



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS SWAYNE FIELD Public Art Project: Toledo, OH

I. PROJECT INTENT

The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo's Art in Public Places Program has partnered with the City of Toledo's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to commission a new work of public art that will be integrated into the Swayne Field Shopping Center in the Englewood neighborhood of Toledo OH.

HCD, together with the site owner's investment, has raised \$3 million in federal grants and loans to upgrade the multi-acre site, with a goal of attracting new tenants, including small and minority-owned businesses, and a new lead resource center as an anchor. Rehabilitation efforts include major reconstruction to adapt the current parking space into a more walkable plaza with green space, lighting, trees, landscaping including bioswales for stormwater runoff, and a complete update of the building's facade. These updates, in conjunction with a public art installation that celebrates the site's history and imagines the future of Englewood, will transform the site from an underutilized space into a beautiful and accessible community hub.

A Design Review Board (DRB) plans to select three artists/teams to propose complete designs for the project. Finalists will be paid a stipend of \$2000 to participate in the concept proposal process, which will include touring Swayne Field and meeting the Design Review Board and community members prior to developing a proposal. We are looking for artists that have experience with incorporating community input in the creative process as well as proven experience in successfully executing public art projects. Submitted qualifications will be judged on a competitive basis.

The artist or team selected for the commission shall collaborate closely with the project management team through in-person meetings and other necessary means of communication when developing conceptual designs for artwork, including site integration, content, media, and application.

A map of the site can be viewed [here](#).

II. BUDGET

Three finalists will be paid \$2000 to develop proposals for the site. The overall budget for commissioning, designing, and creating the artwork is \$75,000, including but not limited to expenses related to project completion, site preparation, additional design fees, materials, equipment, documentation, transportation, installation and travel.

III. ELIGIBILITY

The project is open to all artists living within 150 miles of Toledo (see Attachment 1), age 18 and over, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines.

IV. TIMELINE

April 22, 2026	Public Info Session
April 23, 2026	Launch Request For Qualifications (RFQ)
May 18, 2026	Qualifications Submission Due Date
June 14, 2026	Three Finalists Announced
June 23, 2026	Site Visits
June 25, 2026	Design Phase Begins
July 25, 2026	Proposal Presentations
August 11, 2026	Winning Proposal Announced

The Arts Commission reserves the right to change the project timeline. Dates for site visits are tentative and will be based on the availability of the finalists.

V. HOW TO APPLY

Artists interested in this project must prepare and submit the following:

- Letter of Interest - This letter should be no more than one page and should explain the artist's interest in the project.
- Current Resume - If submitting as a team, a current resume for each team member should be provided.
- Visual Support Materials - Submit 5 digital images of your most recent professional work.
- Annotated image list - The image list must include the artist's name and a brief description of image stating its title, date, medium, size, location and if a commissioned project, the commission budget.

All submissions must be received by 11:59 pm EST, May 18, 2026.

Materials must be submitted at the link below:

[Swayne Field Request For Qualifications](#)

**Submission uploads collected via Google Drive; Google account required to complete submission. Please contact Ben Cook (bcook@theartscommission.org) for assistance uploading RFQ materials.*

VI. SELECTION PROCESS

The Design Review Board for this project will review all submissions and select up to three artists/teams as finalists. The finalists will then be asked to develop a conceptual approach for artwork at the site and make a presentation of their proposal, including process for community engagement, artistic concept, materials, maintenance guidelines, special equipment needs, and a preliminary budget. The finalists will be compensated \$2000 dollars (\$2000) for their participation in this stage of the selection.

The Design Review Board will be composed of members of The Arts Commission's Art in Public Places Committee, residents of the Englewood neighborhood, and additional stakeholders.

For further information, please contact: Nathan Mattimoe, Director of Art in Public Places; 419-254-2787 ext. 1011.

VII. ABOUT TOLEDO

Toledo is located on the western shore of Lake Erie and is the fourth largest city in Ohio, with a population of approximately 650,000 people in the metropolitan area. Toledo has a storied past in the manufacturing of many well-known icons of industry including The Jeep and Toledo Scale. Toledo is also known as The Glass Capital of the World for glass manufacturing and is the birthplace of the American Studio Glass Movement.

Toledo has an impressive collection of public art, with large-scale sculptures, murals, and functional structures by noted artists from all over the world. Many of these pieces were acquired through the pioneering 1977 ordinance that set aside one percent of Toledo's Capital Improvement Budget for the purchase, conservation, and public education of art. The city also offers a wide array of cultural opportunities including The Toledo Museum of Art, The Toledo Symphony Orchestra and The Toledo Opera.

VIII. ABOUT THE ENGLEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

Englewood is one of Toledo's oldest and most notable neighborhoods. It existed as part of Toledo's Old West End until the construction of the I-75 Expressway, dividing Englewood from the rest of the Old West End neighborhoods. The area grew into a residential neighborhood towards the end of the 1800s, evolving into a community with unique architecture in the Queen Anne, Late Victorian, and Italianate styles.

Englewood became known for its iconic landmarks, including Swayne Field, which opened in 1909. Swayne field was an important destination as the home of the Toledo Mud Hens, as well as the location of Negro League games and community activities that took place for decades before its redevelopment in the 1950s.

