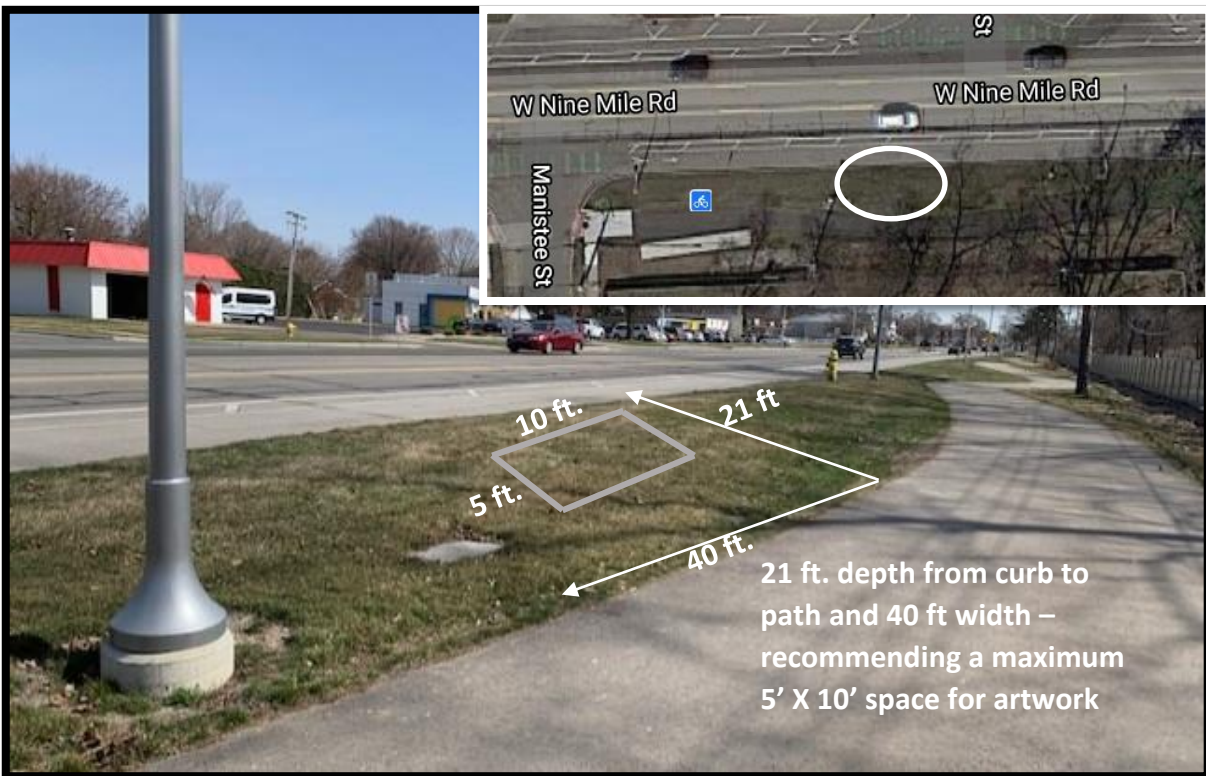
Primary Location 2 (South side of 9 Mile, east of Rensselaer)



