

CITY OF DALLAS OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMUNITY ARTS SUSTAINABLE ART RESIDENCY PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Total Award: \$6,500

APPLICATION TIMELINE: January 5-26, 2026

SUSTAINABLE ART RESIDENCY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As we work together to create a more vibrant arts community in Dallas, The Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) is committed to supporting equitable, diverse, and inclusive programs that provide Dallas residents with the opportunity to engage in meaningful and creative cultural experiences across the city.

The Community Arts Sustainable Art Residency Program is an opportunity for artists to create programming with a focus on environmental sustainability. The selected artists will provide these opportunities at recreation centers and community farms across the City of Dallas. The residency program will connect artists with residents in the service of producing environmentally sustainable art experiences in alignment with the **Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP)** approved in 2020. This plan is a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and to create a healthier and more prosperous Dallas community.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Office of Arts and Culture's Community Arts Division requests proposals for an 8-week residency to be provided in-person at one of eight designated areas located throughout the city of Dallas identified as Community Gardens, Dallas Parks Recreation Centers, and Local Farms.

Applicants must be open to working in any of the eight designated locations and should not make definite plans for a specific location until notified by OAC staff.

Through any artistic or cultural discipline, the proposed residency projects must address and create access to arts and culture programs that focus on environmental sustainability and/or agriculture.

Proposals require the submittal materials and supplemental documentation, outlined below, which include a proposed curriculum that addresses how the program will align with the following sustainability guidelines:

All proposals must:

- Create experiences that are not harmful to the environment.
- Address topics such as climate change, waste reduction, and social responsibility.
- Align with Dallas' Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan ([CECAP](#)) and focus on the following key principles of sustainability: ecology, social justice, agriculture, and creating healthy, productive environments.
- Create a constructive dialogue about urgent sustainability issues, including resource conservation and environmental protection.
- Educate communities about the urgency of the climate crisis, and introduce new concepts that protect our environment
- Use only recycled materials, eco-friendly products, dispose of waste properly, and execute earth work projects in a conscious manner.
- Proactively reduce the waste created through the program and limit the depletion of natural resources.

Residencies must take place at one of the designated locations listed above and be completed by Monday, June 29, 2026. All residency-related activities must involve in-person participants, no virtual or hybrid program proposals will be accepted.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

The Sustainable Art Residency program involves the selection of eight individual artists or artist collectives who will be contracted to provide residencies at one of eight City of Dallas recreation centers or community farm locations during the spring of 2026.

Services will be provided as follows:

- Artists must provide one, eight-week residency that must occur in-person at an assigned location.
- Each week requires a minimum of one two-hour engagement/event per week or two one-hour engagements at the assigned City of Dallas location. Selected artists will provide at least eight (8) engagements/events in one of the City of Dallas' locations during the eight-week residency.
- All residencies must be complete and final reports submitted by Monday, July 21, 2025.
- Residencies must be provided at no cost to participants.
- Recreation center locations will be assigned by OAC Community Arts staff before services can be provided.
 - The top scoring artist will be given first consideration for their requested recreation center location, subsequent assignments will be made in chronological order of application receipt and based on subsequent scores.
- Residencies must include a registration component which describes participants' demographic information: participant's name, address with zip code, residential district, age, and ethnicity.
- Residencies must focus on environmental sustainability and align with Dallas' Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP).
- Artists will be required to submit a final report once all services have been provided. The final report must include a copy of the registration component to verify serviced districts and a narrative that explains how the program has aligned with the sustainability guidelines provided above and CECAP.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Artists must have an address within the city limits of Dallas. P.O. Boxes will not be accepted as proof of office location. Proof of address must be submitted at the time of application.
- Artists may only submit one application. Multiple proposals from the same applying artist will not be accepted and may render the applicant ineligible.
- The artist must be willing and able to enter a contract with the City and meet the requirements associated with receiving funds from the City.
- The artist must not have defaulted on a previous contract with the Office of Arts and Culture within the past 12 months.
- Any selected artist must comply with regulations pertaining to federal grant recipients including, but not limited to, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Education Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988.
- Any selected artist must obtain and maintain during the contract term all necessary licenses, permits, insurance and other approvals required by law or the City for the provision of services.
- Artists' primary focus must be artistic and/or cultural and must possess the ability to provide physical, in-person instruction at a recreation center in the city of Dallas.

SUBMITTAL MATERIALS

- A detailed history of arts and culture programs and services you have provided and the relationship of your practice to environmental sustainability.
- Contact information, to include an email address and mailing address within the city of Dallas.
- Proposed curriculum describing the planned execution of a project as described in the Scope of Services and Program Criteria (see above).
 - Within the proposed curriculum, describe how the experiences align with the sustainability guidelines, outlined above.
- A sample registration document that outlines the demographic information to be recorded, see above.
- Proposed budget to execute proposals not to exceed an award of \$5,000 from the Office of Arts and Culture; if selected, payments will be made according to the terms of the contract.
- All submitted materials should reflect the quality of your artistic product. A poorly produced submission can negatively affect your application score.
- In addition, include the following supplemental materials:
 - a. Photos/videos of past work.
 - b. Web links to work samples.
 - c. Resume or CV
- Applications can be submitted at dallasculture.org/community-arts

TIMELINE (*dates subject to change*)

- **Request for Proposal Open for Submissions:** Monday, January 5, 2026
- **Submission Deadline:** Monday, January 26, 2026
- **Panel Review:** Friday, January 30 – Monday, February 19, 2026
- **Award Notifications:** Friday, February 13, 2026
- **Earliest Service Date (upon contract completion):** Monday, March 2, 2026
- **Service End Date (Latest):** Monday, June 30, 2025

DEFINITIONS

- **Sustainability** is the balancing of economic, environmental, and societal needs to ensure today's prosperity does not become tomorrow's liability. The City of Dallas is aware that the decisions we make today have impacts beyond the immediate.
- **The Dallas Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP)** was unanimously approved on May 27, 2020, and is a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the activities that the City will undertake to improve quality of life, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and to create a healthier and more prosperous community. It builds upon our understanding of future impacts from climate change, other environmental challenges facing Dallas, and the data from the 2015 City of Dallas greenhouse gas inventory. The CECAP leverages existing efforts by the City and builds upon an active public outreach and engagement effort to solicit input from businesses, community organizations, residents, and stakeholders, to create an effective and equitable Dallas plan that everyone can implement. Follow the CECAP Implementation progress here: [CECAP Dashboard](#)

For applications, please visit dallasculture.org/community-arts

TENTATIVE LOCATIONS (*subject to change*)

- Marcus Park Recreation Center
- Jaycee Zaragoza Recreation Center
- Lake Highlands North Recreation Center
- Willie B. Johnson Recreation Center
- Park in the Woods Recreation Center
- Beckley Saner Recreation Center
- K.B Polk Recreation Center
- Owenwood Farm
- Bonton Farms
- West Dallas Multipurpose Center Community Garden
- Mill City Teaching Farm
- Temple Shalom Justice Garden
- Vogel Alcove