

CANAL CONVERGENCE

WATER + ART + LIGHT

Request for Temporary
Public Art Proposals
Deadline: Friday, March 20, 2020

A photograph of a public art installation at night. A person in a white t-shirt stands with their back to the camera, arms raised in a 'V' shape. They are surrounded by a grid of metal beams. Blue spotlights from above and below create a starburst effect of light rays. Other people are visible in the background, some also with their arms raised. The scene is dark, with the primary light source being the blue spotlights.

arts
scottsdale
scottsdale public art

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Water Serpent by Walter Productions.
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2019

Canal Convergence 2020: Request for Temporary Public Art Proposals: Phase I

Deadline for submissions is Friday, March 20, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Time).

Scottsdale Public Art seeks proposals for outdoor, temporary public artworks to be featured in, around, and suspended above the Arizona Canal in Scottsdale, Arizona, during Canal Convergence | Water + Art + Light. Canal Convergence will be on view for 10 days, from November 6–15, 2020. Some projects may be selected to stay installed for an additional 1–2 months after the Canal Convergence event dates.

This call is specifically targeting interactive and/or light-based installations.

Separate calls will be posted in spring 2020 for artists interested in proposing educational and hands-on workshops, dance or music performances, and other programming elements.

This call is Phase I of II. Phase I asks artists to focus primarily on the project narrative or concept, visuals, and estimated total budget. Once Phase I closes on March 20, 2020, up to 30 proposals will be selected for Phase II. These artists will be asked to provide more detailed information on their proposals. Required additional information will include a detailed timeline, itemized budget, support crew, etc.



Swarm by toyStudio.
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2019

Themes

Canal Convergence's mission is to provide an authentic and immersive art experience in and around the Arizona Canal in Scottsdale. All local, regional, and international artists—including architects, designers, and multimedia specialists—are invited to submit proposals for installations that take into consideration **one or more** of the themes below:

- **Coming Together, Shared Values, and Open Dialogue:** How can the artwork engage the public in a way that allows them to look past their possible differences and participate in a shared experience that focuses on connection instead of separation? See the following page for more information.
- **Water + Art + Light:** Does the art address the confluence of water, art, and light through placement, fabrication, conceptual content, or material use?
- **Interactivity:** How can the audience interact with the work?
- **Day and Night:** Art should have a visually appealing appearance during daytime and nighttime (nighttime preferred but daytime is a plus).
- **Sustainability and Water Conservation:** Does the work incorporate aspects of sustainability or water conservation? The use of solar power, biodegradable, and recycled/recyclable materials are also encouraged.



Infinity Crystal by Klip Collective.
Photo: Reg Madison Photography, 2018



Cumulus Connection by Miracle Wonderland Carnival Co. Photo: Brian Passey, 2019



HearHug by Izobruolo Polylight. Photo: Sean Deckert, 2019

Themes (cont.)

Looking Forward to Canal Convergence 2020

The world's current social and political climate is arguably one the most contentious it has been in recent history. Subjects like climate change, immigration, gun control, and election politics have created divides—that can sometimes seem insurmountable—across both the United States and countries around the world. With Canal Convergence 2020's opening day occurring only three days after the U.S. presidential election, these important issues will be on people's minds more than ever as they attend our event. So, in a time where it is easier to build both literal and figurative walls between ourselves instead of bridges, Canal Convergence seeks to challenge artists to find our collective common ground through public art.

For Canal Convergence 2020, Scottsdale Public Art endeavors to use public art and programmatic elements to address themes of inclusion, communication, collaboration and community engagement. Some questions to consider include the following. What core values do we share as a society? How can public art bring people together in a positive and productive way? How can the perennial event themes of Water + Art + Light, sustainability, and interactivity be combined with public engagement or social practice?

