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CALL FOR ARTISTS

LA RIVER
HEADWATERS –
CANOGA PARK
CIVIC ART PROJECT



LA RIVER HEADWATERS – CANOGA PARK CIVIC ART PROJECT

21416 Bassett Street,
Canoga Park, CA 91303

DEADLINE TO APPLY
August 27, 2026, 5:00 pm PST

BUDGET
\$290,000

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture's Civic Art Division invites artists and artist teams to submit qualifications for the LA River Headwaters – Canoga Park Civic Art Project. **The opportunity is for a site-specific artwork composed of multiple artist-designed interpretive signage and hardscape elements along a quarter-mile trail.**

This is the first civic art opportunity along the Los Angeles River. This project highlights themes outlined in the 2022 LA River Master Plan and input from 2021- 2022 Headwaters Area Project Community Engagement Plan meetings. The Department of Arts and Culture seeks to **prioritize the histories and natural environment of the river, in particular as they pertain to the First Peoples.**

In creating this artwork, artists are encouraged to explore shared resources and the spaces required to deepen our connection with the LA River. How can we bridge our past with our future? How can we become better stewards of the land and enhance our natural environment?

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants—past,

present, and emerging-- as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments.

Please note that this is not a Call for Proposals.

Please do not submit proposals.



Fig 1. Photo by LA County Public Works

CIVIC ART OPEN CALL

LA RIVER HEADWATERS - CANOGA PARK CIVIC ART PROJECT

ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to artists and artist teams:

- Who reside or work within the United States of America. Although the artwork is site-specific, the Department of Arts and Culture has opened the Call nationally to acknowledge the potential challenges of displacement and migration for any potential artists; and
- Who are able to show a **demonstrable involvement with Native American communities.**

Artists will not be eligible to apply if they have been previously commissioned for a civic art project with the LA County Department of Arts and Culture in the last five years, whose budget was equal to, or exceeds, \$290,000.

We highly encourage artists to form teams, partnerships, and/or collaborations, which provide the variety of artistic and professional experiences needed to develop the project vision. If applying as a team, artists must identify one applicant as the legal entity that will be the one entering into a contract for the project. .

PROJECT BACKGROUND/COMMUNITIES

The iconic LA River flows through 51 miles of connected public open space. It runs from Canoga Park to Long Beach and is seamlessly woven together with neighboring communities. The LA River is an integral part of daily life at the County.

In 2022, the County released an updated LA River Masterplan, which includes arts and culture as one of its primary goals. The LA River Headwaters – Canoga Park Civic Art Project, the first civic art project as part of the implementation of the Masterplan, presents artists with significant opportunity to **help reimagine the Los Angeles River as an ongoing cultural, ecological, and infrastructural resource for adjacent communities and for all County residents.** <https://larivermasterplan.org>

