

# CANAL CONVERGENCE

## REFLECTIONS

Request for Temporary  
Public Art Proposals

Deadline: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

arts  
scottsdale  
canal convergence

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Flario by Walter  
Productions, Canal  
Convergence 2023.  
Photo: David Blakeman.

## Canal Convergence 2024: Request for Temporary Public Art Proposals: Phase I

**Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. MST (AZ).**

Canal Convergence 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. 8–17, 2024. Some projects may be selected to remain installed for an additional one to two months after the Canal Convergence event dates. This call is specifically targeting outdoor, light-based installations. Nighttime presence/activation is required; daytime presence/activation is encouraged.

### Artwork Considerations for Canal Convergence 2024:

Submissions that follow/incorporate the suggestions below will be given a higher priority in the final selection.

- Propose an artwork that speaks to the 2024 featured theme, Reflections.
- Propose art installations that are able to be located in smaller, more narrow sections of the ground, ground that is not level, and/or integrated into the landscaping without damaging or destroying any plants.
- Present multiple (2-3) installations for the event that can be shipped to and from Canal Convergence in the same truck, container, etc.
- Submit art installation proposals that do not require 24-hour security.
- Propose an artwork that encourages reflection on environmental issues relevant to the Arizona community. Some examples include water rights and conservation, heat mitigation efforts, etc.

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 April 24, 2024, up to 30 proposals will be selected for Phase II via Scottsdale Public Art 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, and power requirements, etc.



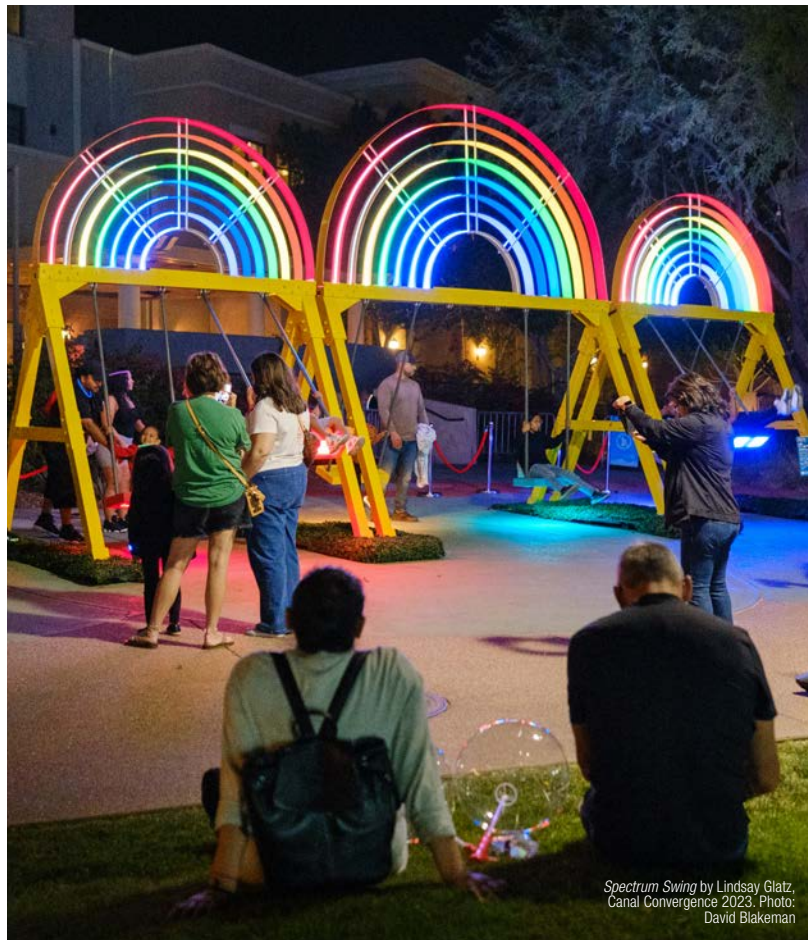
Flora by Philipp Artus, Canal Convergence  
2023. Photo: David Blakeman.

## 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 2024 central theme, Reflections, and our perennial themes of water + art + light, interactivity, and sustainability.