Public art has a unique ability to bring people from all walks of life together in a shared experience and act as a gateway for discourse. As we ask the public to join us in celebrating our shared humanity through art and engagement, maybe our differences will not seem so extreme. Through art we can find a way to bridge the gap between our social, political, and cultural differences to work together to create positive change.



Soleri, So Laser by Mike Gould. Photo: Sean Deckert, 2019



Flawless by Studio ALEX (Architectural Light Experience).
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2018

Overview + History

The roots of Canal Convergence grew out of a conversation between the City of Scottsdale and Salt River Project (SRP), a community-based, not-for-profit water and energy company that manages and maintains the canal systems throughout greater Phoenix. In exchange for SRP waiving a permit fee for events at the Scottsdale Waterfront, the City offered a “canal festival,” where SRP could educate the public about its history, water management, conservation, and more. This led the City to engage Scottsdale Public Art to create a series of public art-focused events, called Night Lights, at the Waterfront in 2008. Each night featured unique, light-based art installations, live music, and performances. The seeds of Canal Convergence were planted and continued to evolve through several variations of dates, times, and scale until 2012 with the first event officially titled Canal Convergence.

Since 2012, Scottsdale Public Art has continued to partner with the City and SRP to present Canal Convergence annually at the Scottsdale Waterfront. Canal Convergence’s free and immersive events feature innovative large-scale installations, educational programming, family-oriented activities, guided bike rides, art-making workshops, and artist talks. Canal Convergence also offers a broad selection of live music, spoken word, and dance performances and a beer, wine, and food garden.

Scottsdale Public Art

The mission of Scottsdale Public Art is to serve as a leader in defining art in the public realm through creative placemaking, signature cultural events, exhibitions, and installations contributing to the community’s creative, cultural, and economic vitality. Visit ScottsdalePublicArt.org for more information about the program.



Soleri, So Laser by Mike Gould
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2019



Standing Wave by Squidsoup.
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2019

Details

Eligibility

All local, regional, and international artists, artist teams, architects, designers, and multimedia specialists are invited to submit a proposal for Canal Convergence.

Budget

We will accept budgets between \$5,000 and \$30,000 (USD), with a limited number of larger budgets being awarded to major works of a larger physical scale. Artists wishing to provide proposals for larger-scale budgets are required to demonstrate experience successfully producing projects at the scale proposed. Applicants are encouraged to apply for a budget appropriate to their project and, if proposing a project above the \$30,000 (USD) limit, include scaling options.

Artist Participation

Artist participation is integral to Canal Convergence! Artists are expected to attend our Canal Convergence Artist Mixer and be present during the 10-day event. We are also looking for artists who can propose additional programming relating to their artwork, such as providing an artist talk, participating in a panel discussion, creating a workshop, or proposing a fun new way to engage our community throughout the event timeline. Proposals for programming included as a part of your artwork proposal are preferred but not required for Phase I.

Selection Process

A selection committee—including Scottsdale Public Art staff, Scottsdale Public Art board members, and community stakeholders—will select artists for Canal Convergence. Selection will be based on adherence to the listed themes and requirements as well as suitability for the site and event.

Installation

Scottsdale Public Art can assist with each installation; however, installation planning and management (and engineering as needed) will be the physical and financial responsibility of the artist. As you compose your proposal, please consider how the work will be installed, including manpower, equipment needs, power requirements, and an installation timeline.

Insurance

Selected national and international artists will be expected to provide proof of general liability insurance and, as needed, automobile liability coverage.



Waterlight Graffiti by Antonin Fourneau. Photo: Chris Loomis, 2019

Details (cont.)

Safety

Artwork must be durable and able to withstand unpredictable weather conditions and physical contact by the public for the duration of the installation. Artists are asked to consider the Arizona environment, which can potentially include extreme heat, cold, wind, and rain.

Artists are responsible for addressing safety concerns, including securing all electrical and support cabling with durable covers or cable ramps to eliminate tripping hazards.

Artists may be required to have their designs reviewed and approved by a licensed structural engineer.

