



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

**PUBLIC ART
CALL TO ARTISTS**
The Empowerment Collection

**NASHVILLE YOUTH
CAMPUS FOR EMPOWERMENT**

CALL SUMMARY

Metro Arts is issuing a Request for Proposals for the Empowerment Collection. The permanent collection will feature 20 unique, site-specific wall-hung artworks, serving as a central highlight in the Juvenile Justice Court's new facility, the Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment (NYCE). Each artist will have a budget of \$5,000 allocated for their artwork.

The Empowerment Collection will be featured within the courthouse, on the first and second floor. These selected areas will be bustling with activity - situated within main corridors, waiting rooms, and gathering spaces assuring that the public will interact with the art daily. The chosen spaces take full advantage of the abundant natural light, thanks to the large glass windows, open layouts and visitor accessibility. The location of each piece will be meticulously arranged, ensuring a cohesive and balanced presentation across the entire collection.

Prior to the submission of the proposal, artists are required to participate in one virtual engagement session organized by Metro Arts. This session will cover the mission and goals of the Juvenile Justice Court, Metro Arts, and the communities they serve.



The new youth campus will replace the existing juvenile court located at 100 Woodland St, Nashville, TN 37213. The new site is located at 1354 Brick Church Pike, 2.5 miles north of the original site, near the intersection of I-24 and Trinity Lane. The Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment (NYCE) prior to its targeted opening in January of 2027.

ABOUT METRO NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Metro Nashville Arts Commission or "Metro Arts" is the office of Arts & Culture for the city of Nashville and Davidson County. We believe that arts drive a more vibrant and equitable community. We strive to ensure that all Nashvillians have access to a creative life through community investments, artist and organizational training, public art, and direct programs that involve residents in all forms of arts and culture.

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

Metro Arts' commitment to our community embodies the values, beliefs, policies and practices that ensure that all people can fulfill their rights of cultural expression and belonging, participation, learning, and livelihood within the arts ecosystem. This includes a commitment to serving all members of the Nashville community, including those who have been underrepresented in mainstream arts funding, discourse, leadership, and resource allocation.

CAMPUS PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment (NYCE) is poised to make a transformative impact when it opens its doors in early 2027. Spanning 14 acres, this facility is designed to uplift the residents of Nashville-Davidson



County who are seeking support through essential public services for children and adolescents, foster care, child safety, and the family and juvenile court systems. Located at 1354 Brick Church Pike, just 2.5 miles north of the existing juvenile court on Woodland St, the NYCE site is conveniently situated near the intersection of I-24 and Trinity Lane. More than just a juvenile court, the NYCE facility is a beacon of hope, featuring a thoughtfully designed environment that focuses on empowering youth and families. Additionally, the campus will collaborate with local non-profits to provide trauma-informed services and

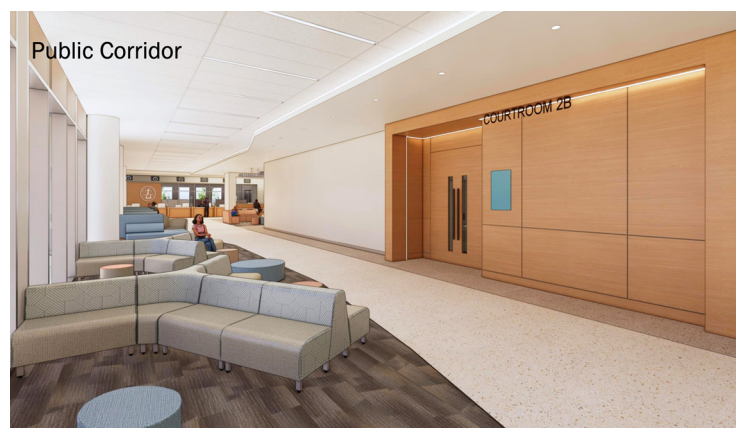
restorative classes, fostering engagement and support for both youth and their families. This initiative is the vision of Juvenile Court Judge, Sheila Calloway, a dedicated community leader who has passionately advocated for this project for years.

The Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment is not just a court building; it embodies a mission to empower and provide vital resources that will guide youth and families toward a brighter future. By creating a nurturing environment, the NYCE aims to inspire resilience and advancement, helping individuals navigate their paths with confidence and purpose.

The Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment has six principal areas: Courthouse, Assessment and family services building, cottages/housing, sports facility, green space and parking structure. At the center of the campus is the five-story courthouse building serving as the main entrance. The building will not only host hearings, and trials, but it will offer a wide range of community services centered around education, alongside safe exchange facilities, trauma therapy, educational classes for at-risk youth, green spaces for connection and healing, meeting rooms, sports facilities, and even a trade school equipped with a music studio, barber shop, and cafeteria.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The chosen artists will undertake the design and creation of one unique permanent wall-hung public artwork for the NYCE facility that will become part of the larger Empowerment Collection permanent art installation. This initiative emphasizes the creation of a total of 20 artworks that will be prominently positioned on the first and second floor corridors, waiting rooms and gathering spaces inside the multi-level complex. The designated areas for the art installation will welcome visitors, leading them to courtrooms, mixed-use conference rooms, courtyards, and café. The completed artwork should be crafted from lightweight, durable materials that require



minimal maintenance and speak to the people the Juvenile Court serves.

Artists will be required to attend and participate in one online engagement facilitated by Metro Arts prior to submitting a proposal. Engaging in this valuable discussion will provide valuable insights and context to inform the artists' proposal. It is also recommended that artists explore how their work aligns with the mission and goals of both the Juvenile Justice Court and Metro Arts, particularly in relation to the city's vision for redefining juvenile justice. Once the selection process is complete and artists have been notified of their selection, Metro Arts staff will contact you to arrange a boarding meeting to go over all the details. The selected artists will collaborate closely with the public art team to ensure alignment of technical specifications, weight limitations, artwork development, delivery and overall schedule.

OPEN DATE

The submission period will start **Friday, January 30th, 2026 at 12:00 a.m. (CST)** and will be through the Metro Arts [Submittable](#) page. Artists must have attended a minimum of one Metro Arts facilitated engagement before submitting a proposal. Please refer to the project schedule for more details. Only one submission per artist.

DEADLINE

All submissions must be submitted by: **Friday, March 6th, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. (CST).**

Please review your proposal prior to submission. Late submissions will not be accepted, and no additional information may be submitted after the established deadline. Technical changes will not be allowed after the deadline. Ineligibility may result due to errors in your submission.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

1. Geographic Area: Submissions will be accepted from artist residents of Davidson County or listed surrounding counties: Wilson, Rutherford, Williamson, Cheatham, Robertson, and Sumner; professional artists as defined by the [Public Art Guidelines](#):

2. Professional Artist*. An artist of least 18 years of age with the following qualifications:

- a. at least two years of visual art exhibition history, or
- b. at least two years of commissioned visual or public art.

Note: Exhibitions, commissions or public art created during or as part of an artist's undergraduate education shall not count towards these criteria. Architects, landscape architects, other design professionals, and organizations are not considered professional artists under this definition, unless they meet the criteria. Artists who operate within an art studio setting are eligible to apply. All individual studio artists must meet the definition of professional artist. No exceptions.

**Professional artist qualifications must be demonstrated in submitted artist resume(s).*

3. Multiple Submissions. Only one submission per artist. Artists who submit more than one proposal will become ineligible.

4. Engagement. Artists must participate in a minimum of one NYCE Metro Arts facilitated engagement and confirm their attendance in the application submission as part of the process. There will be a total of four engagements within a two-month span, and they will all be held virtually. Metro Arts has the right to change or cancel any scheduled engagements or events at a moment's notice. To stay up to date and receive all of metro Arts latest news, please sign up to our [Arts Alert](#) or follow us on all our [social media platforms](#). Any questions regarding any of the engagements, please contact Atilio Murga at atilio.murga@nashville.gov or (615) 862-6733. Artists who do not attend one engagement will not meet the eligibility requirement. No exceptions.