Fig 2 Headwaters

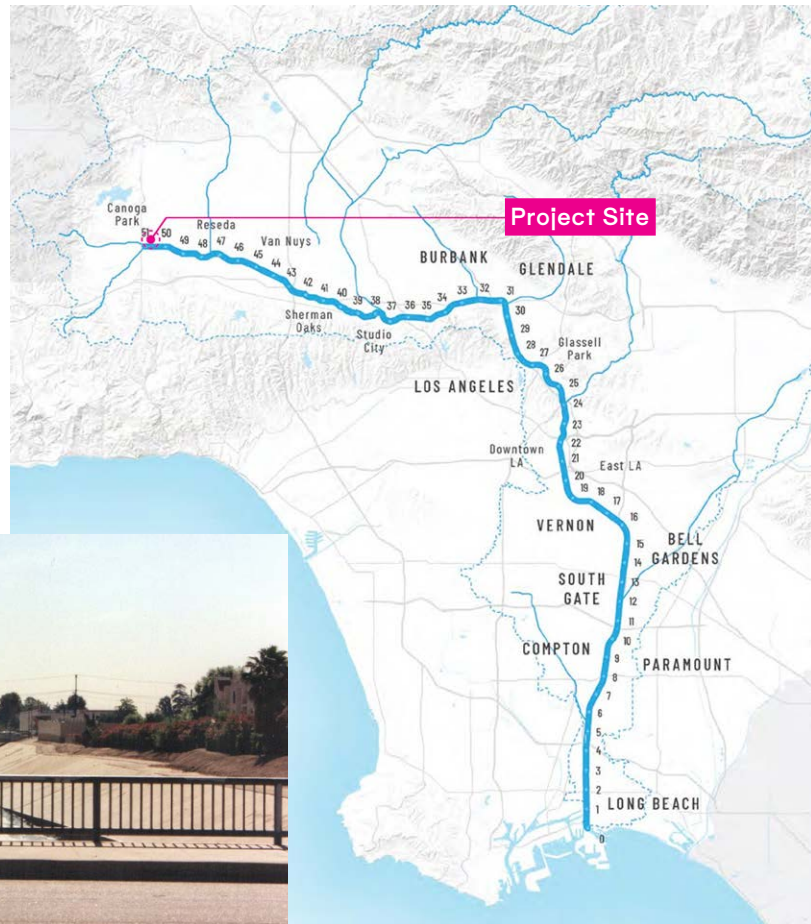


Fig 3. LA River Headwaters Civic Art Site Plan

PROJECT SITE/LOCATION

The site of the artwork is located in Canoga Park, at the inception of today's LA River.

The site is a quarter mile long landscaped area alongside the river channel, next to the river walk in the LA County right-of-way between Canoga and Owensmouth Avenues.

The Department of Public Works' Flood Control Division is working with Gehry Partners, LLP to create a new Headwaters Pavilion, which will allow visitors access to the river walk on this quarter mile site.

For more information on the Los Angeles County Flood Control District:

<https://pw.lacounty.gov/LACFCD/web/>

ARTWORK THEMES/GOALS

The artwork will reflect the following themes distilled from community engagement efforts:

- History and significance of the LA River, including the ongoing relationship of First Peoples and the LA River;
- Local riparian flora and fauna;
- The benefits of flood protection, water conservation; and/or
- The LA River as a resource for the appreciation of the natural environment.

SCOPE OF WORK/ WHAT THE PROJECT ENTAILS

In support of placemaking and placekeeping as described by the artwork themes above, the selected artist or artist team will work with the Civic Art Division to create an original artwork consisting of interpretive signage elements installed along the river path. For this Civic Art project, interpretive signage is defined as an artistic communication designed to reveal the meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage to the public through interactive experiences, including images, text, graphics, animation, audio, and video. While this is referenced as one artwork to ensure a cohesive and coordinated vision and design along the path, the selected Artist or Artist Team may subcontract additional artists to collaborate on this project. The design and layout of the artist-designed signage along the river path can address the entries to the river walk, create a procession along the river walk, suggest spaces for gathering, or commemorate cultural, community, or recreational history or practices.

The Scope of Work includes but is not limited to:

- **Community Engagement and Design Development**

The selected Artist will conduct community engagement and further design development of their artwork proposal.

- **Final Design**

Artist will incorporate feedback from community engagement and project stakeholders to create final design proposal for approval by the Civic Art Division. Artist will verify the factual accuracy of any historical statements and will confirm the legal use of photographs.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- **Construction drawings**

Artist will provide preliminary conservation approval of artwork materials and create drawings as necessary for construction and fabrication of their artwork.

- **Artwork Fabrication and Installation**

Artist will oversee the fabrication and delivery of their artwork, and monitor installation. Installation will be completed by others.

- **Project Closeout**

Artist will provide final narrative, conservation maintenance guidelines, and professional photography of artwork.

For more details about a civic art project's scope of work, please follow this link to review a sample artist agreement: [**Sample Artist Agreement**](#)

BUDGET

The maximum all-inclusive project budget is **\$290,000**.

The budget includes all costs associated with completion of the project deliverables, including (when applicable): artist design fee; travel expenses; project assistant(s); administrative costs; production; consultant fees (architect, engineer, as necessary); conservation services/maintenance guidelines; auto and liability insurance; community engagement expenses; materials; artwork fabrication; storage; equipment; fabrication of signage and hardscape elements; fabrication of artwork plaque; monitoring of artwork installation; and professional photography.

Arts and Culture may elect to revise the budget to address changes in the Scope of Work, price, or any term and condition. This will be a deliverables-based contract, with payments made as deliverables are completed and approved. In the event there are unspent funds in the budget after completion of the project, Arts and Culture may, at its sole discretion, choose to contract with the Artist for additional services.

SCHEDULE

CALL FOR ARTISTS SCHEDULE

Call for Artists Release	July 27, 2026
Artist Informational Meeting	August 4, 2026, 12:00 pm PST
Application Deadline	August 27, 2026, 5:00 pm PST
Part A – Artist Selection Committee Meeting	September 2026
Part B – Proposal Selection Committee Meeting, Commission Awarded	February 2027

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Project Start	May 2027
Completion of Artwork Design	September 2027
Fabrication Completion	August 2028
Installation Begins	September 2028
Project Completion	Spring 2029

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Submissions are due by or before **5:00 pm, Pacific Standard Time (PST) on August 27, 2026**. Any materials received after the due date and time specified above will be rejected and considered non-responsive.

APPLICATION INFORMATIONAL MEETING (RECOMMENDED)

We highly encourage all Artists interested in applying for this project to attend the free informational meeting. Artists will learn more about the goals of the project, the application process, and have the opportunity to ask questions. Please register [here](#) and you will receive the link to the meeting.

Those not able to attend the meeting can email questions by July 31, 2026 at 5:00 pm PST to iregn@arts.lacounty.gov. A transcript of the Q&A from the Application Information Meeting as well as the questions that are emailed will be posted on our website August 4, 2026.

TO APPLY

All interested artists are invited to submit an application online using this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/250205921364147>

SUBMISSION MATERIALS

1. Resume/CV

Please provide 1-2 pages (maximum) outlining your professional art qualifications, which may include previous projects, experience, education/training and other related credentials.

For Artist teams, include a brief bio describing your collaboration and identify the legal entity that will be the one entering into a contract for the project.

2. Description of Interest

Please provide responses to the following:

- What has been your connection to the project themes, including your involvement with Native communities. (300 word maximum);
- Brief description of your artistic practice and your method of developing high quality, innovative and meaningful artwork (300 word maximum).

3. Work Samples

Please provide up to 10 images of your existing artworks.

Include a brief description of the project, date of completion, project budget, artist collaboration (if applicable), client/agency (if applicable), media, location (if applicable).

4. Standard County Provisions Verification

Please review and acknowledge the following Standard County Provisions:

- Public Records Act
- No Conflict of Interest (Board Policies 5.090)

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- Consideration of GAIN/START Participants for Employment (Board Policy 5.050)
- Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices (Board Policy 5.250)

5. Preference Program Participation (if applicable)

Artists who have certification in one or more of the Los Angeles County's preference programs (Local Small Business Enterprise, Social Enterprise, or Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise) must provide a copy of their certification with their submission materials.



Fig 4. LA River Headwaters

CIVIC ART OPEN CALL

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CALL FOR ARTISTS APPLICATION REVIEW

A panel composed of arts professionals will review all applications and select up to 15 semi-finalists for further review. A selection committee, which includes community members, County representatives, project stakeholders and arts professionals, will review the applications of the semi-finalists and select up to four finalists and one alternate to develop artwork proposals for the civic art project.

Applications will be scored using the following criteria:

- **Artistic Merit:** Past works and creative practice reflect high level of aesthetic quality and technical execution. Artworks are innovative and engaging. (up to 50 points)
- **Suitability for the Project:** Artist work samples and interests demonstrate suitability for the artwork themes and goals in work sample projects. (up to 50 points)

EVALUATION OF ARTWORK PROPOSALS

Once the finalists have been selected, each artist will receive a contract and a stipend to create a project proposal. To help shape these ideas, the Civic Art Division will host an engagement session where artists can meet key project stakeholders, hear directly from them, and ask questions to guide the development of their proposals. The finalists will present their proposals to the selection committee who will evaluate and award the commission. Artwork proposals will be scored using the following criteria:

- **Artistic Merit:** Artwork Proposal reflects a high level of aesthetic quality, is innovative and evokes a response. (up to 40 points)
- **Suitability for the Project, Site, Communities, and Artist Engagement:** Artwork Proposal demonstrates suitability for the themes and goals of the project, responds to the site and resonates with the project communities. The Artwork Proposal engages the communities, users, and diverse stakeholders to create a meaningful artwork. (up to 40 points)
- **Budget, Schedule, and Project Management:** Project budget and schedule are clear, specific and detailed, indicating the artwork can be fully implemented. Artist demonstrates the ability to successfully provide project management of the scope of work including budgets, management of fabricator, administrative logistics, and ability to engage with various stakeholders and audiences. Emerging public