Site Activation

Please see the images of our event site on pages 11–20, and consider activating the site through installations that:

- Are interactive, passive, and/or performative
- Are suspended above the canal
- Are modular and activate a length of path, canal, or grass/gravel area
- Float or sit in the canal
- Activate the bridges, grass, gravel areas, or walkways along the canal
- Are projected on the ground, at eye level, or above



HYBYCOZO by Yelena Filipchuk and Serge Beaulieu. Photo: Sean Deckert, 2017

Submission Requirements

Again, artists must address, as a part of their application, how their artwork fits into one or more of the themes below:

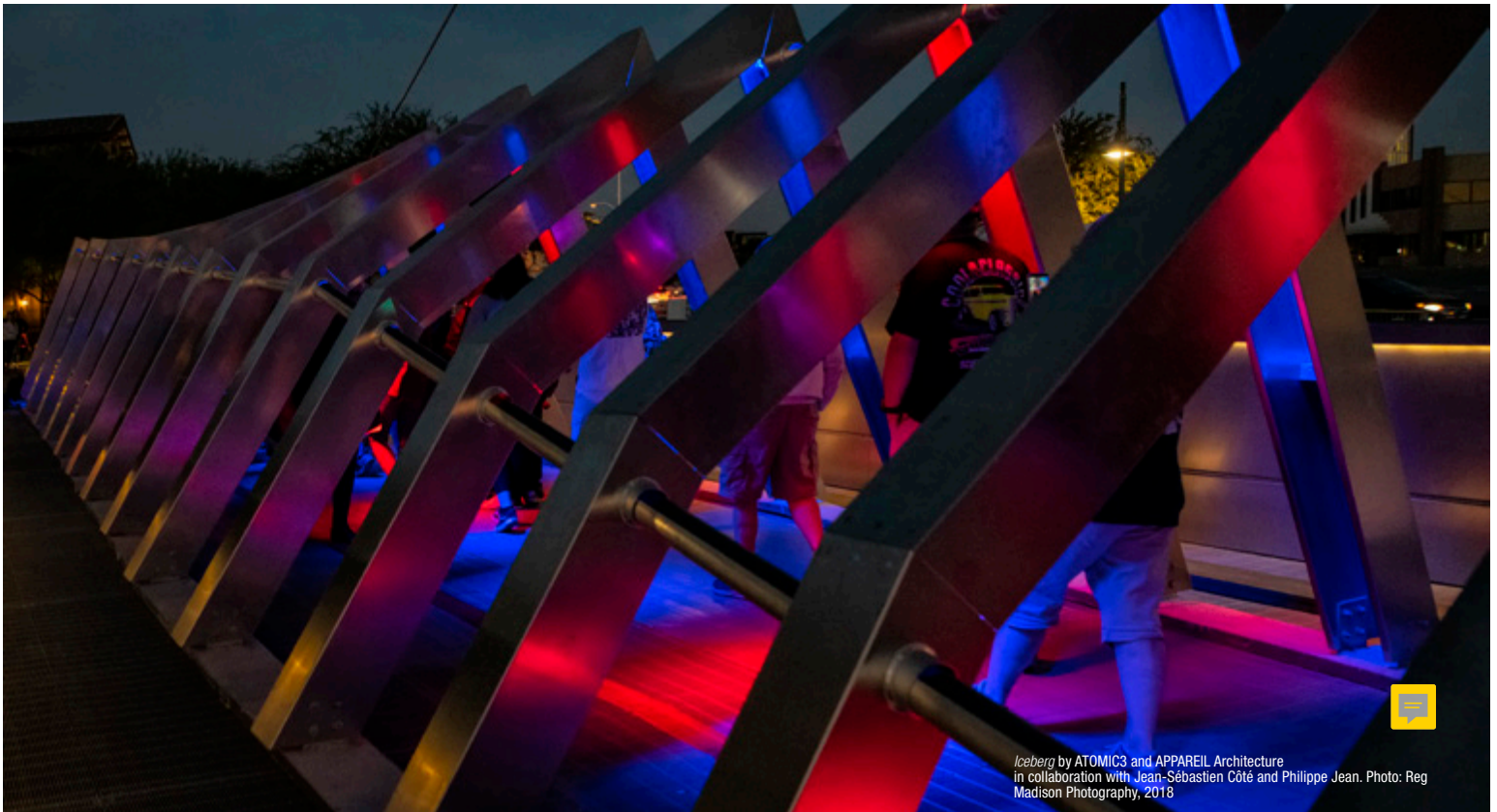
- Coming Together, Shared Values, and Open Dialogue
- Art + Water + Light
- Interactivity
- Day and Night
- Sustainability and Water Conservation

