



## ***Request for Proposals: 2023 Civic Art Challenge***

The Committee for a Better New Orleans

### **Background**

The Committee for a Better New Orleans is a nonpartisan non-profit organization working to build up the “soil” for the grassroots of New Orleans. Our programs help connect people to the civic decisions that impact our lives, and to one another. Our mission is to create equity and opportunity for all New Orleanians by developing community leaders, fostering City engagement, and advocating for open, effective, accountable local government. To learn more about our programs and past, visit [cbno.org](http://cbno.org).

At the core of The Committee for a Better New Orleans is the belief that innovation, creativity, joy, and relationships are crucial to strong civic engagement, and from these values, our 2023 Block Party was born. This summer, we are hosting our 2023 *Better New Orleans* Block Party, a gathering place for our community to come together, spread joy, and engage with problems facing our City in a way that is accessible to all. The Block Party will be held **Saturday, August 12th** in the St. Roch Neighborhood, and will feature local bands and musicians, food vendors, carnival-like activities, face painting, and engagement opportunities provided by a variety of community advocacy organizations. Part of the vision is getting local artists and creatives involved, and with this, we are putting together a call for submissions in our **Civic Art Challenge**.

## Block Party Project Goals

- Foster creative approaches to civic education, civic engagement, community building, and social research in New Orleans
- Build relationships across differences in identity, geography, and/or perspectives
- Spur meaningful conversations about issues impacting New Orleans communities

## Request for Proposals

Community Leaders, Organizations, and/or Artist teams are invited to submit proposals for a **creative, interactive experience to engage residents on a topic of interest related to building a Better New Orleans**. From environmental topics to education policies to criminal justice reform, all themes are welcome. *5 teams* will be selected to be featured at the Block Party event, and each team will be awarded a \$1,000 **grant** (includes materials & time). Each team will be allotted a **10x10 space** (up to 30x10 if needed) at the event, and will have access to volunteer staff if needed for your on-site set up. Your piece can take on whatever medium you see most fit, and interact with individuals in your own unique way, all we ask is that it is representative of New Orleans, and more specifically, the City we want to build upon. Performance pieces welcome!

## Eligibility:

The Committee for a Better New Orleans welcomes artists of all backgrounds, all mediums, and all expertise. For the Civic Art Challenge, you can apply as either an individual or a team, and you do not need to be registered with a Studio or Gallery to participate. We are looking for community collaboration, representation, and authentic New Orleans voices. The size of your team will not impact our decision, but we are just looking for context into the creation process. Youth under 16 are welcome to submit, but we are asking you to have an adult supervisor on your team to support. To be eligible, at least one team member (or the individual artist) must be an Orleans Parish resident. Elected officials are not eligible. Campaign activity is not allowed.

## Funding

Selected teams will each be awarded a **\$1,000 grant all-in** (includes materials & time) in two payments. Payment schedule:

- \$500 upon completion of the Artists Fund Contract and
- \$500 upon completion of the final progress report.



## **Project Timeline:**

The call for submissions for the 2023 Block Party is officially open now and will be closed at 11:59pm on June 12th, 2023.

### ***Key Dates***

**May 15th, 2023** - Call for Submissions Officially Opens

**June 12th, 2023** - Deadline for submissions

**June 16th, 2023** - Artist Decision Finalized + Released

**TBD Mid-June** - Site visit & Artist Meet & Greet

**June 26th, 2023** - Artists Contract Due

**July 14st, 2023** - Progress Report #1 (details will be outlined further after the application decision)

**August 4th, 2023** - Final Progress Report

**August 12th, 2023** - Block Party Date/Event load in

If you are selected, the next step will be to set up a meeting with The Committee for a Better New Orleans' Executive Director, Nellie Catzen, and the Project Coordinator, Sophi Tomasulo, where we can talk through your vision further, see your space, and discuss finances. With this, we will send you the Artist Fund Contract for your review, and after that, the initial funding will be transferred and we will schedule times for Progress Reports.

## **Submission Details:**

For your submission, we are asking artists to submit a 1-2 page narrative or a 5 minute video submission covering the basis of your idea and your execution. Within this, we are looking for the following information:

- Who's on your team?
  - Individual artists are welcome!
  - Where are you from? What is your story?
  - *Information about your artistic experience and prior community engagement is recommended, but not required.*
- What topic are you engaging residents on?
  - As outlined, the Block Party is intended to be an event that not only creates a better sense of community, but also provides prompts for a deeper understanding of our City and outlets for civic engagement.
  - Any topic that you believe connects to New Orleans and civic duty is accepted
  - Does your piece include a follow-up action? Is it part of a broader campaign or initiative?
- Project description

- What is your vision for the piece? What will it be?
- What materials will you be using? What medium?
- Describe the interactive component of your piece
- *Mock-ups and sketches of your piece are recommended, but not required.*

**Submit proposals by email to [sophi@cbno.org](mailto:sophi@cbno.org) with the subject line “Civic Art Challenge Submission” by June 12th, 2023.**

We understand that proposal writing is no small task, and in an effort to take the burden off the artists, we want to be flexible and transparent in terms of submissions. No bonus points will be awarded for extra length; take the space you need to describe your project. Additionally, both written and video submissions will be reviewed equally, as it is fundamental for us to prioritize accessibility throughout this process.

After the June 12th submissions deadline, the Block Party Planning Committee will meet to review applications. Our Planning Committee, made up of previous volunteers, Leadership Forum graduates, board members, and more, will select proposals based on:

\_\_\_\_ / (100) Total Points

- Project Creativity (20)
- Interactive Elements/Engagement Component (30)
- Relevance to New Orleans community issues (20)
- Accessibility / Inclusivity (10)
- Alignment to Program Goals/“Fit” (20)

***For more information on the Civic Art Challenge call for submissions or the 2023 Block Party event***

Sophi Tomasulo  
Program Coordinator  
[sophi@cbno.org](mailto:sophi@cbno.org)  
(347) 843-1466

## Inspiration:

To guide your creative process, the Block Party Planning Committee has cultivated a vision board of some example projects that we think match what we are looking for. Take these images as a starting point, but your creativity is what we are looking for!