- **Reflections:** How does the art integrate physical and/or psychological acts of reflection to emphasize its significance in shaping how individuals perceive and understand, ultimately influencing the world around us?
- **Water + Art + Light:** Does the art address the confluence of art, water, and light?
- **Interactivity:** How can the audience interact with the work?
- **Sustainability:** Does the work incorporate and/or discuss aspects of sustainability or water conservation? The use of solar power, biodegradable, and recycled/recyclable materials are also encouraged.

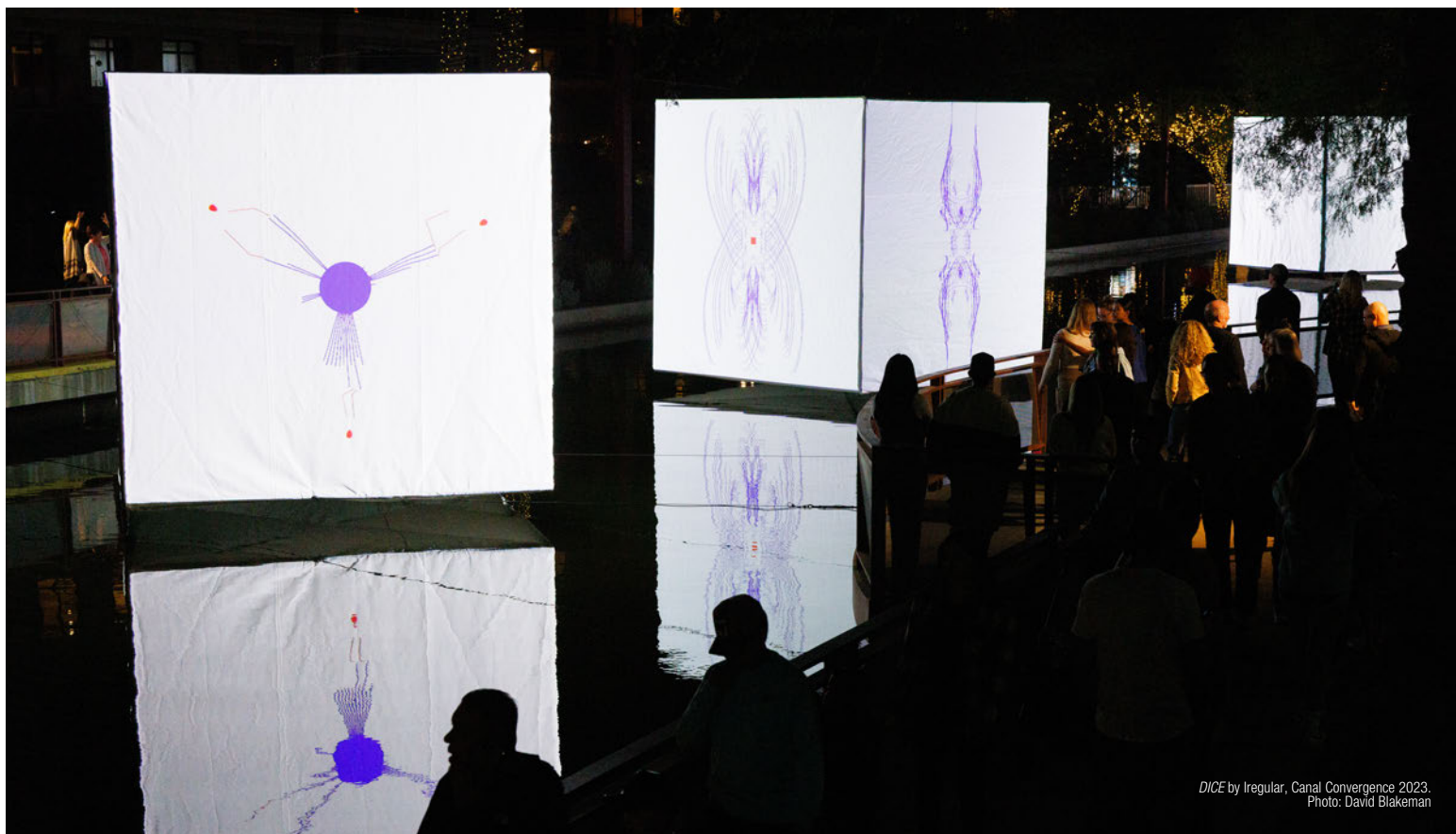
See the following page for a more detailed overview of the Canal Convergence 2024 theme, Reflections.