5. Conflict of Interest. Employees of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission or the Metro Nashville Government are ineligible to apply. Family and household members of Metro Arts staff are also ineligible. Members of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission or Public Art Committee are ineligible for public art commissions or projects. An artist is precluded from having their work considered for a public art commission or project while under contract with the Metro Nashville Arts Commission. Artists may reference section VII of the Public Art Guidelines online at <https://www.metroartsnashville.gov/metro-public-art>.

BUDGET

The art budget allocates **\$5,000** to each selected artist for the creation of a permanent site-specific wall-hung artwork for the Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment collection. This includes the artist's fees for design development, overhead and operating costs, fabrication costs, all project-related travel, contingency, delivery, and any other project-related costs the artist may incur.

**Metro Arts will be responsible for the mounting, placement and installation of the artwork.*

ARTWORK LOCATION

The empowerment collection will be installed within the courthouse, on the first and second floor. These selected areas will be bustling with activity - situated within main corridors, waiting rooms, and gathering spaces assuring that the public will interact with the art daily. The chosen spaces were selected to take full advantage of the abundant natural light, thanks to the large glass windows, open layouts and visitor accessibility.

The arrangement of each piece will be carefully decided by Metro Arts, ensuring a cohesive and balanced presentation across the entire collection. (Placement requests will not be accepted)

ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

Artists must design and create a unique piece tailored to specified dimensions. Artists may incorporate artistic elements that extend beyond the surface; however, overall depth should not exceed 1 ½ inches. Please note, selected artists are responsible for supplying their own canvas or supportive backing and delivery. Upon delivery, artworks will be examined by the Public Art team to ensure that conditional requirements have been met. Metro Arts will be responsible for framing, mounting and installing each artwork. Each piece will be encased in 1/8th Optimum Museum Acrylic glass and presented within a 1" black wooden frame.

Canvas/Backing Size: 30" Width x 40" Height

Viewable Dimensions: 29.25" Width x 35.25" Height

Total Artwork Depth: 1 ½" (including canvas or backing)

Medium: Original* artworks to include ceramics, drawings, paintings, photography, textiles, and mixed media submissions are welcome. Please ensure you have copyright ownership or appropriate permissions for all art assets included. Proposals with any form of LED, use of electricity, digital graphics or AI-generated images will not be accepted.

i. Photography: If selected, Film SLR projects will require a review of negatives before post-production. For Digital SLR photography, all batch unedited RAW files will be examined and submitted prior to post-production and completion of the final artwork to ensure authenticity. Post-production is everything done after the shoot to perfect and deliver images (culling, editing, color grading, retouching). Each Digital SLR submission will be rigorously assessed to confirm that no AI-generated content is present. Metro Arts maintains the right to implement any necessary measures to verify the authenticity of the artwork and may reject any project without compensation if there are concerns regarding compliance with photographic guidelines.

*No Pre-Produced Artwork will be accepted and must adhere to the following:

- a.** The Artwork is solely the result of the Artistic effort of the ARTIST, and the ARTIST is the sole creator of the Artwork;
- b.** The Artwork is a unique and original creation of the ARTIST, which has not previously been created or sold in any form (except any model or illustration which may have been produced by ARTIST for METRO relating to the procurement of this Agreement);
- c.** The Artwork, or duplicate thereof, has not been accepted for sale elsewhere;
- d.** The ARTIST has not sold, assigned, transferred, licensed, granted, encumbered or utilized the Artwork or any element thereof or any copyright related thereto which may affect or impair the rights granted by this Agreement;
- e.** The Artwork is free and clear of any liens from any source whatsoever;
- f.** The ARTIST has the full power and authority, free of any rights of any nature by any other person, to enter into and perform this Agreement and to make the grants of rights contained in this Agreement;
- g.** All Artwork created or performed by the ARTIST under this Agreement, whether created by the ARTIST alone or in collaboration with others, shall be wholly original with the ARTIST and shall not infringe upon or violate the rights of any third party;
- h.** The Artwork is not in the public domain;
- i.** The Artwork does not and will not infringe upon any person's or entity's copyright or any proprietary right at common law.