- artists can include project management consultants on their artist team. (up to 17-20 points)
- *Based on the project budget, proposers will receive a maximum score of 17 points in this category. However, proposers having certification for one or more of the Los Angeles County's preference programs (Local Small Business Enterprise, Social Enterprise, or Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise) shall receive an additional 3 points for a maximum of 20.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For questions, please contact Iris Anna Regn, Civic Art Project Manager: iregn@arts.lacounty.gov.
- For additional information about the Civic Art Division, please visit: www.lacountyarts.org/experiences/civic-art
- For additional information about the Department of Arts and Culture, please visit: www.lacountyarts.org
- For additional information on Los Angeles County's Land Acknowledgement: <https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/>
- Arts and Culture reserves the right to amend or change this Artist Call by written addendum. Should such addendum require additional information not previously requested, failure to address the requirements of such addendum may result in the proposal being found non-responsive and not being considered, as determined in the sole discretion of the County. The County is not responsible for and will not be bound by any representations otherwise made by any individual acting or purporting to act on its behalf.
- This Artist Call does not constitute an offer to contract or a promise for remuneration, recognition, or any other thing. Submission of any materials in response to this work order will not constitute an express or implied contract. The information contained and/or any program or event described herein may be changed, amended, modified, canceled, revoked or

abandoned without notice at any time and for any reason in the sole discretion of Arts and Culture or the County of Los Angeles.

- If the consultant's proposal is selected, the consultant will be required to register as an LA County vendor and enter into a contract with the County of Los Angeles. A sample of the Arts and Culture contract can be reviewed here: <https://www.lacountyarts.org/experiences/civic-art/resources>. It is the duty of every proposer to thoroughly review the Sample Contract to ensure compliance with all terms, conditions, and requirements.
- Arts and Culture may elect, at its sole discretion, to terminate the contract or revise the budget to address changes to the Scope of Work, price, or any terms or conditions

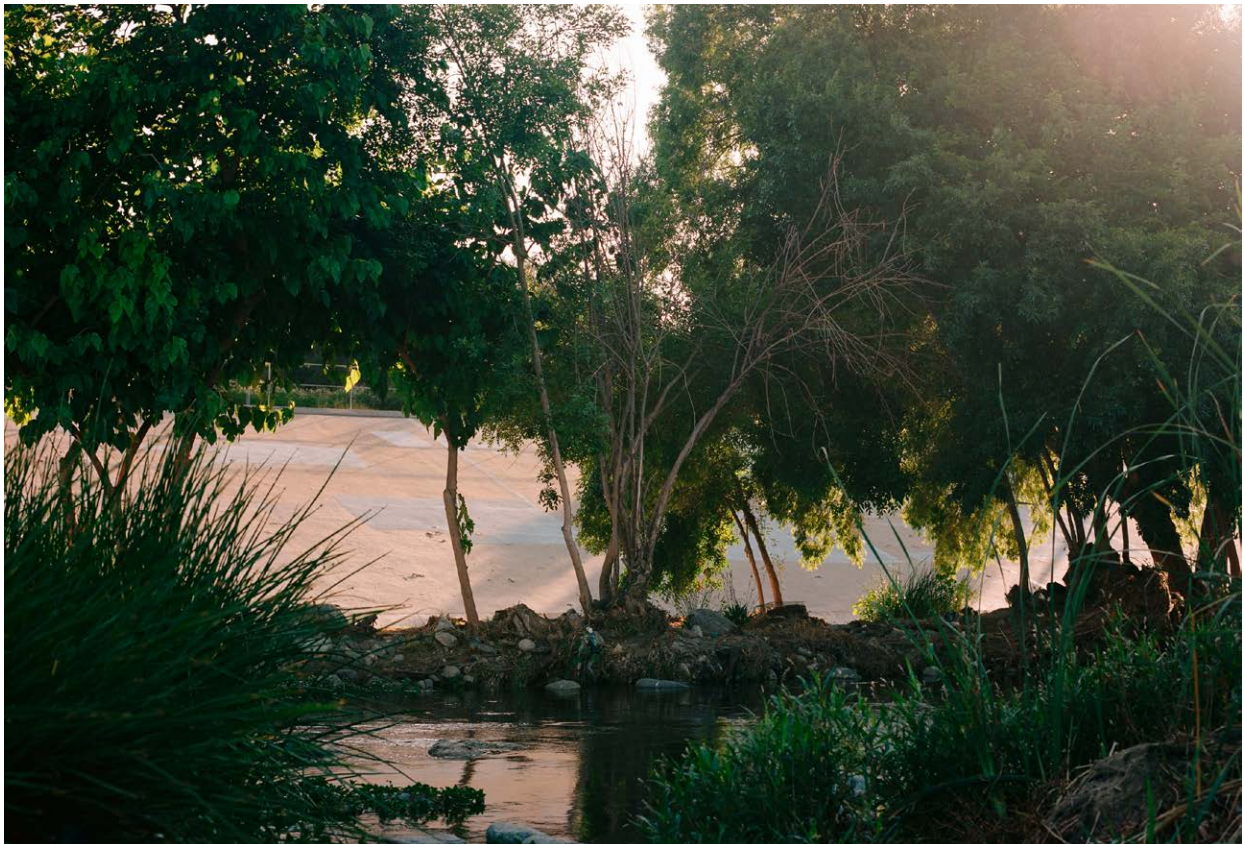


Fig 5. Image credit: Star Montana

STANDARD COUNTY PROVISIONS

Insurance Requirements: Selected Artist and sub-contractors will be required to have commercial general liability insurance, automobile insurance (if applicable). Selected Artist must be a registered vendor with the County of Los Angeles prior to contracting.

