

CANAL CONVERGENCE

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
WATER + ART + LIGHT

Request for Temporary
Public Art Proposals

Deadline: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

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Say What You Will by MASARY Studios.
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2021

Canal Convergence 2022: Request for Temporary Public Art Proposals: Phase I

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time).

Scottsdale Public Art seeks proposals for outdoor, temporary public artworks to be featured in and around the Arizona Canal at the Scottsdale Waterfront in Scottsdale, Arizona. Canal Convergence will be on view for 10 days, from Nov. 4–13, 2022. Some projects may be selected to remain installed for an additional 1–2 months after the Canal Convergence event dates.

This call is specifically targeting outdoor, light-based installations by artists who have not previously exhibited work at Canal Convergence.*

This call is Phase I of II. Phase I asks artists to focus primarily on the proposal concept, images, rendering, and estimated total budget. Once Phase I closes on March 16, 2022, up to 30 proposals will be selected for Phase II via staff review. These artists will be asked to provide more detailed information on their proposals, which will be presented to a final selection panel composed of Scottsdale Arts staff and board members, city of Scottsdale and Salt River Project staff, and community stakeholders. Required additional information for Phase II will include, but is not limited to, a detailed timeline, itemized budget, support crew, heavy equipment requirements, etc.

*The Canal Convergence 2022 RFP is not open to artists who have previously exhibited at the event. This restriction is only for 2022's RFP, as any artists who have exhibited in the past will be contacted directly. Those artists who are not contacted for 2022 will be able to apply again in 2023.



Swarm by toyStudio.
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2019

COVID-19 Considerations in 2022

Scottsdale Public Art is continuing to monitor the status of the COVID-19 global pandemic. There is still a significant amount of uncertainty surrounding the event industry, however given the developments of the past year and the success of our 2021 event (which returned to the pre-pandemic format), we feel hopeful about the future and the prospect of being able to gather in November 2022. We are currently planning for an event where physically interactive artworks can return alongside the passive artworks—light-based public artworks that are not physically interactive. As new information becomes available, we will work with the selected artists and adjust plans accordingly to present another year of engaging art experiences.

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 outdoor installations that take into consideration the 2022 central theme—Celebrating 10 Years of Water + Art + Light—and our perennial themes of interactivity, and sustainability.

- **Celebrating 10 Years of Water + Art + Light:** How does the art celebrate the experience that Canal Convergence has offered and continues to offer to the public each year? How does the art address the confluence of water, art, and light through placement, conceptual content, and material use? See the next page for a deeper examination of this theme.
- **Interactivity:** How can the audience interact with the work?
- **Sustainability:** 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



Entwined Meadow by Charles Gadeken.
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2021



Standing Wave by Squidsoup.
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2019.

Featured Theme: Celebrating 10 Years of Water + Art + Light

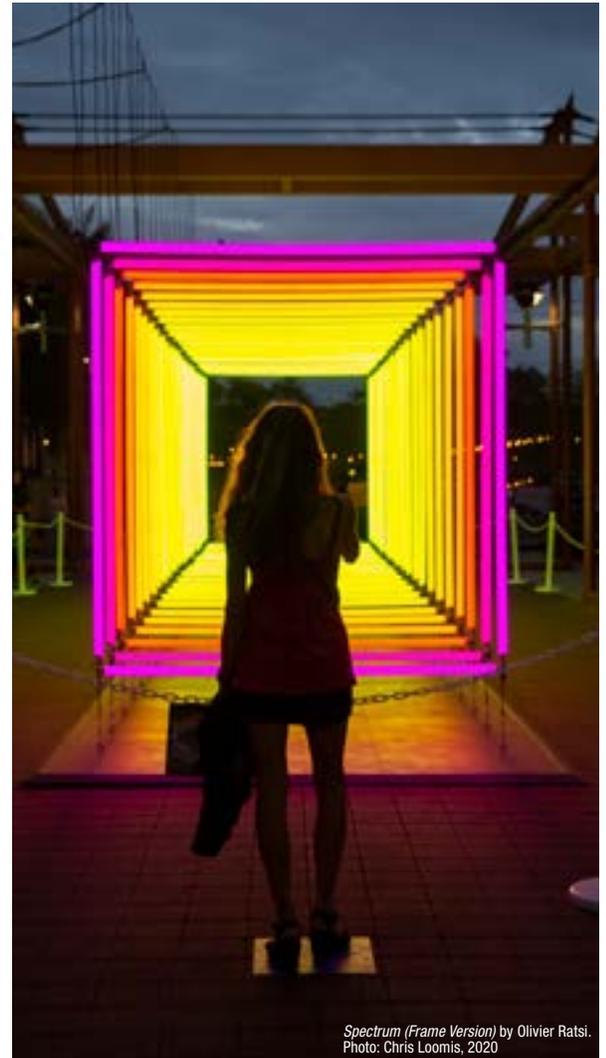
Since Canal Convergence officially began in 2012, it has embodied an ever-evolving conversation about site-specific public art, light art, interactivity, community engagement, sustainability, and more, all within the context of an outdoor, nighttime-focused event. The roots of this event grew out of a series of “canal festivals” presented by Scottsdale Public Art for the city of Scottsdale and Salt River Project (SRP). The success of these one-off events led the city to engage Scottsdale Public Art to create annual arts-focused events at the Scottsdale Waterfront. From this initial arrangement, Canal Convergence was born.

