



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE-SISTRUNK OVERPASS GATEWAY MURAL

CALL TO ARTISTS

Due: 03/31/2026

The City of Fort Lauderdale invites qualifications from professional artists and artist teams for the design and installation of a historic gateway mural at the I-95 overpass on Sistrunk Boulevard. This highly visible entryway location presents an opportunity to celebrate and elevate the cultural and historical legacy of the Sistrunk corridor while enhancing the streetscape and strengthening a sense of place for neighbors and visitors.

As a prominent marker, the artwork will reinforce the corridor's identity and honor its contributions to Fort Lauderdale's history. A compelling gateway feature at this location will support corridor revitalization, improve pedestrian and vehicular experiences, and encourage engagement with local businesses by promoting foot traffic and community pride.

We invite artists to submit proposals that reflect their artistic vision and interpretation of the park and its surroundings. The selected artist or creative group will play a pivotal role in adding aesthetic value to the Activity Center, making a lasting impact on the community's cultural experience.

Sistrunk

Sistrunk is one of Fort Lauderdale's most historically and culturally significant corridors, deeply rooted in the City's Black history and community life. Named for Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk, a pioneering civil rights leader and educator, the corridor emerged as a vital center for commerce, music and social gathering during an era of segregation, serving as a hub of resilience, creativity, and entrepreneurship. For decades, Sistrunk Boulevard has played a central role in shaping Fort Lauderdale's cultural identity and collective memory. Today, it stands as both a symbol of the City's past and a focus of thoughtful revitalization, honoring the legacy of those who built and sustained the community while welcoming new generations forward.

Site

[I-95 Overpass at Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida](#)





Artwork Type:

Painted mural (permanent, protected finish) on an approved surface within/adjacent to the overpass area.

Important Note: This site may require coordination and approvals beyond the City (including transportation/right-of-way and permitting requirements). Final surface selection, dimensions, access, and installation approach will be confirmed during the shortlisting phase and may be subject to agency review and safety constraints. Florida Department of Transportation approval will be required.

Artistic Intent

The City seeks artists who can create a bold, legible, and aesthetically significant gateway mural that:

- Celebrates the history, culture, and community legacy of the Sistrunk corridor
- Creates a strong sense of arrival and identity at a major entry point
- Is durable, safe, and appropriate for a high-traffic transportation environment
- Demonstrates excellence in design, craftsmanship, and public-art project delivery

Public Art in Fort Lauderdale

Public art plays a crucial role in Fort Lauderdale's diverse and vibrant community. Beyond aesthetics, it provides a platform for contemporary artists to contribute to the city's image and economy, showcasing the uniqueness that defines Fort Lauderdale. This call seeks artists who can add a distinctive touch to one of our most popular parks.

Artist Services and Project Budget

The selected artist/artist team will be required to enter into a professional services agreement with the City, participate in a site visit and stakeholder coordination as needed, and oversee fabrication/production and installation.

The total budget for this project is Forty Thousand Dollars (**\$45,000**) and must be inclusive of all costs associated with the project, including but not limited to:

- Artist design fee and project management
- Community/stakeholder meetings and presentations (as required)
- Engineering (if required), shop drawings, and/or structural review (if applicable)
- Materials, fabrication (if applicable), surface preparation, and protective coatings (e.g., anti-graffiti clear coat)
- Equipment rental (lifts/scaffolding), installation hardware, and site safety measures



- Permitting/coordination support (as applicable)
- Insurance, including general liability and any coverage required by the City and/or permitting agencies
- Transportation, delivery, travel, per diem, and lodging
- Documentation and close-out materials
- Artist contingency and applicable taxes

Artist Eligibility:

This Call to Artists is open to professional artists aged eighteen or older with demonstrated experience managing and implementing public art projects. Artists must be eligible to work in the United States. Submissions should demonstrate the artist's skills and experience relevant to the successful completion of the project. Recognizing the cultural diversity that contributes to the City's vibrancy, the City acknowledges the importance of all cultures in the arts and the promotion of a culturally democratic world.

Application Process and Selection Criteria:

The City of Fort Lauderdale, through its Public Art and Placement Advisory Board, will manage the application process. The Board will evaluate qualifications, considering past work excellence, media versatility, and appropriateness to the project scope. Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop conceptual design proposals.

Three (3) shortlisted artists will be invited to develop conceptual design proposals to present to the Board. Artists will receive information about the project and have a minimum of three weeks to prepare a conceptual design proposal for review by the board. Shortlisted artists will be paid an honorarium of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for the proposal and presentation. Proposals must include a written narrative, visual materials necessary to convey the initial concept or approach to the project, estimated project budget, schematic project schedule, and future maintenance schedule. Proposals, including materials, become property of the City and will not be returned. Shortlisted Artists must submit digital files of their full presentation five (5) business days prior to the scheduled date of the presentation. The City reserves the right to re-issue this Call to Artists, to reject any and all responses to this Call to Artists, and to negotiate with any qualified Artist selected for this project.

The Public Art and Placement Advisory Board will make the final recommendation of artwork selection to the City Commission.

Anticipated Art Project Schedule

- Shortlisting of Proposals: May 2026
- Interviews and/or Conceptual Design Proposal Selection: June/July 2026



- Artwork Completion and Installation: Dependent upon the Florida Department of Transportation

Submission Requirements

Applications must be submitted digitally. Hard copy materials will not be accepted. A final rendering of your proposed project does not need to be submitted at this time.

Please submit:

- Letter of Interest (brief narrative of approach and relevant experience)
- Resume/CV
- Work Samples: Up to 10 digital images of relevant completed work (murals and/or fabricated public art/signage encouraged)
- Annotated Image List including artist name, title, year, medium, dimensions, location, and project budget
- Maintenance and Inventory form detailing the annual projected maintenance cost, materials/paint types, and maintenance requirements

Application Deadline

03/31/2026

Questions / Contact

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