THEME(S)

Justice system, empowerment, resilience, hope, love, etc. This includes themes in areas such as adoption, foster care, family and juvenile court.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Due to the sensitive nature of the environment, artists should consider utilizing the following recommendations from the Juvenile court office and Metro Arts when planning their design concept.

Artwork should:

- feature calming elements and color palette. Avoid harsh or overly stimulating colors.
- be mindful. Abstract art is preferred over literal imaging. Literal imaging may produce triggering imagery.
- promote positive coping skills and mindfulness through imagery and narratives.
- strike a balance between formality and approachability.
- help reduce anxiety and tension.
- promote a sense of calm and respect, while also acknowledging the emotional intensity visitors may be experiencing.
- be neutral and non-judgmental and consider the diverse population.
- not include references to political parties or religious organizations.

Note: JJC provides various services to a large group of the population. From toddlers to teenagers, families, and the entire Metro Nashville population.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel for this project will have between five and eleven members including at least one visual artist, and may also include a design professional, a project architect/landscape architect, community representatives, and one member representing the site sponsor. The chairperson of the selection panel will be the Public Art Committee chair or designee, serving as an ex-officio, non-voting panel member. The Metro Purchasing Agent will assign a Contract Specialist to the project who will serve as a non-voting advisory member of the selection panel and is charged with the responsibility of monitoring the Procurement process. The proposals chosen by the selection panel will be put forward for approval by the Metro Arts Commission. Award notifications are subject to approval by the Arts Commission. Award notifications will be made after Arts Commission approval.

SELECTION

Artists/artist teams will be considered and scored based on the following:

a. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & CHECKLIST

- i. The following information must be submitted in order to be considered: All Submissions must be submitted via [Submittable](#) and are due **Friday, March 6, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. (CST)**.
- ii. Artists are required to submit the following materials:
 - 1. Concept Drawing:** The concept drawing should be detailed enough to visually represent and communicate the initial design. It should give proportions and offer a general overview

and include details about the shape, style, and layout. (Previously completed work will not be considered. Photographers may elect to submit a draft picture of their concept or submit a sketch drawing.)

2. Artwork Images: Six (6) digital images representative of your previously completed artwork. Artwork samples must effectively demonstrate the techniques, materials, color palettes, mood, and textures intended for the completion of the final piece.

Only one image per file; no composite or collage images, no videos. File types accepted: JPG, PNG, GIF, PDF. Artists are required to include basic specifications of each image (title, media, dimensions, year, budget, location and client).

3. Current Artist Résumé: Resume must demonstrate artistic practice as defined by the Artist Eligibility guidelines above. For artist teams, submit a resume for each team member. The artist's resume is not to exceed 2 single-sided pages.

4. Artist Narrative: Narrative should vividly showcase the subject matter, content, composition, and visual elements. It needs to delve into themes that utilize elements such as character, setting, and symbolism, while also highlighting the technical skills employed, materials used, dimensions, and composition principles like balance and contrast. The narrative should ultimately convey a compelling story or set of ideas, reflecting the originality of the work and its appropriateness to the site.

5. Short Answer Questions: Artist must answer all short answer questions and fields in the submittable application form.

6. Artist Engagement: Artists must participate in one NYCE Metro Arts facilitated 1-hour engagement and confirm their attendance in the application submission as part of the process. Artists who do not attend an engagement will not meet the eligibility requirement. No exceptions.

Meeting Registration: To participate in the upcoming engagements, artists must register in advance to receive the meeting link. Registration is available on our website www.metroartsnashville.gov/opportunities. Stay tuned for announcements across our social media channels.

b. PROJECT GOALS

- Create a site-specific, 30" x 40" wall-hung permanent artwork of appropriate subject matter.
- Design artwork crafted from lightweight, durable materials that require minimal maintenance.
- The artwork can relate with individuals and families who may have experienced trauma leading to involvement in areas such as child welfare, foster care, parental custody and adolescent justice

services.