Over the next several years, Scottsdale Public Art explored a variety of event formats and community engagement opportunities through the lens large-scale public art experiences. Each event considered the core theme of Water + Art + Light in a different way with new public art installations by local, national, and international artists. Starting in 2019, Canal Convergence began to include an additional featured theme that changes each year: The Story of Water, Reconnection, and most recently, Art and Technology.

For Canal Convergence 2022, Scottsdale Public Art seeks large-scale, light-based public art that embodies the event’s themes from the past and present to provide an authentic and immersive art experience in and around Scottsdale’s canal. Some questions to consider include the following:

- What past and present Canal Convergence themes does the proposal embody?
- How does the proposed artwork celebrate experiential public art?
- How is the proposal specific (or how, if possible, can it be adjusted if it is an existing artwork) to the Scottsdale Waterfront site?

Scottsdale Public Art will also be looking to commission new augmented reality artworks by local artists as a part of Canal Convergence 2022. If you are an Arizona-based artist and are interested in this opportunity, please contact Canal Convergence public art manager Jennifer Gill at JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org for more information.



Spectrum (Frame Version) by Olivier Ratsi.
Photo: Chris Loomis, 2020



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 at the Waterfront in 2008 called Night Lights. 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 officially titled Canal Convergence. For more images and information about past Canal Convergence events, download [The History of Canal Convergence](#).

Since 2012, Scottsdale Public Art has continued to partner with the city of Scottsdale and Salt River Project (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, artmaking 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 place-making, 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.



Floom by Walter Productions.
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2021



Voyage by Aether and Hemera.
Photo: Sean Deckert, 2013

Details

Eligibility

All local, regional, and international artists, artist teams, architects, designers, and multimedia specialists who have not previously exhibited at Canal Convergence are invited to submit a proposal. Due to evolving COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, international artists who apply must have remote installation as an option for their proposal.

Budget

We will accept budgets between \$5,000 and \$35,000 (USD). The following will be provided by Canal Convergence, and therefore do not need to be included in the proposal budget: heavy equipment (aerial lifts, forklifts), power, security, and installation staff (up to four people per artwork) with basic carpentry skills for installation and deinstallation.

Artist Participation

Artist participation is an important part of Canal Convergence! Artists are expected to be present during the 10-night event.* We are also looking for artists who can propose additional programming relating to their artwork, such as creating a workshop or proposing a fun new way to engage our community during the event. Proposals for programming included as a part of your artwork proposal are encouraged but not required.

* As previously stated, we are continuing to monitor the restrictions presented by ongoing pandemic; in-person artist participation will be reevaluated as new information becomes available. An artist's absence from installation, the event, or deinstallation does not exclude them from consideration.

Selection Process

A selection committee—including Scottsdale Public Art staff, Scottsdale Public Art board members, and community stakeholders—will select proposals 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 the installation and de-installation of the artwork; however, installation planning and management 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, skilled labor, and an installation timeline, as these elements will need to be addressed as a part of Phase II.

Insurance

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

Weather

Canal Convergence is an evening, outdoor event. Artwork must be durable and able to withstand weather conditions for the duration of the installation.

Artists are asked to consider the Arizona environment, which during the month of November can include heat (up to 105°F/40°C), cold (40°F/4°C), wind, and rain. The consideration of temperature variations and moisture is important as it can impact the functionality of electronics. If you are unfamiliar with the typical Arizona climate, please reach out to Jennifer Gill, JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org, with any questions.

