

Call to Artists for Recognition of Boynton Beach Solid Waste Truck Drivers

Applications Due: June 23, 2022 at 5:00 PM, EDT

The City of Boynton Beach Public Art Program seeks an artist or artist team to create an online and physical artwork to recognize the work of Solid Waste Truck Drivers in the City of Boynton Beach.

Boynton Beach manages its own fleet of around 42 vehicles and drivers to pick up all the residential & commercial waste and recycling in the City of 80,000 people. Generally each driver works a standard set of routes and connects with neighbors and businesses. The drivers as the group see absolutely every City street at least twice a week and carry the City's service to everyone.

Much of the staff of the Solid Waste department are current or former residents of Boynton Beach. From their families, personal histories and daily routes, they can have a strong connection to the people that live or work here – especially within the Black, Caribbean and Hispanic communities.

The Boynton project is inspired by previous art projects that gave dignity to the work and stories of everyone. In 1979-80 with “Touch Sanitation”, New York City artist Mierle Laderman Ukeles met over 8,500 employees of the New York Sanitation Department, shaking hands with each of them and saying, “Thank you for keeping New York City alive”. She documented her activities on a map and meticulously recorded her conversations with the workers. <https://www.wikiart.org/en/mierle-laderman-ukeles/touch-sanitation-1980>



Figure 1: Ukeles listens in NYC



Figure 2: Storycorps trailer in Gainesville, FL

In 2003, Storycorps opened a booth in New York's Grand Central Station to record one person interviewing another person. As of 2022, the stories of over 300,000 have been recorded and deposited in the Library of Congress. <https://storycorps.org/>



In 2011, French artist JR invented the Inside Out Project to bring communities together by displaying large photographs of everyone. As of 2022, more than 2,000 communities in 138 countries have displayed the photographs of 400,000 on the walls and streets of their cities including Boynton Beach in 2016. <https://www.insideoutproject.net/>

Figure 3: Inside Out in Hallendale, FL

The Boynton Beach Project

The City of Boynton Beach has no specific requirement of artistic media or format for the Solid Waste Truck Driver's project except that the artist(s) create a permanent presence online and in public space of Boynton Beach. The sample online presence could be audio recordings, video recordings, images with captions, textual quotes or statements, poster or sticker designs, graphic novella, etc. The presence in public spaces could be in the format of street signs, tile mosaics, sidewalk imprints, light projections, image/text plaques, truck modification, etc.



Figure 4 LJ and Jamie in Boynton

In addition to producing the artwork, the artist(s) will provide the minimum following services:

- Meet and talk with every employee in the solid waste department.
- Do a ride-along with multiple drivers
- Take cellphone photography of the interaction with drivers. (Not comprehensive)
- Send images to the public art staff for consistent social media posting during the research and development.
- With the assistance of the City of Boynton Beach, develop and participate in a public event to unveil the final results with the solid waste truck drivers and other staff.

The artist(s) are free to expand the social engagement with the Boynton Beach community and, if agreed by truck drivers, with their family and friends.

Approval Process

Once the artists have been selected, the artist(s) will develop a written and illustrated proposal with a budget. The proposal will be presented to the Art Advisory Board for approval after review by Solid Waste staff. At some point, the artist(s) will develop the specifics of the artworks such that the specific creations can be approved by the Art Advisory Board prior to completion or fabrication. The specifics must be presented to the solid waste truck drivers and staff for approval, too.

Desired Qualifications

- Talented artist or artist team with experience in completing community-based projects.
- Artistic skill in gathering, interpreting and presenting the thoughts, lives or stories of people.
- Sufficient time and ways to be in Boynton Beach to interact and to engage with the solid waste truck drivers and select public space of the City.
- Knowledge of the cultural traditions and circumstances of diverse communities similar to those living in Boynton Beach.

Eligibility

- Must be a US citizen or green card holder.
- Must be able to secure general commercial liability insurance for the term of the contract.

Ineligibility

- Members, immediate family members and business partners of the members of the Art Advisory Board.
- Members of any City of Boynton Beach advisory board or City Commission.
- Employees of the City of Boynton Beach.

Extra Consideration

- To expand the diversity of artists creating work in the City of Boynton Beach, artists that have not been previously commissioned for public art with the private developers or the City under its Art in Public Places program.
- Artists with life experiences with the diverse ethnic and cultural communities of Florida including but not limited to African Americans, Caribbean Americans and Hispanic Americans.

Compensation

The artist or artist team will be paid \$20,000 for the required artistic services including all travel.

Schedule

The work will begin in August/September 2022 and complete prior to March.

Boynton Beach Public Art Program

City Hall, 125 East Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach, Florida #boyntonarts boyntonarts.org
publicart@bbfl.us 561-742-6757 Glenn Weiss, Manager. Veronica Inberg, Coordinator

On-Site

The artist must be onsite for original discussions with Solid Waste staff, ride-alongs with drivers, discussion of final proposal and for the unveiling of completed project. Many meetings and discussions can be virtual.

Copyright

The artist will retain the copyright to finished work(s) and grant the City rights to reproduce the images or recordings of finished work(s) for non-commercial and publicity purposes including posting on City websites and social media. The artist also grants the City the right to use the images or recordings to repair the artwork online or in public space.

Ownership

The artist will own all elements of the research and the City will own the finished works. The artist will provide copies of elements of the research for the records of the City. Like most City documents, the research could be made available to the public. If the artist wishes to reproduce the finished works, then the artist

Application

Submit the following to Public Art Coordinator at publicart@bbfl.us by 5:00 PM EDT, Thursday, June 23, 2022.

1. PDF of Cover Letter with brief artist statement, artist contact information, artist website and one social media address, and, regarding design collaboration, two references with phone numbers and emails.
2. PDF of Resume
3. PDF of 15 images of relevant artwork or projects in horizontal format. Must have a minimum of five unique works or public art projects. Any explanatory text should be in the PDF. See sample image below. Be simple.
4. Optional: Links to 3 Videos of 3 projects



Questions: Veronica Inberg, Public Art Coordinator, publicart@bbfl.us, 561-742-6757

Addendum



Figure 5: Inside Out Boynton Beach Teens in 2016



Figure 6: Ukeles thanks Sanitation Drivers in 1980



Figure 7: The City Big Blue Trucks

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