

Call for Artist Proposals

Parade Street Planters

Submissions Due September 27, 2021



Project Description & Goals:

The Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network seeks to commission a professional visual artist, or artist team, to construct and install a series of tree planters along the Parade street corridor in Erie, Pennsylvania. The SSJNN recently partnered with the City of Erie and the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF) to progress LEAF's *ReLeaf* initiative. Per LEAF: "The goal of the ReLeaf Project is to educate, inspire and empower individuals to plant trees within Erie County and to track the progress of species, quantities, and locations of trees planted by LEAF, its partners, and members of the Erie County community. Non-Profits share the goal of planting trees to beautify Erie County and improve the environment by cleaning air and water, protecting soil, cooling the environment and providing other beneficial environmental roles in human life."

The completion of this project will symbolize the ongoing participation of the SSJNN in the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's (ECGRA) *Mission Main Street* grant program. ECGRA's mission, in part, is "To reinvigorate neighborhoods and main corridors, boost buy-local efforts, and combat blight." Specifically, the goal of ECGRA's *Mission Main Street* funding stream is to revitalize "commercial corridors that are home to small businesses, historic structures, and special events."

As both a LEAF & ECGRA partner, and in keeping with our mission of neighborhood revitalization, the Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network worked with the City of Erie's arborist to plant a series of trees along Parade street between east 19th and 25th streets, in Erie, Pennsylvania. Parade street was once a booming cultural and economic hub of the city. This project is one of many that have been undertaken to reinvigorate the corridor and recapture its history for the benefit of the neighborhood's residents and the city at large.

SSJNN has identified 38 trees along the corridor that require planters, the placement of which will provide the greatest visual impact. Each tree will be surrounded with an open-bottom planter, designed and fabricated with an eye for both form and function, to bring the project to its completion. Each planter will allow for a series of small plants to be rooted around the tree itself while also visually anchoring each tree and allowing for design continuity and cohesive visual impact as viewers move through the Parade street corridor. A minimum of 25 planters should be completed to satisfy the project goals, with the possibility of all 38 if feasible.

Project Guidelines:

- The selected artist(s) will be responsible for the design, fabrication, and installation of at least 25 planters.
- Each planter will be bottomless but solid on all sides to hold growing media for future plant life.
- Each planter will be **at least** 24 inches tall and may vary in height.
- The minimum interior dimension of each planter will be **at least** 36 inches wide.
- The maximum exterior dimension of each planter will be **no more than** 72 inches wide.
- It is not necessary that all planters be uniform in their design. For example: planters that are geographically grouped together may contain one that serve as a visual area of focus, while others play supporting roles. Preliminary decisions regarding this may be informed by viewing [these images](#) and a Google map with plotted tree locations here: [Parade Street Planters Tree Locations](#)
- Each planter should be visually related to one another to create continuity throughout the corridor and multiseasonal color.
- Planters may be made of any material, or materials, that will stand up to the elements. Materials should have some resistance to warpage, cracking, and premature wear, as they will be subject to the harshest elements of all four seasons, including high heat and extreme cold, as well as road salt.
- Planters must be installed in a manner with sufficient anchoring to prevent them from being removed, tipped, broken, or overturned due to wind, snowload, etc...
- Planters will be evaluated to require that they do not present a hazard to public safety, and must conform to ADA standards, if applicable.

Budget:

The budget for the Parade Street Planters is up to \$10,000. This sum of \$9,000 is inclusive of all costs associated with the project, including artist fees, design, fabrication, installation, transport, travel, and other project related expenses. **In addition** to the \$9,000 budget, the selected artist(s) will receive a total honorarium of \$1,000 generously furnished by Erie Arts & Culture.

Eligibility:

This request for proposals is open to all artists or artist teams who are at least 18 years of age, with no restriction on geographic location. Artists' qualifications should demonstrate a level of experience and professionalism that is commensurate with the project scope and budget.

Timeline:

Applications Due: September 27, 2021

Artist(s) Notification: October 18, 2021

Installation Completed: April 15, 2022

Required Application Materials:**A Word document or PDF dossier containing the following materials:**

Save with filename "FirstnameLastname_Planters" for example: "JaneDoe_Planters"

- Artist Statement (no more than 500 words)
- Artist Biography (no more than 500 words)
- Project Narrative (no more than 1,000 words)
- Project Timeline
- Project Budget
- References (Provide the names, email addresses, and telephone numbers for three professional references.)
- Curriculum Vitae

Imagery:

- Images of Proposed Project (4-10 images of proposed work. Images may display sketches, 3D renderings, images of maquettes, etc...**Save as JPEGs only. Use filename(s) "FirstnameLastname_Planters1" "FirstnameLastname_Planters2" "FirstnameLastname_Planters3" etc...**)
- Portfolio featuring Past Work (Provide hyperlink to online portfolio)

Submission Process:

You may submit your application materials here [Parade Street Planters Submission Form](#)

Submission Deadline:

September 27, 2021

Site Plan Images & Location Data:

[Parade Street Planters Site Images \(click here\)](#)

[Parade Street Planters Tree Locations \(click here\)](#)

SSJNN Mission Statement:

The SSJ Neighborhood Network, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, provides leadership, advocates for local residents, and partners with the broader community to develop opportunities for both personal growth and neighborhood revitalization. Please direct any questions to Alison Stinely via e-mail at ASTinely@SSJNN.org To learn more, visit: <https://www.SSJNN.org/>