Public Records Act: Responses to this Artist Call shall become property of the County. When Arts and Culture makes the final selection, all submissions in response to this Artist Call become a matter of public record, with the exception of those parts of each submission which are justifiably defined and identified by the applicant as business or trade secrets, and plainly marked as "Trade Secret," "Confidential," or "Proprietary." The County shall not, in any way, be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such record or any parts thereof, if disclosure is required or permitted under the California Public Records Act or otherwise by law. A blanket statement of confidentiality or the marking of each page of the submission as confidential shall not be deemed sufficient notice of exception. The applicant must specifically label only those provisions of their respective submission which are "Trade Secrets," "Confidential," or "Proprietary" in nature.

Conflict of Interest (Board Policies 5.090): No County employee whose position in the County enables him/her to influence the selection of an applicant for this Artist Call, nor any spouse or economic dependent of such employee, shall be employed in any capacity by applicant or have any other direct or indirect financial interest in the selection of an applicant. Applicant shall certify that he/she is aware of and has read Section 2.180.010 of the Los Angeles County Code. An applicant, or its subsidiary or Subcontractor is prohibited from submitting a proposal in a County solicitation if the applicant has provided advice or consultation for the solicitation. An applicant is also prohibited from submitting a bid or proposal in a County solicitation if the applicant has developed or prepared any of the solicitation materials on behalf of the County. A violation of this provision shall result in the disqualification of the applicant from participation in the County solicitation or the termination or cancellation of any resultant County contract.

Consideration of GAIN/START Participants for Employment (Board Policy 5.050): As a threshold requirement for consideration of a County Contract, applicants shall demonstrate a proven record of hiring participants in the County's Department of Public Social Services Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) or Skills and Training to Achieve Readiness for Tomorrow (START) Programs or shall attest to a willingness to consider GAIN/START participants for any future employment openings if they meet the minimum qualifications for that opening. Applicants shall attest to a willingness to provide employed GAIN/START participants access to the Applicant's employee mentoring program, if available, to assist these individuals in obtaining permanent employment and/or promotional opportunities. Applicants who are unable to meet this requirement shall not be considered for a County Contract. Applicants shall complete and return the form, Attestation of Willingness to Consider GAIN/START Participants.

Acknowledgement of County's Commitment to Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices (Board Policy 5.250): On May 29, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a Fair Chance Employment Policy in an effort to remove job barriers for individuals with criminal records. The policy requires businesses that contract with the County to comply with fair chance employment hiring practices set forth in California Government Code Section 12952, Employment Discrimination: Conviction History (Section 12952). Applicants are required to complete Attachment C ("Compliance with Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices Certification"), certifying that they are in full compliance with Section 12952 for the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation.

Safely Surrendered Baby Law (Board Policy 5.135): The applicant shall notify and provide to its employees, and shall require each subcontractor to notify and provide to its employees, information regarding the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, its implementation in Los Angeles County, and where and how to safely surrender a baby. Additional information is available at www.babysafela.org.

Protest Policy (Board Policy No. 5.055): Any prospective Vendor may request a review of the requirements under a solicitation for a services contract. Additionally, any actual Vendor may request a review of a disqualification under such a solicitation, as described in the Sections below. Throughout the review process, the County has no obligation to delay or otherwise postpone an award of contract based on a Vendor protest. In all cases, the County reserves the right to make an award when it is determined to be in the best interest of the County of Los Angeles to do so.

Grounds for Review. Unless state or federal statutes or regulations otherwise provide, the grounds for review of any Departmental determination or action should be limited to the following:

- **Review of Solicitation Requirements Review.** The solicitation's requirements and evaluation criteria unfairly disadvantage the protestor, or the solicitation's instructions were unclear and may result in the County not receiving the best possible responses from proposers.
- **Review of a Disqualified Application.** The protestor's application was incorrectly reviewed and disqualified based on the solicitation's evaluation criteria.
- **Protest Process.** Requests for review must be submitted in writing within the time specified by the Department. The request must identify the person or entity submitting the protest. The request must itemize in appropriate detail, each matter contested and factual reasons for the requested review.