



2495 Main Street #401, Buffalo NY 14214 \* 716-833-3004 \* [www.asiwny.org](http://www.asiwny.org)

**Call for Artist/Designer  
Buffalo Sister Cities Sign Post  
Public Art Project  
(located near the Immigrant Steps at Canalside, Buffalo, NY)**

Arts Services Inc. of Western New York (ASI), on behalf of Assemblymember Jon D. Rivera's Office, invites artists from throughout Western New York to submit proposals for an outdoor public art project located near the Immigrant Steps by the North Aud site at Canalside in Buffalo, New York.

This call is limited to artists living within the 5 counties of Western New York, including Erie, Niagara, Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua.

**Project Background and Goals**

This is a proposal to design, fabricate, and install a public art work representing a signpost at Canalside in Buffalo, New York. On the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Erie Canal in 2025, the standing work will display the names of the Sister Cities of Buffalo. Thus, linking the immigrant past of Buffalo with its current commitment to international partnerships.

The Erie Canal provided the pathway for the economic growth of Buffalo and the influx of immigrant populations to fuel this growth. Erie Canal Bicentennial Commemoration programming and events will take place May - September 2025.

Buffalo's seventeen Sister Cities embody the Sister City Program initiated by President Eisenhower to establish "Citizen Diplomacy" via person-to-person contacts. Sister Cities share their culture, music, art, and exchange programs of students and professionals. A committee of each Sister City meets regularly to discuss increasing awareness in the community and plan events to support that initiative.

The Public Art is to be erected near the Immigrant Steps at Canalside.

**The chosen work should:**

ASI is seeking artists to submit proposals to create an outdoor Public Art Project/signpost for Buffalo Sister Cities.

The proposed design and project should include:

- The signpost should be between 13 - 15 ft high and 12"x 12" at base maximum. At grade connection and structural support are to be included in the design.



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- 17 signs, each 6x24 inches, would be affixed identifying each Sister City, the Country and the distance in miles and kilometers (on both sides). The flag of each country and city should be included (see details below).
- A top piece should have “Buffalo Sister Cities” and the symbol of the American flag and the Buffalo emblem should be added to identify the piece.
- Double sided panels should have the country flags, sister city names, countries, distances from Buffalo in miles and kilometers. See sample panel in attachments below. Example:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Dortmund, Germany: 3,861 mi / 6,213 km        | Facing East   |
| Lille, France: 3,719 mi / 5,986 km            | Facing East   |
| Kanazawa, Japan: 6,525 mi / 10,500 km         | Facing West   |
| Siena, Italy: 4309 mi / 6.935 km              | Facing East   |
| Torremaggiore, Italy: 4,539 mi / 7,305 km     | Facing East   |
| Kiryat Gat, Israel: 5,803 mi / 9,500 km       | Facing East   |
| St. Ann Parish, Jamaica: 1,699 mi / 2,734 km  | Facing South  |
| Rzeszow, Poland: 4,452 mi / 7,165 km          | Facing East   |
| Drohobych, Ukraine: 4,534 mi / 7,297 km       | Facing East   |
| Horlivka, Ukraine: 5,068 mi / 8,156 km        | Facing East   |
| Yeongcheon, South.Korea: 6,640 mi / 10,686 km | Facing West   |
| Changzhou, China: 7,147 mi / 11,507 km        | Facing West   |
| Bani, Dominican Republic: 1,774 mi / 2,855 km | Facing South  |
| Cape Coast, Ghana: 5,359 mi. / 9,500 km       | Facing S.West |
| Abeadze State, Ghana: 5,345 mi. / 8,602 km    | Facing S.West |
| Bursa, Turkey: 5,170 mi. / 8,,321 km          | Facing S.West |
| Muhanga, Rwanda: 7,290 mi. / 11,732 km        | Facing S.West |

**We ask that an additional 4 slots are included for additional panels in the future.**

- The signpost should have an expected lifespan of 50 years.
- All panels must be at least 9’ feet clear of grade to be out of reach of the public’s grasp. No sharp edges from ground to panels will be considered.

### **Budget**

A commission of up to \$10,000 is available for the chosen artist to create (and install) their work.

Within this budget, artists are required to provide all supplies and materials to complete the work. The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) does not provide storage/water access for the artist on site. No creation or assembly of artwork is allowed at Canalside property, this must be the artists’ responsibility. Transportation of public art to Canalside should be arranged through the artist and/or fabricator. ECHDC staff will coordinate installation with the artist and/or fabricator.



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Upon approval, an installation logistics meeting is required with ECHDC staff to start preparation of the installation location. Time must be allocated for this site prep to go to bid and be completed before installation. (All ECHDC projects must go to bid.)

ECHDC will have final approval of public artwork based on safety to the public, durability of materials, and sensibility of the structure in a public space setting.

**Please include any and all requests in the artist proposal. Artists should detail what assistance or materials are provided by his/her/themself and what may be required in their proposal (if applicable).**

#### Timeline

**Deadline to Submit: by 5pm on Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

**Late June/Early July 2025:** Selection of Artist

**Late June/Early July 2025:** Public Announcement of Selection

**Summer 2025:** Project Implementation & Planning Meetings; completed and installed work

**NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2025:** The public art piece must be created and installed.

The timeline will adhere to Canalside's event and construction schedule.

Proposals should be uploaded via Jotform application [AVAILABLE HERE](#).

#### Proposals should include:

- Contact information (including email, phone, and address).
- Link to your website and/or social media profiles (if applicable).

#### Within one PDF document, the proposal should include:

- A written description of the work including materials and dimensions;
- Sketche(s) of the proposed work;
- A budget detailing artist fees, materials, supplies, and any other project-related expense;
- Estimated cost on fabricator letterhead and/or a letter of agreement outlining cost details;
- Examples of past work; and
- If using any other vendors/fabricators to create this public artwork, links to examples of their past work.

Questions can be sent electronically to [gaitrie@asiwny.org](mailto:gaitrie@asiwny.org) with the subject line 'Buffalo Sister Cities Proposal'. This is a public space and can be viewed at any time by artist and/or fabricator,



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see attached map for approximate location. If you have additional questions about the **space**, please contact Chastity O'Shei, [chastity.oshei@esd.ny.gov](mailto:chastity.oshei@esd.ny.gov) from Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC). If you have additional questions about the **project**, please contact Gaitrie Subryan [gaitrie@asiwny.org](mailto:gaitrie@asiwny.org) from ASI.

**Proposals are due no later than 5 pm on Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

A panel of qualified arts and business professionals (including community members and those associated with Buffalo Sister Cities) will review proposals for their eligibility and appropriateness for the project.

#### Photos of the Site of Installation





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**Examples Below:**

This is a sample panel for illustrative purposes; your proposed design is not required to match it:

