

CALL FOR ARTISTS (RFQ): RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS

LB LeBASSE projects

LA County
ARTS &
CULTURE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The County of Los Angeles is seeking local artists for low-cost temporary artworks at five (5) RV homeless encampment sites across LA County. Commissioned artworks are intended to enhance and beautify areas after an RV resolution, including any barriers erected to discourage RVs from returning once they have been removed. Temporary artworks should be co-created with community members and may include but are not limited to murals; art on barriers, fencing, or structures; and asphalt art.

The LA County Board of Supervisors declared a Homeless Emergency in January 2023. Due to the rising number of people experiencing RV homelessness, the Homeless Initiative created an RV Homeless Encampment Protocol in February 2023. Shortly thereafter, the County implemented a major expansion of its ongoing efforts to resolve encampments countywide, including RVs, in partnership with local jurisdictions and unincorporated communities, called the Pathway Home program.

The program is led by the County and implemented in partnership with local jurisdictions, unincorporated communities, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, local service providers, and other jurisdictional partners.

This RFQ outlines one current art opportunity located in the unincorporated Los Angeles County community of East Gardena.



OVERALL PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

The goal of this RFQ is to establish a pool of artists from which the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture can select for all five art project opportunities, including the first opportunity detailed in this document. The goal for these artwork opportunities is to develop community-led public artwork intended to enhance and beautify areas after an RV resolution has occurred, and to discourage RVs from returning. There will be one art project for each of LA County's five Supervisorial Districts. At this time, one site has been identified, in the Second District.

The first project site requires its own unique mediums, utilizing highly imaginative and forward-thinking approaches. Selected Artists and Artist Teams will be asked to demonstrate creative applications to support the neighboring businesses and residents. We encourage Artists and Artist Teams to review the first opportunity and consider how their own practice relates to the conceptual and visual demands and how their art practice might address the stated project goals.

CURATORIAL EXPECTATIONS

This program is searching for innovative Artists and Artist Teams with an ability to creatively approach public art, and have a deep understanding of how public art complements and supports our community and civic environment. Artists or Artist Teams shortlisted through this RFQ will be asked to address the selected artwork locations as a way to deter RV encampments from returning, and to create community-led artwork.

Each location demands unique approaches and creative uses of materials and sustainability, and we invite Artists and Artist Teams to offer their approaches to attaining the project goals. Artist and Artist Teams should take the following under consideration across each of the opportunities:

- **Physical engagement with the public**
- **Useful approaches to align with the project goals**
- **Utilization of creative mediums**
- **Artwork sustainability and conservation**
- **Reflect the County's commitment to cultural and racial equity, inclusion, and access**
- **Align with the attributes of the surrounding neighborhoods where project sites are located**
- **Contribute to supportive spaces for inhabitants and surrounding communities**

ELIGIBILITY

Artists age 18 or older may apply as an individual or as a team. The RFQ is open to artists who have either lived or worked in the County of Los Angeles but the following considerations will be strongly considered:

- Artists who can demonstrate the ability to oversee the design, fabrication and installation of public works - or who have a history of working with design/build/engineering/fabrication teams to accomplish these needs.
- Artists without previous public art experience that demonstrate an ability to manage a team to accomplish the goals are still strongly encouraged to apply.
- Artists in traditionally and historically underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.
- For this first opportunity, artists who work or reside within the 2nd Supervisorial District of Los Angeles County.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

This project is managed by LeBasse Projects for the Department of Arts and Culture. For questions please email: catherine@lebasseprojects.com

This project is a partnership between the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The mission of the Department of Arts and Culture is to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout Los Angeles County. It provides leadership, services, and support in areas including grants for nonprofit organizations, countywide arts education initiatives, commissioning and care for civic art collections, research and evaluation, access to creative pathways, professional development, free community programs, and cross-sector creative strategies that address civic issues.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Artist Review and Selection Committee will evaluate all responses to this RFQ and present a short list for review by County stakeholders for selection.

Selected Artists or Artist Teams will then be invited to submit a proposal, delivering site specific concepts and designs. These invited Artists will be provided a stipend upon submitting responses. The stipend totals will depend on the individual location opportunity. Invited Artists and Artist Teams will be given additional site details as well as sample contracts to review during this process.

The evaluation and scoring of Artists submitting an RFQ will center around the following criteria:

1. ARTISTIC QUALIFICATIONS

Based on written response and examples of prior work submitted:

- The Artist displays a strong artistic ability based on their past work.
- The Artist demonstrates their ability to successfully execute the project within the timeline.
- The Artist's past work shows an appropriate connection to the art opportunity.

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT / COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Based on past work and written responses:

- The Artist shows a strong sense of public engagement and connectivity to the community in their work.

3. CULTURAL EQUITY

Based on application responses:

- Artists who have a strong connection to the 2nd Supervisorial District community will take precedence in the selection process. Cultural and racial equity will play a significant role in our decisions, with particular emphasis on the perspectives reflected in artist's work and experiences.

BUDGET

Budgets range from \$20,000-\$40,000 depending on the artist's proposal.

The exact final commission contracts will be determined based on the approved and selected proposals and the needs of each.

Commission budgets are to be inclusive of Artist fees, artwork fabrication and installation costs, insurance, engineering and any transportation costs as well as any other costs associated with creating the artwork including foundations, footings, lighting or signage.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Letter of Interest: Include the Proposer's name, address, phone number, and email. Compose a statement (maximum 1000 words) outlining relevant experience completed within the past five years and your interest in developing a public art proposal that would positively impact Los Angeles County.

2. Detailed Resume and CV

3. Samples of Past Projects (Up to 5): Showcase up to 5 relevant past projects. Details must include appropriate images and photography as well as information including - Title, budget, client, location, media/materials, year completed and a short description of the project.

A pdf and details may be uploaded to the submission platform.

4. References: Submit two references that include client name and contact person along with title, contact details, and specific project information associated with the listed reference. References will only be contacted if the candidate meets the qualifications to continue on in the selection process.

RFQ TIMELINE

The following schedule may be updated at any point, but below is the intended RFQ timeline:

RFQ released: September 3rd, 2024

Deadline for questions: September 10th, 2024

Response to questions posted: September 13th, 2024

Deadline to apply: October 4th, 2024

Shortlist Selected: October 21st - October 25th, 2024

Shortlisted Artists present concepts to key County stakeholders: December 9th, 2024

Finalists Selected: January 2025

Installation deliveries estimated from Spring 2025 onward.

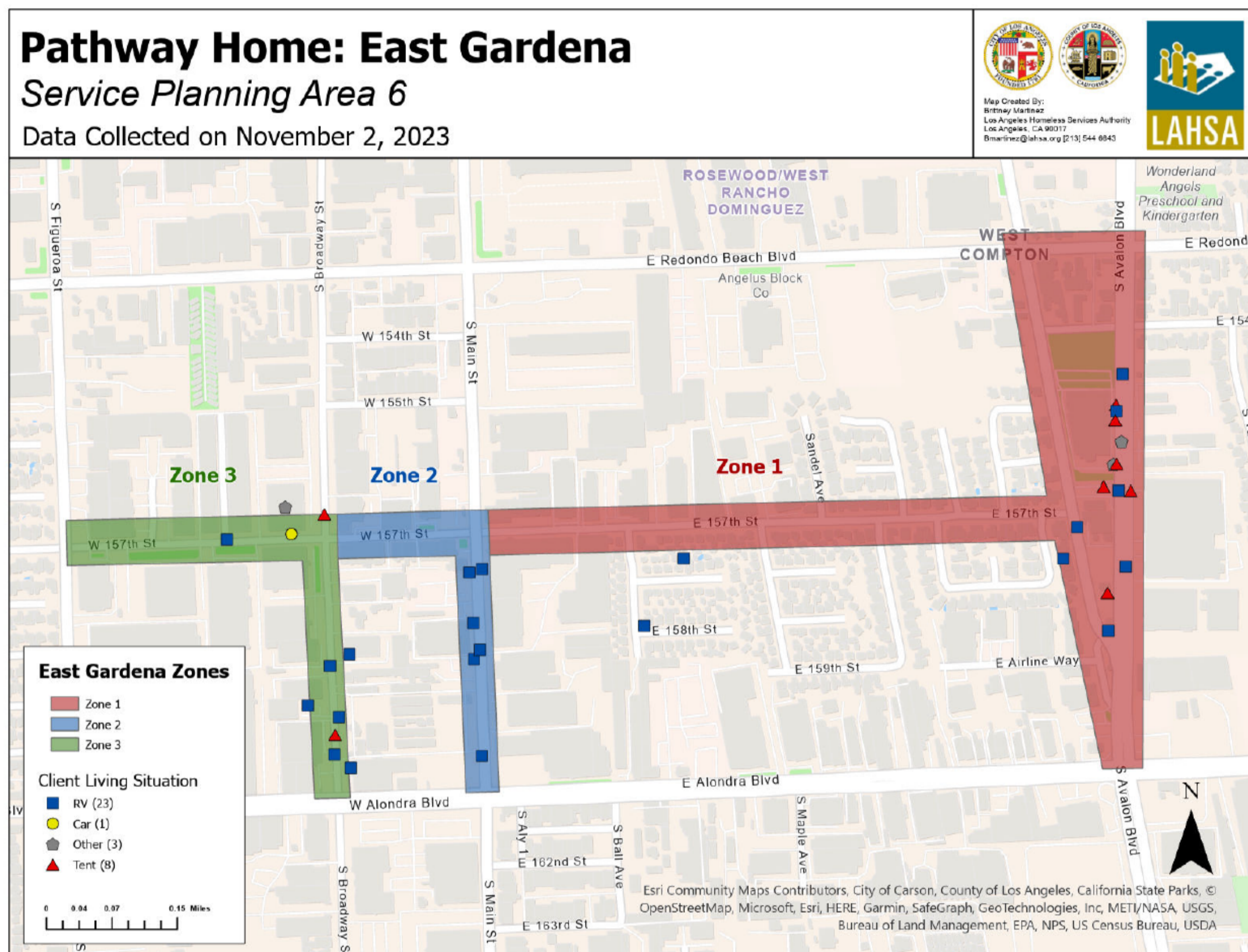
HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be received via **Submittable:**
<https://lebasseprojects.submittable.com/submit>

