



# Public Artists in Development

Access Spanish Translation

## Artist Council Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Released on April 1, 2025

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

PAiD: Public Artists in Development is a Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture program funded by the Mellon Foundation with support in development and delivery by Dyson & Womack.

### THE OPPORTUNITY

This call for artists is for the PAiD Program Artist Council. The Artist Council is an eight-member group of artists selected to create temporary public artworks and to provide recommendations to help shape the future of Los Angeles County's public art policy and processes.

The group of artists will participate in an 8 to 10-month long, two-part program of dialogue and art creation. Artists selected for this program will engage in a series of discussions around LA County Arts & Culture's current public art, equity, and inclusion policies and procedures. The discussions will be led by the PAiD program art consultant, Dyson & Womack, and other arts and culture leaders and advocates. Through the course of these discussions, the Artist Council will develop a set of recommendations that seek to address historical barriers to participation and expand support for artists working in the field of public art.

In addition, each selected artist will create a temporary public art project. The projects may be objects, artist happenings, or performance-based and may amplify an important civic issue and further the artist's professional goals. Artist Council members will develop their projects during the course of the program. They may elect to do projects individually or as part of a group with other Artist Council members. The Artist Council members will generate a final proposal that outlines the conceptual framework, proposed location, and type of project (event, performance, installation, sculpture, time-based media, etc.). Proposals will be submitted to LA County Arts & Culture for final approval. The Artist Council members will then work with Dyson & Womack to manage all aspects of their temporary artworks, including project planning and budgeting, design development, contracting, permitting, fabrication, and production or installation.

We seek artists from diverse backgrounds and across various career levels, including those historically underrepresented in the public art field, for the Artist Council. This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is a unique opportunity to participate in a transformative program focused on creating a more progressive landscape for artists in Los Angeles County.

## BACKGROUND

PAiD is a program of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), through its Civic Arts Division, and was made possible through a grant award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant is for implementing a Civic Artist Development Initiative to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion of artists selected for project commissions in County civic art, as well as in the public art field more broadly. PAiD intends to promote the career growth and economic empowerment of underrepresented artists in Los Angeles County.

PAiD is more than just a commission; it's a chance for artists to gain invaluable hands-on experience, develop transferable skills, and contribute their insights to enhance Department policies that foster greater access and inclusion. The program will integrate artists into the planning of policy and processes, encourage innovative approaches to civic art, and provide access to opportunities of the highest caliber.

## ARTIST COUNCIL GOALS

The goals of the PAiD Artist Council program are to:

- Commission a group of artists from Los Angeles County representative of diverse backgrounds, practices, experience levels, and communities;
- Engage artists to inform Civic Art policies and practices and provide recommendations for how to stimulate a robust and inclusive creative economy with access to career pathways and opportunities for diverse county talent as established as a priority in the LA County Cultural Policy.
- Amplify artist-led strategies and promote cross-institutional partnerships to better support artists and the sustainability of the arts and culture field; and
- Create opportunities for temporary public art interventions that speak to the relationships between art, communities, and the important civic issues of our time.

## ELIGIBILITY & CONSIDERATIONS

The opportunity is open to artists living in Los Angeles County, and who have not previously received a commission through the PAiD program. We encourage artists from any career level to apply, including artists with limited public art experience. The opportunity is open to artists working in any media. Artists interested in considering how public art policies and processes impact access, equity, and sustainability for artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

Artists ages 18 and older who live within Los Angeles County may apply individually or collaboratively as a team. Artists applying as a team will have a track record of working together and apply with a portfolio of joint work. Any artist team selected through this RFQ must retain the same composition of individual

team members until the completion of the commission. Any artist teams selected for the Council will represent one place on the eight-person Council and receive one commission and stipend to be shared among team members.

Artists who are historically underrepresented individuals/groups (including artists identifying as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, and Queer (LGBTQ+) artists, artists with disabilities, emerging and self-taught artists, and artists working in non-traditional mediums) are encouraged to apply.

County elected or appointed officials, County staff, and any artist who does not reside in Los Angeles County may not be commissioned under this RFQ.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The art consultant will review and evaluate applications for alignment with RFQ requirements and evaluation criteria. The consultant and Arts and Culture will identify a shortlist of artists to be presented to the selection committee. The selection committee will be composed of PAiD's Community Partners who are leaders in supporting underrepresented artists across LA County. They will evaluate the submissions of the short-listed artists and recommend up to eight artists to be commissioned for the Artist Council. The art consultant, with input from staff at LA County Arts & Culture, will review and make a final acceptance of the selection committee's recommendation.

**Applications are due May 12, 2025, by 11:59 PM (PST)** and must be electronically submitted to Dyson & Womack through the online submission platform at [www.dysonwomack.com/PAiD](http://www.dysonwomack.com/PAiD).

## **EVALUATION**

Applications will be evaluated based on Artistic Engagement and Cultural Equity as defined below, criteria that align with the program's overall goals.