Englewood also experienced the emergence of major industrial developments in the early 20th century, especially the Doehler-Jarvis plant, built in the early 1900s, which manufactured automotive parts—particularly cast metal components like engine blocks and chassis parts—and became a major employer in Toledo for decades. The factory closed in 2002.

Additionally, Englewood is home to several historic religious institutions, including St. Martin de Porres Church and the United Missionary Baptist Church, with both having origins dating to the 1800s.

The community's historical value was officially acknowledged when Englewood received a Historic District designation in 1998. Today, the neighborhood works hard to honor its past while preserving its identity.

[\(2022 Englewood Master Plan - Toledo Design Collective\)](#)

IX. About The Arts Commission

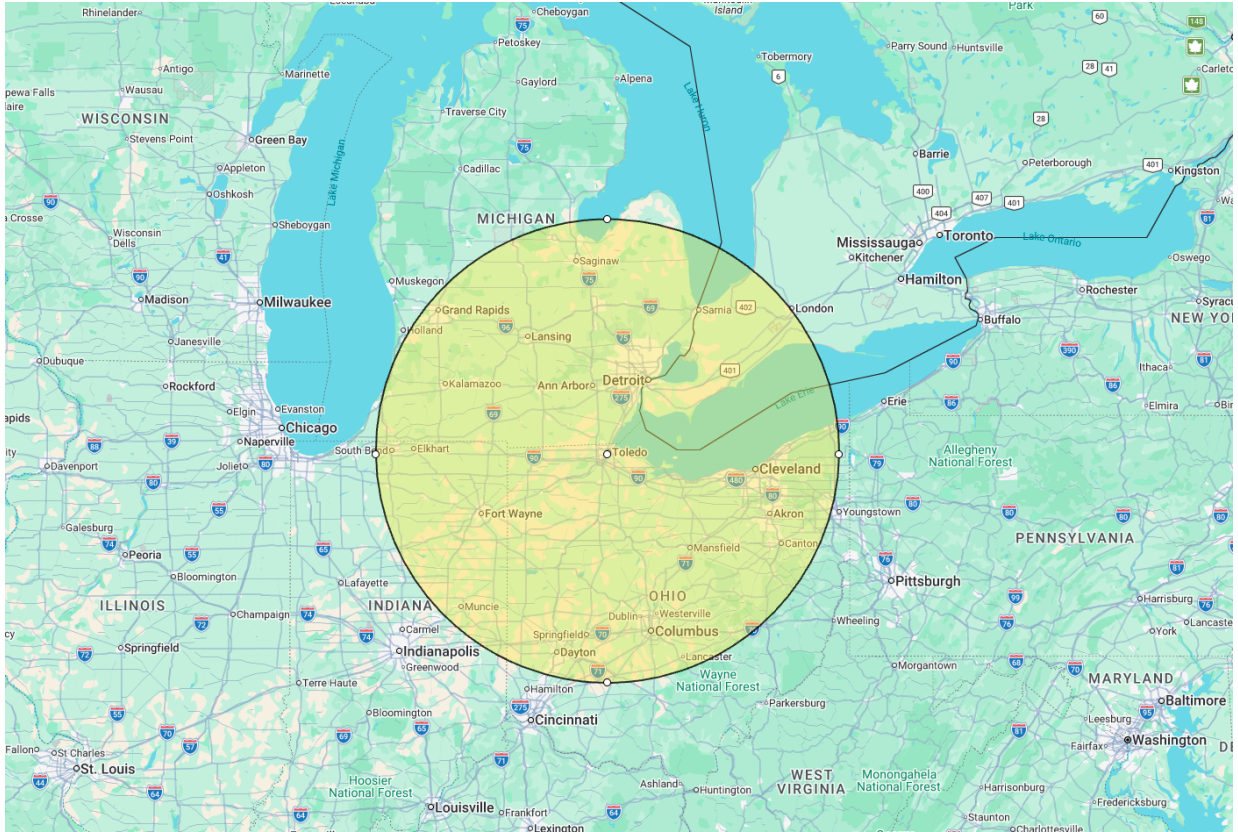
The Arts Commission is the longest standing arts commission in the state of Ohio, founded in 1959, administering the City of Toledo's One Percent for Art Program since 1977. The Arts Commission is supported in part by the Ohio Arts Council and The National Endowment For The Arts.

X. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Statement

Inclusion, diversity, equity and access are fundamentally important to our work at The Arts Commission. Our aim is to provide access and opportunity to art and culture for all in our community. It is our committed practice to stand alongside, listen and act based upon community needs. We have a responsibility to advocate for inclusion, diversity, equity and access. The Arts Commission will continue to deepen this practice as we move into the future.

The Arts Commission believes that the arts can provide the space to foster conversations that bring us together. The arts have long stood in the gap as a bridge between cultures. They have served as a place to support healing, as well as a place to develop and exchange compassion. We trust the arts in this role. By embracing our differences and celebrating our similarities we build a more vibrant, just, and inclusive society.

Attachment 1:



Artists must live or work within 150 miles of Toledo to be eligible

Attachment 2: Public Art Site