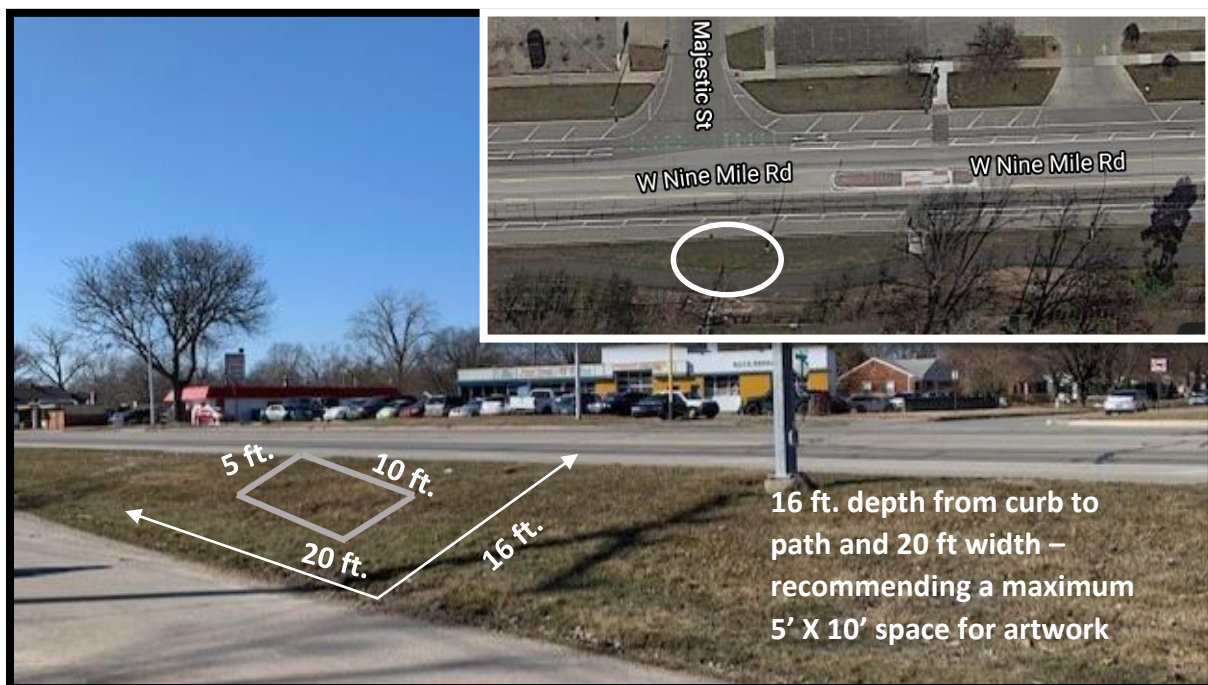
Primary Location 3 (South side of 9 Mile, east of Manistee)



Location 4 - Alternative (Just east of MoGo Station – south side of 9 Mile, east of Manistee)



Location 5 - Alternative (Southside of 9 Mile – across the street from Majestic)



Selection Information:

The Nine Mile Linear Park Public Art Ad Hoc Committee will review submissions and make a recommendation to City Council regarding the selected pieces of art. The final selection will be decided by City Council. Please note, the final selection may include artwork from more than one submission. The selected artist or artist(s) will be responsible for overseeing the design, fabrication, delivery, and installation (in coordination with City staff) of the commissioned artwork and is expected to work cooperatively with the project stakeholders, city staff, and consultants.

The project is open to experienced professional artists. The final commission(s) will be awarded based on the criteria listed below. Past use of community collaboration strategies and participation are a plus but not required for selection. Artist teams should have proven experience that demonstrates their professional qualifications working together as a team. Professional artists living in Oakland County are encouraged to apply.

Finalists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Whether the proposed exhibit meets the design objectives listed above (pg. 1 under "Project Details")
- Innovation and creativity in previous projects/artwork
- Demonstrated experience and professional practice with community engagement
- Demonstrated proficiency in craftsmanship and technical knowledge of sculptural materials
- Experience and success in creating public artwork in cooperation with city agencies and multiple stakeholders
- Use of durable materials appropriate to the environment the art will be placed.
- Cost associated with routine maintenance

Application Requirements:

- Please provide a detailed drawing and narrative of the proposed exhibit(s). Must include colors, dimensions, weight, proposed location of each piece, proposed materials, requirements for maintenance, site work necessary for the structure (including concrete pad or foundation size/thickness beyond the 4-inch concrete pad provided by the City), as well as how they will be installed. Narrative must include artistic intent, explanation of the proposed exhibit and how it meets the criteria listed above.
- Itemized budget
- Detailed timeline
- Artist Statement: (Maximum 500 words) Include a general introduction to your work. Discuss the concepts and ideas you explore in your artwork and how these ideas and issues are presented. If you are applying as a team, the letter should clearly describe the contribution of each collaborator.
- Resume: (Maximum 2 pages) Outline your recent experience and accomplishments as an artist. If applying as a team, each member may submit a separate one-page resume.
- Samples of your work - a maximum of ten (10) files: digital images and video files are all acceptable with corresponding titles to match the Support Description list (below).
- Support Description list: (Maximum 2 pages) For each image/file submitted, include relevant project information. For example, list the title, date, size, and medium for studio work. For public art projects include a description, location, materials, budget, and commissioning organization.
- References: Provide three references who are familiar with your work as a professional artist. Include names and contact information only.

How to Apply:

The entire proposal must be submitted by **May 14, 2021**

They may be submitted electronically to: cvanvleck@oakparkmi.gov or may be dropped off or mailed to City Hall, addressed to:

City of Oak Park
c/o Crystal VanVleck, Nine Mile Public Art Ad Hoc Committee
14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237

All listed application requirements must be met or the application will not be considered.

For Questions, Please Contact:

Crystal VanVleck, Director of Strategic Planning & Special Projects at cvanvleck@oakparkmi.gov or 248-691-7401.