



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 1233 – 1237 North Gay Street PUBLIC ART DESIGN

Background

ReBUILD Metro, Inc. seeks proposals from qualified local artists that specialize in public and placemaking art murals and art in the right of way (ROW) to lead a collaborative community-based planning process for a street art installation at 1237 Gay Street that will result in a final design.

ReBUILD Metro works directly with community leaders in East Baltimore to identify common issues that impact the health, welfare, and sustainability of the communities we serve. As we rebuild abandoned properties into new homes, we provide technical and planning support for community-led initiatives that enhance the surrounding communities for new and legacy residents alike. We seek partners who participate with us and residents in both the planning and implementation of projects prioritized by local communities that adhere to the following site criteria, guiding principles, and community outreach protocols.

Site Location

Blighted former gas station at 1237 North Gay Street, overgrown vacant lots at 1233 and 1235 North Gay Street and the surrounding 2,300 square feet of pavement in Broadway East. The desired outcome is a beautified, interactive public art and placemaking installation with adjacent 2,000 square foot pocket park. See Exhibit A for pictures of the site. See Exhibit B for an aerial view of the site.

Guiding Principles

The following principles guide the content of our public art and placemaking installations.

- *Beautification*: The project will add color, beauty, and positive imagery to the neighborhood.
- *Community Stewardship*: The project will offer residents both new and old an opportunity to help forge, showcase, and reflect the cultural identity and shared history of the neighborhood, increasing their collective sense of ownership in their growing community.
- *Community Messaging*: The project will empower residents, community members, and partnering organizations to send a community-crafted message to fellow neighbors and visitors that their community is a place of growth, positivity, and sustainability.
- *Traffic Calming*: The project will ensure that vehicles are traveling through this portion of the neighborhood at an appropriate speed to increase safety for pedestrians.

Community Outreach

ReBUILD Metro believes that community engagement is critical during each step of the planning, design, and installation process. We will ask artists with whom we partner to participate in community meetings; to provide surveys to refine aesthetics, themes, and values of the art they are designing; to provide draft options for community review; and to present final concepts to community members for approval.



Once selected, the artist and ReBUILD Metro will finalize and implement a community engagement plan that will involve the following three community planning workshops:

- Workshop 1: Introduction to the project and initial survey on priority locations, general aesthetic, and type of art.
- Workshop 2: The artist will present an initial rendering to community members and explain how it incorporates the discussed themes, visions, and values.
- Workshop 3: The artist will present the revised rendering to community members to seek/receive full approval.

Application Requirements

If you are interested in partnering with ReBUILD Metro to increase placemaking and public art 1237 Gay Street in East Baltimore, please submit an application packet that includes the following information:

- Artist Contact information (Name, Address, Email, Telephone)
- CV or Resume
- Description of previous public and placemaking art mural and art in the right of way installations, including color digital images of previous relevant work with annotated image descriptions. JPEG format preferred for previous artwork samples. (Please label: Last name, First name; maximum 5 work samples).
- A short description of community engagement tools and methods used on past projects.
- Budget for community engagement workshops and final concept design.

Please submit your application no later than Friday, August 28, 2026 to Phaedra Stewart at pstewart@rebuildmetro.com.

Artist Selection

Artists who submit RFPs will be selected by a steering committee that includes representation from ReBUILD Metro and representatives/stakeholders from the Broadway East community as well as communities adjacent to the site location. Responses will be provided to artists no later than September 25, 2026.

Once artists have been selected, ReBUILD Metro will hold an introductory meeting with the selected artist that will include a community tour and introductions to community representatives/stakeholders.

Contact Information

For more information or questions, please contact Phaedra Stewart at pstewart@rebuildmetro.com.

Exhibit A





Exhibit B

