



CALL TO ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

2023 Traffic Box Wraps

Deadline: January 25, 2023, 11:59 pm

Budget: \$1,500 for design

Call Summary

The City of Tacoma is seeking 10 artists to design artworks that can be reproduced as a vinyl wrap and applied to traffic signal boxes throughout the city. This opportunity is open to visual artists living in Tacoma. The final design must be delivered as a digital file. Original designs can be created in any medium, as long as the final artwork can be translated and digitally reproduced on a 2-dimensional vinyl wrap. The project is designed to enhance the public realm by adding works of art by local artists to utilitarian surfaces that are often targeted by vandalism. The wrapped boxes are intended to enhance neighborhood and community identity, turn ordinary spaces into community landmarks, and promote community dialogue. The City will pay for and manage printing and installation.

Eligibility

- Applicant must live in Pierce County
- Applicant must be able to translate work into a digital file
- Applicant must be 18 years or older
- Applicant cannot be a member of the Tacoma Arts Commission or an employee of the City of Tacoma
- Applicant cannot have created a traffic box wrap for the City of Tacoma previously

Art Opportunity

There is no theme to this call. Artworks should be in the style and medium best determined by the artist but must integrate the front, back, sides, and top of the box to capture the interest of those that drive, ride, walk, and roll by. Artists will be selected based on past work only, and should not submit design proposals in their application.

Selected artists will be provided with technical assistance to understand the project and specifications. After understanding the parameters, the artist will develop a concept, submit initial design proposals for review by City staff and, if requested, provide revisions. The final artwork must be submitted as a high quality digital file to the exact specifications provided by City staff. If artwork is not inherently a digital file, the artist will be responsible for creating a high resolution scan or photograph of the work and delivering it in the correct format. The City will be responsible for printing and installation.

Wraps are intended to last at least 5 years but may be removed at any time at the discretion of the City. While the City will aim to remove any tagging or vandalism, deterioration may occur and thus the City cannot guarantee that the wrap will be restored to its original condition. In addition to being used for the 2023 traffic box wraps, applicants may be considered for one-off wrap projects based on materials submitted.

Wrap Design Guidelines:

- Designs must be appropriate for display in public spaces and viewing by a general audience
- Designs must not contain any representation of traffic lights, signs, or signals
- Designs should not aim to blend into or mimic the surrounding streetscape
- Designs should limit blank space
- Designs cannot include vulgar, profane, prejudice, offensive, or insensitive content
- Designs cannot include political or religious content; any breach of intellectual property; trademarks; images of illegal activity; advertisements; logos; signage; promotion of any business, organization, individual, or product; or involve the attachment of objects to the boxes
- All designs will be subject to review and approval by City staff

Selection Criteria

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Artistic quality as exemplified in past work
- Ability to think and work in the appropriate scale and materials
- Ability to successfully translate original artwork to a digital file for a 2-dimensional surface
- Artists that represent underrepresented communities will be prioritized
- Artists will be selected as a “cohort” meant to represent a diversity of styles and perspectives

Timeline (all dates subject to change)

January 25, 2023, 11:59pm

By February 17, 2023

By April 17, 2023

By May 15, 2023

Summer 2023

Applications Due

Notification of Artist Selection

Design draft due

Final design due as digital file

Wrap production and installation

Submission Process

Submit the following items via Submittable (<https://tacomaarts.submittable.com/submit>)

1. Basic Information: Series of yes/no and multiple choice questions
2. Work Samples with Descriptions: Submit 6-10 digital images of past work with short descriptions.
3. Narrative Questions:
 - a. Why are you interested in this opportunity, and how do you think your work will translate to a traffic box wrap? (250 word max)
 - b. OPTIONAL: Are there any parts of town that you are especially connected with? *If selected, this question may be used for siting traffic box wraps and/or one-off location-specific opportunities.*

Questions? Contact Rebecca Solverson, rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org, (253) 591-5564

Examples of past traffic box wraps



Artwork by (left to right) Sharon Styer, Kassie Mitchell, Lance Kagey, and Maria Jost.