Safety

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

Canal Convergence takes place primarily at the Scottsdale Waterfront; a 1/3-mile stretch of pedestrian paths, open grass areas, and landscaping surrounded by residences, offices, and restaurants, all along the Arizona Canal between Scottsdale Road and Goldwater Boulevard. View the aerial site map on page 11 of this document and download the Site Map Packet to view ground-level daytime photos of the sites we have identified as available artwork activation areas.

Types of Site Activation

- Interactive, passive, and/or performative
- Suspended above the canal or pedestrian paths
- 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
- Projection on the ground, at eye level or above



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

How to Submit Your Proposal

Submissions will be accepted via [Submittable.com](https://www.submittable.com). Follow the link below to submit your application:

[CLICK HERE TO START SUBMISSION](#)

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.

Submission Requirement:

- Artist name or team name.
- Contact information (must include your phone number, email address, mailing address, and country of origin).
- Website and social media handles.
- Title of artwork.
- Detailed physical and conceptual description of proposed artwork (300 words max.).
- Explanation of any interactive components of your artwork, if applicable (150 words max.).
- Visual documentation or renderings (drawings, scale models, etc.) of proposed artwork (six images max., high resolution).
- Visual documentation of past completed artworks (six images max., 300 dpi, file size between 3–8 MB each).
- Image list with descriptions (artwork size, material, location, etc.). DO NOT put image descriptions on the images.
- Optional: Video renderings or videos of past work.
- Estimated budget.
- Provide responses to the following prompts:
 - a. Which of the three previously stated themes does your artwork relate to? (150 words max.)
 - b. Is the proposal for a new artwork or an artwork that currently exists?
 - c. If the artwork is existing, where has it been exhibited in the past three years?
 - d. If the artwork is existing, is it currently scheduled or in consideration to be exhibited elsewhere between now and Canal Convergence 2022?
 - e. Are you interested in providing a workshop or activity related to your proposal, the Canal Convergence themes, or your artistic practice?
- Resume (one to three pages max.).
- Three professional arts-related references and/or letters of recommendation. Must include email and phone number.
- If you have created/designed an all-inclusive proposal document, you may submit it along with the other materials. However, this is not a substitute for completing the Submittable application form.
- Additional information you would like us to know.



Fences by Immerge Interactive
Photo: Brian Passey, 2020

Schedule

February 1, 2022	Request for proposals released
March 16, 2022	Submission deadline for RFP Phase I at 11:59 p.m. (MST)
March 30 – April 1, 2022	Notification of finalist artists selected for Phase II
April 22, 2022	Submission deadline for RFP Phase II at 11:59 p.m. (MST)
June 1, 2022	Notification of selected artists
June 2022	Proposal development and contract negotiation
July – October, 2022	Planning/scheduling, fabrication/maintenance of proposed artwork, etc.
October 29 – November 2, 2022	Installation at the Scottsdale Waterfront
November 3, 2022	Installation contingency day
November 4–13, 2022	Canal Convergence Water + Art + Light
November 14–17, 2022	Deinstallation 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.

Jennifer will also be scheduling blocks of time in February where artists can schedule 30-minute (max.) sessions via Zoom or phone call to discuss their ideas for Canal Convergence. The dates of these sessions are Thursday, Feb. 17, and Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. Please email Jennifer directly to find out and schedule available times.

Thoughts to consider when developing a proposal:

- Review previous Canal Convergence projects at CanalConvergence.com or via The History of Canal Convergence document to get a sense of the event's 10-year history, and how the Waterfront space has been used in the past.
- Interactive artworks are encouraged.
- 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.
- In addition to the main themes of Canal Convergence listed above, consider your proposal's relevance to the canal, Scottsdale, and Arizona as a whole.



The Pool by Jen Lewin.
Photo: Sean Deckert. 2015

Important Site Information

The Arizona Canal and Scottsdale Waterfront

- From Soleri Bridge and Plaza to Marshall Way Bridge: Approximately 750 feet.
- 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 to 5 feet per second, flowing east to west.
- 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.

Operations

- The Arizona Canal is operated by Salt River Project (SRP) as a power and water utility corridor.
- Power is underground along both banks of the Scottsdale Waterfront.
- 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 and developers at 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.

Canal Convergence Site Map: Aerial View

Download the Site Map Packet to view ground-level, daytime photos of the sites we have identified as available artwork activation areas for Canal Convergence.

For more site measurement information, go to the City of Scottsdale Parcel Map website. Download the Parcel Map Measurements Guide for information on how to use the parcel map website.

Also available: 360-degree photos of select locations on the map below; go to CanalConvergence.com/Waterfront360.

