2024 ART AT THE EDGE CLIMATE ART EXHIBITION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Waterfront Alliance
Waterfront Alliance is a U.S. based nonprofit organization with a growing coalition of more than 1,100 partners and shared goal: to bring about real change to shorelines, waterfronts, and coastlines across the nation and in the New York-New Jersey region. Together, we build, transform, revitalize, and protect accessible waterfronts for all communities.

Summary of Art at the Edge
Art at the Edge is a climate-art installation consisting of three to five pieces to appear at the South Street Seaport Museum/Pier 16 or Lower Manhattan’s South Street Seaport Historic District during and after NYC Climate Week 2024. Waterfront Alliance here requests written proposals from artists for climate-focused art installations or performances for Art at the Edge. A jury will review proposals and the selected projects will be a featured component of Climate Week NYC 2024 and will be displayed from (approximately) Monday, September 23 to Sunday, October 6, 2024.

Selected artists will be awarded grants of up to $7,500 each to cover materials, installation, and artist fees.

One selected piece will be from a current graduate student in a NY/NJ college or university program.

Past artists in the Art at the Edge exhibit include Justin Brice Guariglia, Sarah Cameron Sunde, Kamau Ware, the Tideland Institute, Mary Mattingly, and Jeremy Davies.

Project Description
Art at the Edge, a featured event of Waterfront Alliance’s participation in NYC Climate Week 2024, is presented with the generous financial support of Howard Hughes Holdings and in partnership with the South Street Seaport Museum.

Climate Week NYC 2024 begins on Sunday, September 22, 2024, and is the largest annual climate event, bringing together over 500 events and activities across New York City. Climate Week NYC is hosted by Climate Group, an international non-profit whose purpose is to drive climate action. Last year, Waterfront Alliance participated in Climate Week through hosting a series of in-person and virtual events to raise awareness about the risk we all face from floods and rising tides, and champion a climate-resilient New York and New Jersey harbor. A featured component of the initiative is Art at the Edge, a climate-focused art exhibition produced by Waterfront Alliance and the South Street Seaport Museum and located on Pier 16 or elsewhere in Lower Manhattan’s Seaport.

Waterfront Alliance seeks creative and innovative proposals from New York and New Jersey artists that are thematically tied to climate change and will inspire, inform, and engage the public about the urgency of the climate crisis. Art at the Edge will feature multiple installations in the Seaport area and will give visitors an opportunity to engage with art focused on the climate crisis, including the intersecting themes of coastal resilience, waterfront access, and the region’s maritime culture and history.

Art at the Edge, formerly known as Art at the Blueline, was launched in 2020 and features the work of multiple local artists for a multi-week period each year.

Art works selected to be part of the 2024 exhibition will be displayed at the Seaport for two weeks beginning approximately on Monday, September 23, 2024.
Project Opportunities
The Waterfront Alliance seeks original proposals from individual artists, collaborative artist teams, arts and culture-related businesses, graduate-level art and design students, and other for-profit or nonprofit organizations or entities that will provide a public art project (sculpture, installation, performance, or other artistic medium) that will activate spaces through a climate, water, or environmental justice lens. Please note that projects involving augmented reality must have a physical component that would be present in the exhibit at the Seaport.

The art pieces will be shared and amplified via Waterfront Alliance, the South Street Seaport Museum, and The Seaport’s social media platforms, website, e-newsletters, and other marketing and press opportunities.

The project will feature three to five artists and award each up to $7,500.

Waterfront Alliance seeks to include the following themes in the installations:
- Exploring the current climate crisis
- Depicting coastal and climate resilience
- Environmental justice: understanding the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis in underinvested and overburdened communities
- Educating the next generation of climate leaders and coping with ecoanxiety

Art at the Edge will allow individuals visiting the Seaport to interact with different art forms and learn about different artists all working around the common theme of climate awareness. The project calls for works of art that are unique, vibrant, and impactful. One of Waterfront Alliance’s goals is to increase public awareness of future climate risks facing the New York-New Jersey region.

Proposals will be reviewed by Waterfront Alliance and an assembled group of jurors. Local artwork that connects to the above themes will be prioritized in project selection.

Selected artists may be invited to participate in a launch/press event and/or a panel discussion on or around September 23, 2024 to announce Waterfront Alliance’s Climate Week NYC events and Art at the Edge.

Artwork may be offered for sale by artists during Art at the Edge. Management of sales would be facilitated directly by the artist.

Projected Timeline
RFP Deadline: April 26, 2024
Selected Artists Notified: May 29, 2024
Artists Contracted By: June 19, 2024
Announcements Made: by July 31, 2024
Installation start date: September 23, 2024 (timeframe for load-in will be provided)
Installation end date: Oct. 6, 2024
Specifications
Installation sites will be outdoor locations through Lower Manhattan’s Seaport, most prominently Pier 16. The exact locations of projects will be determined upon receipt of all proposals to provide the most suitable match of site to project. Please also note that on-site equipment storage is not available.

Proposals should be submitted via this form and include the following:

- A brief artist's statement (300 words or less)
- Description of your studio work or current artwork. Include the media in which you are most fluent and the themes that inspire you. Please provide a brief portfolio (10 images or less) or link to website depicting at least five examples of your work (300 words or less)
- Description of your overall project concept: Artwork title, theme, media, dimensions.
- Explanation of the proposed schedule, process, medium and method. If your piece is interactive, please explain how. Pieces involving augmented reality should have a physical component to be part of the real space installation.
- Specifications. Please include all specifics about your piece, including, but not limited to the following:
  - How much space will be needed for your work (both the actual installation and area around it).
  - Note: For permitting reasons, there is a 10' maximum height;
  - How much time will be required for load-in and strike;
  - If electricity is needed, and at what level;
  - What monitoring/maintenance of the piece is needed and how this will be managed (will you be staying to ensure it is working; if not, who is and how will this arrangement be handled?);
  - How will the piece be secured? How is the piece protected from wind and rain elements? Installations should be viable when exposed to the elements (rain, moisture, etc.). Also, please note that most locations will not allow for any permanent securing into the ground or walls, so most installations need to be self-supporting structures and your specifications should reflect this;
  - Illustrations/photos. Additional visual support material and/or illustrations to show the proposal; and
  - Proposed budget. Projects will be awarded up to $7,500 to cover costs for creation, load-in, materials, shipping, travel, strike, and equipment storage (if applicable). We need to ensure that your proposed budget is feasible for your project. It is imperative that load-in and strike, as well as maintenance during the exhibition, are considered in your budget proposal. If your budget exceeds the limits above, please include how you will cover the additional costs.

Please direct any questions to David Ezer at dezer@waterfrontalliance.org.

Click here to submit your proposal by April 26, 2024