*Spectrum Swing by Lindsay Glatz,  
Canal Convergence 2023. Photo:  
David Blakeman*



*Ripple by Ithaca Studio, Canal Convergence  
2023. Photo: David Blakeman.*



*DICE by Iregular, Canal Convergence 2023.  
Photo: David Blakeman*

## Featured Theme: Reflections

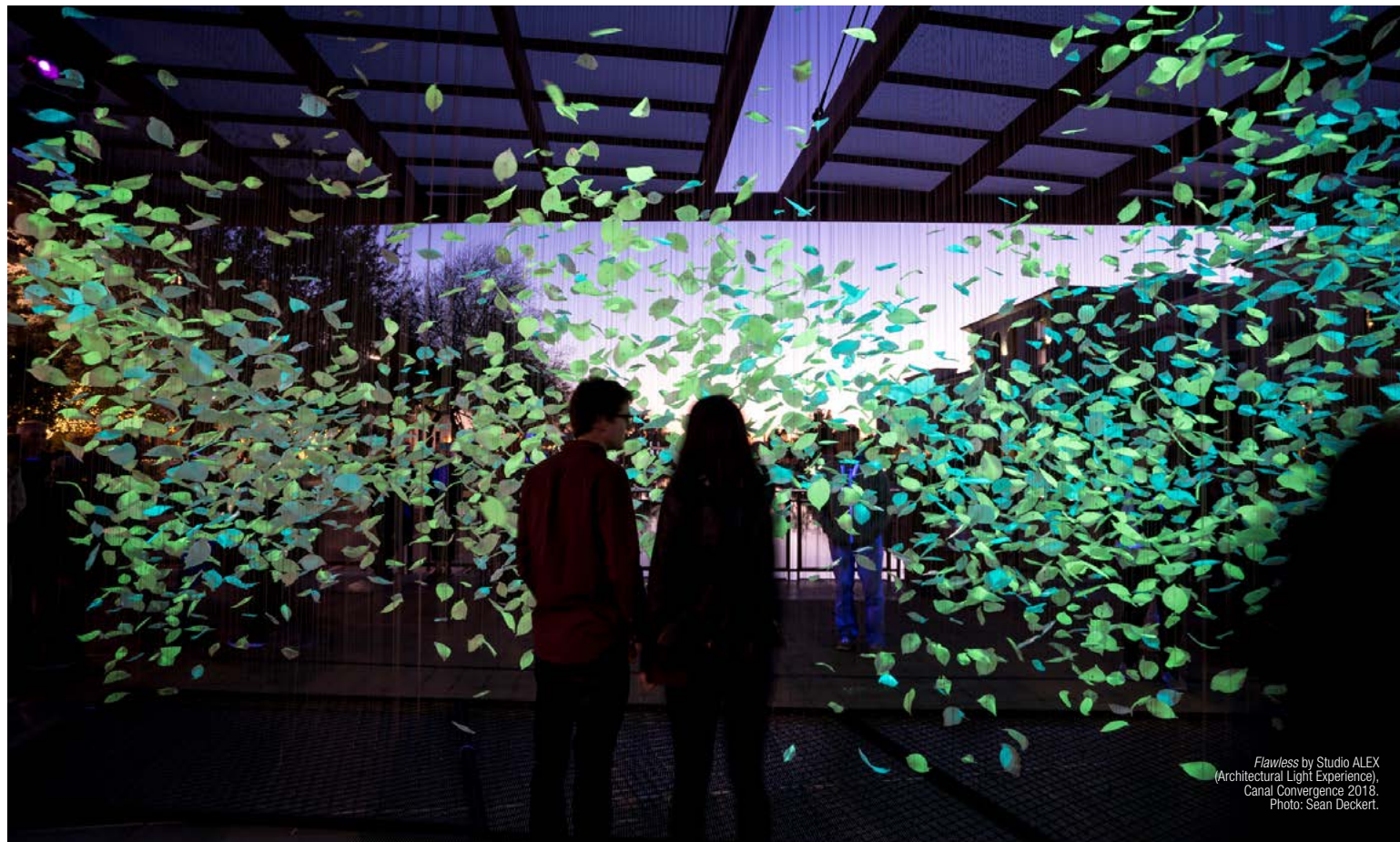
Reflections and the act of reflecting have profound importance in both literal and metaphorical realms. On the literal level, reflection is defined as the return of light and sound waves from a surface. This fundamental process is the basis for vision, granting living beings the ability to observe and interact with their environment. However, for human beings, this concept carries even more significance: When people observe a reflection through a mirrored surface, it can inspire deeper thought and contemplation, foster self-awareness, encourage the exploration of human nature, and much more. It is through this process that the definition of reflection has expanded beyond the physical to encompass deliberation and introspection.

