



I-94 Modernization Cass Avenue Bridge Public Art Project Frequently Asked Questions for Interested Artists

Public Art Administrator: [Flanagan M Flanagan, Art • Landscape • Design LLC](#)

General Questions:

1. What is the Cass Avenue Bridge Public Art Project?

- **Public Art for the Cass Avenue Bridge** is a project of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) administered by Regina M Flanagan, Art • Landscape • Design LLC and advisor Seitu Kenneth Jones through HNTB Corporation. The project draws upon MDOT's previous experience commissioning public art by Detroit artist Hubert Massey to grace the Bagley Avenue Pedestrian Bridge in Southwest Detroit.

2. How do I apply and when is the deadline?

- Apply through the platform online platform Call for Entry ([CaFE](#)). The deadline to submit an application is Midnight, Mountain Time, on Monday February 28, 2022.

3. Will there be an opportunity for artists to learn more about the project?

- Two information sessions were held for artists: Saturday, January 22nd at 10:00 a.m. and Monday February 7th at 7:00 p.m. ET. The meetings were held on Zoom to ensure everyone's safety. Information presented in both artists sessions were the same, however questions from attendees varied. Recordings of the sessions can be found on the [I-94 Modernization Project website](#).

4. Application is open to individual artists and artists teams. When applying as a team, can we submit separate resumes?

- No. Please combine resumes into one submission. Particularly highlight where, when and what you have worked on together.
- Pick one person to be team lead. That person will be legally liable for work under the contract.

5. If I already submitted my application, but would like to make updates can I do that?

- Yes, email Regina Flanagan and she can move your application on CaFE to the "Incomplete" category and that will open it up for you to edit and resubmit

6. Will there be a short list of artists/teams selected to present proposals?

- One artist or artist/team will be selected from the open call and placed under contract to prepare a design proposal.

7. Who is selecting the artist or artist team for the project?



- Artist(s) will be selected by a Public Art Committee (PAC) reflecting diverse viewpoints who will make recommendations to MDOT. The PAC has representatives from MDOT, Detroit Institute of Arts, the College for Creative Studies, Wayne State University Art Department, Midtown Detroit Inc., and Detroit Collaborative Design Center, along with community residents.
- 8. I have specific questions that were not answered here. Where do I go?**
- Contact the project administrator, Regina M. Flanagan via email at: <mailto:regina@artlandscapedesign.us>. Questions may only be submitted by email so they can be documented.

Specific Questions from the Artist Information Sessions

- 1. I submitted to The Public Art for the Cass Avenue Bridge, Detroit, Michigan a little bit ago. I was curious if I could still send an updated Team Deck? I have added new team members to the team which I think is important to include if possible.**
 - Flanagan: I have moved your application on CaFE into the "Incomplete" category which should open it up for you to edit and re-submit. Please let me know if this doesn't work.
- 2. If I applied to the Cass Avenue Bridge project the first time (in 2020); will I need to apply again?**
 - Yes, the opportunity areas have changed.
- 3. Is the \$200,000 budget per piece or in total?**
 - This budget must cover all the artist(s) fees, costs and expenses; including engineering fees associated with designing, fabricating and installing the artwork.
- 4. If applying as a team will the PAC be understanding that a 2000 character statement is not a lot of space to introduce and address the key points highlighted in the evaluation criteria?**
 - This is the maximum number of characters allowed in CaFE. The jury will be reading many statements. Be concise and intentional about what you highlight.
- 5. Regarding the insets in the barrier walls. In the open call you can see that there is a caution about adding weight to the bridge. If I do mosaic and it is 2-5 pounds per square foot, would that be a problem on the bridge?**
 - The weight is not a concern for the bridge design. However, it is important to make sure that the tile does not intrude into, or protrude out of, the one-inch depth of the barrier insets.
- 6. In the previous meeting, it was established that a form liner could be utilized while the cement sidewalk barriers are poured/created, in collaboration with MDOT. Could the same collaboration occur with the consideration of casting dowels or anchor bolts in place while the cement is plastic? [Using materials in accordance with the Qualified Products List as stated in**



MDOT Standard Specs for Construction, Section 804, Part C.] If not, could it be considered to drill holes for dowels into the hardened concrete barrier and grout dowels in place using non-shrinking grout? [also cited, Sec 804, Part C]

- After the session the direction was provided that MDOT will not accept this installation method.
7. **I realize I am still unclear on the specs for the “placemaking” space of the flat bridge approach. I am confused about where it says the work should be composed of “Cast concrete walls inset with reliefs, mosaics, or ceramic murals are an option, or a cast-in-place sculptural wall.” This leads me to believe the artwork should be integrated into the proposed the 20-foot long retaining wall, but perhaps I have that wrong. Can we put a freestanding structure in the middle of the 20-feet by 90-foot space or if the artwork need to be integrated into a wall?**
- Flanagan: The open space, including the flat area and the landscape area, and the wall surfaces, are open for consideration
8. **Can you say, what does “placemaking” mean in the context of this same bridge approach space? I understand what placemaking refers to in the general art context and understand that there is a strong desire to make a space that is inspirational and welcoming for the surrounding communities in a very pedestrian friendly location. Is that what is meant in this case?**
- Flanagan: Placemaking is an open-ended term in this context, and I think you are interpreting it appropriately for your work. The site's potential (for placemaking) will become more defined through the Community Forums, especially during the artist's design phase.
9. **If we utilize a form liner, does that mean that only the cost of the design and fabrication of the form liner would be the responsibility of the artist, but the cost of the concrete work itself would be part of the bridge construction budget?**
- Direction provided after the session: The cost of the concrete work for the barrier will be part of the bridge construction budget. The cost of the design and fabrication of the form liner will depend on the intricacy of the artist’s design. For example, if the formliner contains straightforward repeating imagery, the artist will provide the imagery to the contractor to fabricate the formliner. A CADD file would need to be provided to the contractor so the contractor can work with a formliner company to fabricate the custom liner. The artist will then work with the contractor to review shop drawings to ensure the formliner is fabricated per the artist’s design. The cost of the design of the artistic imagery would be the responsibility of the artist, but the formliner fabrication would be part of the bridge construction budget. For inserts into the barrier wall, such as a custom shaped cast bronze relief, the artist would design the bronze element itself, and also create the formliner with the shape to receive it. The formliner would then be delivered to the bridge contractor to be used when the barrier walls are cast. The cost



of the artistic imagery and formliner would be the responsibility of the artist. Both scenarios would have to be carefully timed to the bridge construction schedule, and the artist must work closely with the bridge engineer, MDOT and the contractor.

10. How long do the durable materials need to last?

- This is a bridge, and we have to consider Michigan seasons and weather. Standard for public art projects is the life span of the architecture, the site, or the place where it's built. As part of the design process, artists will be required to include a maintenance and operations statement about their design that addresses the durability of their materials.

11. When applying as a group is it best to apply with individual portfolios, or a variety of the group?

- If you are applying as a team, you should indicate a team lead or team contact. Smaller teams are encouraged for management and organization purposes. Submit 10 slides total. There is a place to put notes or comments when you enter slides into your portfolio; indicate who worked on what, and how you worked together. In your statement, indicate your experience working together, and what your roles were.