



REQUEST FOR ARTIST PROPOSALS (RFP)

Project Title: Doyers Street Public Art – “Let Spirits Flow”

Location: Doyers Street, NYC Chinatown, Manhattan

Issuing Organization: Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation

Release Date: January 6, 2025

Submission Deadline: January 29, 2025, 11:59 PM EST

1. Project Overview & Vision

We invite artists and artist teams to submit proposals for the seasonal repainting of iconic Doyers Street. This project aims to activate the historic corridor by transforming its asphalt canvas into a vibrant conduit for community spirit. The theme, “*Let Spirits Flow*,” serves as our guiding principle—a call to visualize the dynamic energy, layered history, and collective soul of Chinatown in constant, beautiful motion.

We seek a design that does more than decorate the street; it should feel like a current. Let it honor the unseen waterways that once shaped the neighborhood's foundations and mirror the visible flow of people, traditions, and stories that define it today. The vision is for Doyers Street itself to become a testament to resilience and joy, where past and present converge in a continuous, celebratory stream.

2. Project Theme: Let Spirits Flow



Artists are encouraged to interpret “spirits” in its rich, multifaceted meaning. Let your design give form to this flow:

- **Ancestral & Historical Flow:** Channel the spirits of history—the hidden streams, the legacy of early immigrants, the architectural echoes, and the enduring traditions that are the bedrock of the community. How does the past pour into the present?
- **Communal & Living Flow:** Capture the vibrant spirit of Chinatown today—the kinetic energy of daily life, the convergence of old and new, the flow of community activism, shared meals, and gender exchange. Illustrate the street as a living artery.
- **Celebratory & Unifying Flow:** Express the uplifting spirits of joy, resilience, and pride. Your design should facilitate a flow of connection, inviting all to share in a narrative of celebration. Use color, pattern, and symbolism to create an inclusive and animating experience that moves the viewer.

3. Project Timeline

- RFP Released: January 6, 2026
- Submission Deadline: January 29, 2026 (11:59 PM EST)
- Community Engagement Session: Early February, 2026 (Tentative)
- Revised Proposal Submission: Early February, 2026 (Tentative)
- Finalist Announcement: Mid-February, 2026 (Tentative)
- Painting Period: Late April/Early May, 2026 (Tentative)

4. Submission Requirements



Interested artists must submit a single PDF document containing:

1. Letter of Interest: Up to one (1) page, briefly state your connection to or interest in Chinatown and the theme.
2. Conceptual Design Proposal: Up to two (2) pages describing your vision, including a preliminary sketch or digital mockup of the intended street painting. Explain how your design engages with the theme.
3. Artist Resume/CV: (3 pages max) or team bios.
4. Work Samples: Up to five (5) images of past relevant work with captions.
5. Budget & Management: A brief description and cost estimation of the supplies you plan to use for this project, such as the type and the amount of paint. Try to use this part to showcase your ability to manage the financial and logistical aspects to successfully implement your design.
6. Community Engagement Approach: A brief statement on how you would incorporate community elements into your final design.
7. Contact Information: Full name, address, phone, email, website/social media accounts.

5. Selection Criteria & Process

Proposals will be evaluated by a review panel including community stakeholders and arts professionals based on:

- Artistic excellence and originality.
- Relevance and responsiveness to the theme *“Let Spirits Flow”*
- Feasibility of implementation on the asphalt street surface.



- Demonstrated ability or thoughtful approach to community-engaged practice.
- Suitability for the historic and cultural context of Doyers Street and Chinatown.

Following initial review, shortlisted artists will be required to participate in the Community Engagement Session in late January 2026, and will have one week to refine their proposal accordingly.

6. Budget & Artist Compensation

An artist compensation of \$50 will be awarded to each shortlisted artist. A total artist compensation of \$5000 will be awarded to the final artist(s). This includes all design phases, community presentation, minor revisions, DOT Art application submission, and labor to paint the mural. Materials and production logistics will be managed and provided separately by the Chinatown Partnership LDC.

7. Contact & Submission

All questions and submissions should be directed to:

Rosie Derong Li, Special Projects Manager, dli@chinatownpartnership.org

Your submission email should have the subject line as *2026 Doyers Street Proposal - [Your Name]*

We look forward to receiving your visionary proposals to help celebrate the past, present, and future of Chinatown on one of its most famous streets.