These internal reflections can include a variety of thought processes like exploring one's beliefs, emotions, and experiences. They serve as a tool for self-examination, providing an opportunity for personal growth and self-discovery. By engaging in reflection, individuals can better understand their strengths and weaknesses, aspirations and failures, and create a greater understanding of themselves. Through reflection and self-reflection, people learn from their past to make informed decisions, ultimately shaping their own perceptions and the world around them.

Reflections are vital not only to sight, self-analysis, and deeper understanding but also to the creation of art as well. Artists have the unique opportunity and important responsibility to act as mirrors to the current environment, culture, and community through the creation of their art. Scottsdale Arts is seeking artists who will consider all the varied concepts of reflection to propose new or existing light-based public artworks. Some questions to consider include the following:

- What is the relationship between reflection and art?
- How does your artwork encourage the public to reflect on themselves, their beliefs and experiences, and/or their surroundings?
- How do you as an artist and the work you create act as a mirror to society and culture?
- How can your artwork inspire further reflection on important environmental and cultural issues? For example, how could your proposal use this year's theme to highlight the public's relationship to water in Arizona?
- How can the Reflections theme be used to highlight or engage with Canal Convergence's perennial themes of water + art + light, sustainability, and interactivity?

For Canal Convergence 2024, Scottsdale Arts asks artists to utilize literal and/or contemplative types of reflection to stimulate and inspire event attendees through public art. With Canal Convergence taking place days after the 2024 presidential election, it will be a poignant time for individuals to pause, contemplate, and engage with the artworks, fostering introspection, dialogue, and unity in the midst of a changing world.



## 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.

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, , art-making workshops, and a mini film festival. Canal Convergence also offers a broad selection of live music, spoken word, and dance performances, and a beer, wine, and food garden.





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

## Details

### Eligibility

All local, regional, and international artists, artist teams, architects, designers, and multimedia specialists are invited to submit a proposal. Any 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), with a limited number of larger budgets (up to \$50,000 USD) being awarded to new commissions and/or major works of a larger physical scale. Artists wishing to provide proposals for larger-scale budgets are required to demonstrate experience successfully producing projects to the scale being proposed. Applicants are encouraged to apply for a budget appropriate to their project and, if proposing a project above the \$35,000 (USD) limit, scaling options are a plus. 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

We prefer artists to be present for the duration of the event, but it is not required unless the artwork needs to be actively operated or monitored by the artist during event times. Artists (and/or their representatives) are required to be present and participate in the installation of the artwork and be present and available for media interviews or new features for the opening weekend (Nov. 8–10, 2024). 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 are strongly encouraged, but not required.

### Selection Process

A selection committee—including Scottsdale Arts staff, Scottsdale Public Art advisory 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 Arts can assist with the installation and deinstallation 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 required to provide proof of general liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million general aggregate and, if required as per the scope of your project, worker compensation insurance and 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, and while significant amounts of rain and wind are not common in Scottsdale at this time of year, it is possible and must be accounted for as an outside event.** If you are unfamiliar with the typical Arizona climate, please reach out to Jennifer Gill, [JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org](mailto:JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org), with any questions.

### Safety

Artists are responsible for addressing safety concerns for their physical artwork and installation/deinstallation plans. Artists may be required to have their designs reviewed and approved by a structural engineer licensed in the state of Arizona.