Please submit the following to Jennifer Gill via email at JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org with the subject line “Canal Convergence 2020 Art Proposal.”

Note that each artist or team may submit up to three ideas or artworks. Please submit a separate proposal with documentation for each separate idea or artwork being proposed.

Submit your proposal in the following format:

1. Completed Canal Convergence proposal, saved as a PDF with the artist or artist team and the artwork title in the file name.
 - a. Please describe in detail your proposed artwork narrative and general information. Incorporate the following information in one to three pages:
 - i. Artist name or team name and website.
 - ii. Contact information (must include your phone number, email address, mailing address, and country of origin).
 - iii. Title of artwork.
 - iv. Detailed physical and conceptual description of proposed artwork (750 words max.).
 - v. Explain any interactive components of your artwork, if applicable (500 words max.).
 - vi. Visual documentation or renderings (drawings, scale models, etc.) of proposed artwork (six images max) and visual documentation of past completed artworks (six images max.).
 - ◇ Include image description (artwork size, material, location, etc.) underneath each image.
 - vii. Which of the five previously stated themes does your artwork relate to? Addressing multiple themes is encouraged (300 words max.).
 - viii. Is the artwork intended to be a specific site commission to premiere at Canal Convergence? Has the artwork been exhibited previously or is it scheduled to be exhibited elsewhere between now and Canal Convergence 2020? (100 words max.).
 - ix. List the total estimated budget.
 - x. Artist participation in a programmatic component of Canal Convergence is required. State if you are interested in developing specific programming, including workshops or presentations (300 words max.).
 - ◇ In Phase I of the RFP, you can state a general idea, and then go into detail later in the process if you are selected for Phase II; or if you already know what programming you would like to propose, please state it here.
 - ◇ Relay any relevant experience (past lectures, educational activities, etc.).
 - xi. List where you have exhibited your work in the past 12 months and will be exhibiting in the next 12 months. List any festivals or events where you have shown your artwork in the past three years (200 words max.).
- a. Resume of artist or artist team (one to three pages).
 - b. Contact information for three arts-related professional references and/or professional letters of recommendation. Must include reference email and phone number.
2. JPEG files (300 dpi, file size between 3–8 MB each) of the images displayed in your proposal PDF file. Images can be submitted via email in a ZIP file or via WeTransfer or Dropbox.
 3. A corresponding image list (1 page PDF file) for all submitted JPEGs that shows artist’s name, title of work, scale, material, location (or state that it is a rendering), and any other information to clarify intended visual appearance, fabrication methods, and technology associated with the proposal.
 4. Optional: Video showing the proposed artwork or relevant past artworks are encouraged. Videos may be submitted via links to video hosting sites like Vimeo or YouTube, or video files may be sent via email in a ZIP file or via WeTransfer or Dropbox.