OPPORTUNITY 1 | EAST GARDENA

EAST GARDENA

Budget TBD



East Gardena is one of the areas that Pathway Home has conducted operations in the 2nd Supervisorial District of Los Angeles County. Pathway Home was able to assist in moving over 562 participants into interim housing, and 95 into permanent housing. Zone 1 depicts a residential area, whereas Zones 2 and 3 are industrial areas. Art in Zone 1 is preferred at this point in time.

This location and project seeks an Artist or Artist Team to create an artistic solution that discourages encampments and RVs from parking in the area. The goal is to deter re-population of the RVs, and enhance the usability of the sidewalk, ensuring a safe space for residents and local business owners.

FAQS

1. Who can apply to the RV Homeless Encampments Call for Artists?

The RFQ is open to artists 18+ who have lived or worked in Los Angeles County.

2. What qualifies as an eligible artist or artist team?

The following considerations will be strongly noted:

- Artists who can demonstrate the ability to oversee the design, fabrication and installation of public works - or who have a history of working with design/build/engineering/fabrication teams to accomplish these needs.
- Artists without previous public art experience that demonstrate an ability to manage a team to accomplish the goals are still strongly encouraged to apply.
- Artists in traditionally and historically underrepresented groups, and artists that live or work in the 2nd Supervisorial District of Los Angeles County are strongly encouraged to apply.

3. Will artists need to propose a concept to apply?

No, this RFQ is for qualifications only. A shortlist of artists will be selected from the applicants to move on to the next stage of developing concepts to present to LA County, the Homeless Initiative, and other stakeholders. These finalists will receive a stipend for their concept design work. **Applicants should not propose a concept when applying to the RFQ.**

4. Can artists apply for multiple installation locations?

Yes, artists are encouraged to apply for the installation opportunities that best fit their qualifications. **Please apply only for opportunities best reflected by past work and practices.**

5. Will artists need to submit an application for each location?

No, **artists will only need to submit one application.** The application will allow artists to check each location they are interested in applying for.

6. Will artists receive a stipend for their work?

Selected finalists will be asked to create site-specific concept designs to present to the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture. These selected artists will receive a stipend for their concept work.

7. When is the deadline to apply?

The deadline to apply to the RFQ is TBD.

8. How should artist teams submit their CVs?

Artists can combine their CVs into a single PDF for submission.

9. Is there a maximum word count for providing the associated project information under References?

There is no maximum word count, but a short description of the project and artwork done is preferred.

10. If applying as an artist team, will the collective experiences of the artist team be considered, or will selection be based primarily on the work of one artist?

Selection will be based on the collective experience of an artist team. It is more advantageous to provide experience of the team as a whole in order to showcase the work of the group.

11. How can artists submit the descriptions of the five work examples?

Artists can submit five different files, one for each work example, with the description of that artwork in each of those files. Artists can also combine all work examples and descriptions into a single PDF.