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

## 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 artwork activation areas. However, note that the sites identified in the [Site Map Packet](#) are recommendations, and that there are other available/feasible sites within the perimeter of the event. If you are unsure if a site you have identified is available, please contact Jennifer Gill, [JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org](mailto:JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org).

In addition to the Scottsdale Waterfront, there may be an opportunity for artwork installations at locations outside of the waterfront area. These installations must be able to be on view and operational without security monitoring. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Jennifer Gill at [JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org](mailto:JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org).

## 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
- Integrated into the landscaping at waterfront without damaging or destroying the plant life.



*The TUNNEL by BIG Art, Canal Convergence 2022.  
Photo: David Blakeman*

## How to Submit Your Proposal

Submissions for Phase I 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. How does your proposal relate to the featured theme and/or the event's perennial themes? (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 two years?
  - d. If the artwork is existing, is it currently scheduled or in consideration to be exhibited elsewhere between now and Canal Convergence 2024? If so, where?
  - e. Are you interested in providing a workshop or activity related to your proposal, the Canal Convergence themes, or your artistic practice?
- Resume (three pages max.).
- 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.



*Reflections* by Immerge Interactive,  
Canal Convergence 2022. Photo: David Blakeman.

## Schedule

<b>March 15, 2024</b>	Request for proposals released
<b>April 24, 2024</b>	Submission deadline for RFP Phase I at 11:59 p.m. MST (AZ)
<b>May 6–8, 2024</b>	Notification of finalist artists selected for Phase II
<b>May 24, 2024</b>	Submission deadline for RFP Phase II at 11:59 p.m. MST (AZ)
<b>June 11–12, 2024</b>	Notification of selected artists
<b>June 2024</b>	Proposal development and contract negotiation
<b>July–October, 2024</b>	Planning/scheduling, fabrication/maintenance of proposed artwork, etc.
<b>Nov. 1–6, 2024</b>	Installation at the Scottsdale Waterfront
<b>Nov. 7, 2024</b>	Installation contingency day
<b>Nov. 8–17, 2024</b>	Canal Convergence   Reflections
<b>Nov. 18–20, 2024</b>	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 it with you. Questions should be directed to Jennifer Gill, deputy director of Canal Convergence, at [JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org](mailto:JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org).

Jennifer is also offering artists the opportunity to schedule 30-minute (max.) meetings via Zoom or phone call in April to discuss their ideas for Canal Convergence. The available dates for these sessions are Wednesday, April 3, and Friday, April 5, 2024. To find and schedule available times, please contact Jennifer directly via email.

### Additional considerations for developing a proposal:

- Review previous Canal Convergence projects at [CanalConvergence.com](https://CanalConvergence.com) to see how the Waterfront space has been used in the past.
- Interactive and performative 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.



Canal Convergence 2023  
Photo: David Blakeman

## 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.
- Water velocity: Approximately 3 to 5 feet per second, flowing east to west.
- Fishing is allowed with an 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.
- Since the canal water contains debris large and microscopic, installations that use of the canal water in any active way (like pumping water or using the current to activate or power the artwork) are strongly discouraged, unless you have proof of concept in a similar body of water. If you are still considering proposing an artwork that actively uses canal water, contact Jennifer Gill at [JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org](mailto:JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org).
- The Arizona Canal is operated by Salt River Project (SRP) as a power and water utility corridor. Learn more about Salt River Project at [SRPnet.com](http://SRPnet.com).
- 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.

### Issues of Concern

- SRP reviews and approves all artwork proposals and usage relative to canal function, water safety, and pedestrian access.
- As Canal Convergence takes place in a residential area, any and all artwork installation, programming, testing, and deinstallation work **MUST** start no earlier than 8 a.m., and end no later than 10 p.m. Artists must account for these limitations in their planning process.
- Canal function cannot be interrupted.
- More than 1-foot of water elevation displacement is not allowed.
- Canal bank paths must have 10-foot horizontal clearance and 15-foot of vertical clearance during the event. This is to allow for access by SRP vehicles and recreational users, as well as clearance for emergency vehicles.
- Temporary obstructions of the pedestrian path 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.
- Staking into the ground more than 6-inches is not allowed on the grass areas. Deeper staking can occur in the gravel areas with prior approval.

# 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.

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