- Provide a significant visual presence through a thoughtfully conceived design.
- Reflect Davidson County Juvenile Court’s vision, values and mission as outlined on their website.
- Reflect Metro Arts’ commitment to the community, as outlined in the Public Art Community Investment Plan, to shared civic spaces that are open to everyone and dedicated to the community’s vision, identity and purposes.

c. TECHNICAL CRITERIA

- artist’s work samples and resume provide evidence of understanding of professionalism and craft;
- artist’s work samples provide evidence of creative and inventive use of chosen medium;
- artist’s narrative effectively describes the visual representation of the proposed design;
- artist’s responses to the submission questions demonstrates a deep understanding to the overall goals of the project.
- artist’s proposal effectively reflects the community for which public artwork is intended;
- artist’s proposal aligns with the site and reflects the community for which public artwork is intended, showcasing its appropriateness;
- artist’s proposal effectively demonstrates themes of the commitment to the Davidson County Juvenile Court’s vision, values and mission as outlined on their website;
- artist’s execution of artistic intent is evident in the overall proposal.

UNDERSTANDING OF AGREEMENT

The agreement will be established directly between the artist and the Metro Arts Commission. Please note that Metro Arts Nashville has the authority to reject any or all applications, withhold commission awards, or reopen the call for entries. Applications that do not meet all eligibility criteria or required conditions will not be considered. There will be no exceptions made.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The following projected timetable should be used as a working guide for planning purposes. Metro reserves the right to adjust this timetable as required during the course of the Request for Proposals process.

Schedule	Date
Online Engagement	Monday, January 12*, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. (Register)
Online Engagement	Monday, January 26*, 2026 – 3:30 p.m. (Register)
Submission Period Opens	Friday, January 30th, 2026 – 12:00 a.m.
Online Engagement	Monday, February 9*, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. (Register)
Online Engagement	Thursday, February 19*, 2026 – 3:30 p.m. (Register)
Proposal Submission Deadline	Friday, March 6th, 2026 - 11:59 p.m.
Selection Process	April - May 2026
PAC Approval	June 2026
Commission Approval	July 2026
Artist Notifications	July 2026

Production Begins	July 2026
Artist Progress Update	August 2026
Final Artwork Due	Tuesday, September 1, 2026

***NOTE:** Metro Arts has the right to change, modify or cancel scheduled times and dates in the overall schedule. To stay up to date and receive all of Metro Arts latest news, please sign up to our [Arts Alert](#) or follow us on all our [social media platforms](#). Any questions regarding the schedule please contact Atilio Murga at atilio.murga@nashville.gov or (615) 862-6733.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Full submission instructions are available at Submittable. Please read through carefully before submitting. Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed. No submissions or supplementary information will be accepted beyond the specified deadline. Artist or artist team may submit only one entry. Artists associated with a team cannot submit individual submission. Technical questions about the online submission process (i.e. image upload, Submittable account set-up, etc.) should be directed to <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>.

METRO PUBLIC ART

The Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission (Metro Arts) is a department of the Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County created in 1978 for the purpose of promoting, preserving and expanding the cultural and artistic interests of the general public. Metro Arts public art program was established in June 2000, with the passage of a public art ordinance. The ordinance dedicates one percent (1%) of the net proceeds of general obligation bonds issued for construction projects to fund public art. Metro Arts established guidelines, and named a Public Art Committee (PAC) as a standing committee to oversee the public art program.

METRO PUBLIC ART GOALS

- Create opportunities for deeper cultural and civic participation.
- Drive the support and development of vibrant, creative neighborhoods.
- Strengthen the public art ecosystem in Nashville.
- Prioritize projects in areas that are underserved with public art.
- Commission public art at Metro facilities; strengthen their role as welcoming and functional places for gathering.

RESOURCES FOR QUESTIONS

Direct all non-technical questions related to this open Request for Proposals call to atilio.murga@nashville.gov with “NYCE Empowerment Collection” in the subject line or call (615) 862-6733.

Questions will be taken by **Thursday, March 5th, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. noon (CST)**. The deadline to apply through [Submittable](#) is **Friday, March 6, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (CST)**. Late submissions will not be accepted, and no additional information may be submitted after the established deadline.