Schedule*

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| January 30, 2020 | Request for proposals released |
| March 20, 2020 | Submission deadline for RFP Phase I at 11:59 p.m. (MDT) |
| April 6–8, 2020 | Notification of finalist artists selected for Phase II |
| April 27, 2020 | Submission deadline for RFP Phase II at 11:59 p.m. (MDT) |
| May 20–22, 2020 | Notification of selected artists |
| May–June 2020 | Proposal development and contract negotiation |
| May–October 2020 | Planning/scheduling, fabrication/maintenance of proposed artwork, etc. |
| November 2–4, 2020 | Installation at the Scottsdale Waterfront (Some artwork installations may begin earlier than November 2 depending on size and scope). |
| November 6–15, 2020 | Canal Convergence Water + Art + Light |
| November 16–18, 2020 | Removal of artwork |

*Schedule is subject to change

Questions/Follow Up

If you have questions about the RFP, Canal Convergence, or your proposal and its suitability for our site, we are happy to discuss your ideas! Questions regarding the project should be directed to Jennifer Gill, public art manager for Canal Convergence, at JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org. We will also be scheduling “Coffee Talks” in February where artists can ask questions and discuss their ideas with Jennifer Gill. Go to CanalConvergence.com/call-for-art/ for dates, times and locations.

Thoughts to consider when developing a proposal:

- Review previous Canal Convergence projects at CanalConvergence.com to get a sense of the space and event context.
- We are looking for proposals—big, small, and modular—for a variety of sites in the Scottsdale Waterfront area: along the canal, green areas, paths, and surrounding infrastructure.
- Light-based projects, video, or suspended installations may use the surrounding infrastructure and architecture; contact Jennifer Gill for more details.
- Some suggested themes include: Coming Together, Shared Values, and Open Dialogue; Water + Art + Light; human interaction; sustainable sources of water for the desert environment; and the intersection of contemporary art and human connection to the natural Sonoran Desert environment.



What You Should Know

The Arizona Canal and Scottsdale Waterfront

- From Soleri Bridge and Plaza to Marshall Way Bridge: Approximately 750 feet
- There are seven 20-foot (approximately), permanent infrastructure poles installed along the waterfront between Marshall Way Bridge and Soleri Bridge. See the aerial map and photo documentation on page 20 for reference. These poles provide structurally sound supports for large-scale artworks suspended above the Arizona Canal. Exact structural specifications can be provided upon request.
- From Marshall Way Bridge to Goldwater Boulevard: Approximately 650 feet.
- Canal width: Approximately 60 feet, wall to wall.
- Water depth: Approximately 7 feet, 3 inches.
- Canal wall: Approximately 7 feet, 9 inches, from the canal floor to top of vertical wall, plus a 1-foot decorative cap.
- Total canal wall height: Approximately 8 feet, 9 inches.
- Water velocity: Approximately 3–5 feet per second.
- Fishing allowed with Arizona State fishing license. No swimming or boating.
- Canal water is not treated and often contains debris. Placing artwork in the canal may result in stains or other damage.
- The grass areas on the south bank of the canal can only accept stakes that descend 6 inches into the ground.

Operations

- The Arizona Canal is operated by Salt River Project (SRP) as a power and water utility corridor.
- Power lines run underground along both banks of the canal.
- The City of Scottsdale has a license agreement with SRP that allows canal bank improvements, paths, landscaping, lighting, outdoor seating, patios, and limited events.
- There are multiple property owners, businesses, and developers at the Scottsdale Waterfront.

Issues of Concern

- SRP reviews and approves usage concepts relative to canal function, water safety, and pedestrian access.
- Canal function cannot be interrupted.
- More than 1 foot of water elevation displacement is not allowed.
- Canal bank paths must allow for access by SRP vehicles and recreational users (10-foot clearance is required at all times).
- Temporary obstructions must be negotiated and planned.
- Anything placed in the water must be nontoxic and eventually removed.
- Attachments to the canal, permanent poles, walls, railing, and/or banks cannot damage the site.
- No water may be removed from the canal for any reason.
- Site must be returned to original condition.

Canal Convergence Site Map

To view 360-degree photos of select locations on the map below, go to CanalConvergence.com/Waterfront360.



Map data: Google