**Artistic Engagement** is identified by the strength of the artist's conceptual framework as it relates to communities, sites, and historical/social/political contexts. Through their prior work and written or verbal statements, applicants should demonstrate that they have an interest in producing art in the public sphere. We are looking for ways artists surprise, challenge, improve, or advance how we perceive art in public and a critical understanding of how public art can interact with the built environment. Artists with little or no experience completing public art projects may instead articulate their understanding of and interest in public art through their written or verbal statements.

Prior work portfolios may include examples of public, studio, gallery, and other commissioned artworks. They will be evaluated for skill, distinction, or value related to the artist's career level and historical/cultural contexts. To evaluate the artistic quality, we have defined skill, distinction, and value in relation to our program goals and values.

**Skill** is defined by technical excellence or mastery of processes or art forms.

**Distinction** is defined as standing in contrast to or set apart from peers based on artistic innovations, exhibition track record, peer recommendation, or acknowledged cultural impacts and achievements.

**Value**, for our purposes, is defined as a significant or progressive contribution to our cultural understanding.

**Cultural Equity** is articulated by the value placed on representation and inclusion. In practice, this means considering representation not only through the artists selected for the Artist Council but also for the communities served and the perspectives represented in their artwork. Increasing access and opportunity within public art is an active value that requires diligence and a clear understanding of historical barriers to inclusion.

Applicant's responses should demonstrate their understanding of the barriers to inclusion artists may face as they enter or work within the public art field. Evaluation will be based on the artist's ability to demonstrate an understanding of the themes and goals of the program and provide a meaningful contribution to the program.

The final commission awards will be based on a combination of factors determined to be in the best interest of the Artist Council and PAiD Program.

## **BUDGET**

Artist Council members will each receive **a stipend of \$5,500** for participation in the program and **\$22,500 for the temporary public artwork**. Commission budgets are inclusive of artist or artist team fees, temporary artwork fabrication, production and/or installation, insurance, permits, and all costs associated with the delivery of the temporary public artwork.

## **PROJECT TIMELINE**

Dyson & Womack reserve the right to make changes to the below schedule but plan to adhere to the implementation of this RFQ process as follows:

RFQ released:	Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 12:00 PM (PST)
Artist Info Sessions:	Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7 PM (PST); and Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 12 PM (PST)
Deadline for receiving questions:	Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 5:00 PM (PST)
Response to questions:	Tuesday, May 6, 2025
<b>Applications due:</b>	<b>Monday, May 12, 2025, at 11:59 PM (PST)</b>
Selected Artists Notified:	July 2025

Artist Council Discussions: July - November 2025

Artist Council Temporary Public Artwork Development and Delivery: July - December 2025

**Artist Info Sessions** are online information sessions provided for interested applicants by Dyson & Womack to share information about the opportunity and answer questions. Info sessions will be recorded, and the questions from the info sessions will be included in the publicly available answers to questions at [www.dysonwomack.com/PAID](http://www.dysonwomack.com/PAID). Please register at Eventbrite to attend. Applicant attendance at an online information session is optional.

## **SUBMISSION MATERIALS**

**Contact Information.** Artists must provide contact information, including address, to verify LA County residency. If applying as a team, provide information for each team member and identify one artist as the lead contact for the team.

**Resume/CV.** Please provide 1-2 pages (maximum) outlining your professional art qualifications, which may include previous projects, experience, education/training, and other related credentials.

**Video Statement of Interest.** The short smartphone video should address your interest in the Artist Council opportunity's discussion and temporary public art elements.

### **WHAT TO INCLUDE:**

The video statement should be a short Smartphone video that features your response to the following prompts:

- Provide insight into your interest in participating in the Artist Council policy discussions and the temporary public art opportunity.
- Share your understanding of the barriers artists encounter and continue to face in accessing public art opportunities.
- Let us know who you are as an artist and how you have or might approach making art in a public context.
- Describe your experience as an artist in LA County.

### **LENGTH AND FORMAT:**

The video should be a minimum of one minute, but no longer than three minutes in length. Acceptable upload formats can be found [here](#).

**Portfolio of Past Projects.** The portfolio should include completed artworks that best exemplify the current trajectory of your artistic practice. Past projects can include public artworks, but public art experience is not a requirement for application. The portfolio can include up to 10 media files; acceptable formats include PDFs, images, video, or audio files.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted electronically through the online submission platform at **www.dysonwomack.com/PAID** by **May 12, 2025 at 11:59 PM (PST)**. An artist may only apply once, individually or as part of a team.

We strongly encourage applicants to review all the materials and supporting documents before responding to this RFQ. Applications submitted late or through other means than the submission platform will not be reviewed.

## QUESTIONS

Questions concerning this RFQ should be submitted via the application portal **www.dysonwomack.com/PAID** by **Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 5:00 PM (PST)**. Responses to the questions will be posted to the application portal on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Dyson & Womack and LA County Department of Arts & Culture reserve the right to decline all applications submitted in response to this RFQ, to terminate the selection proceedings, or to combine, eliminate, or otherwise amend the commission opportunity at any time. Artists identified through this RFQ process are not guaranteed a commission or the opportunity to develop a public art project or proposal. The release of this RFQ in no way binds Dyson & Womack or LA County Arts & Culture to the commissioning of any artists, artist teams, or artworks.

To learn more about the PAiD program, **visit the Arts and Culture's PAiD webpage**.