



CALL FOR ARTISTS – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ARTISTS

Art + Policy Project | February 15, 2024



Art + Policy

Critical planning. Creative doing.

To inspire community imagination, foster civic dialogue, and help shape the future of the region, the Metropolitan Council is seeking artists or artist teams to amplify [Imagine 2050](#) the Twin Cities region's policy planning guide for the next 30 years. Selected artists' works and ideas will be showcased throughout the metropolitan area this summer and fall — rolling across our transit network and popping up in parks, on our infrastructure, with civic and institutional partners, and out in the community.

Optional Information Session Webinar for applicants:

Feb. 28, 2024, 4 p.m. [Register here](#). A recording of the webinar will be posted following the event.

Application deadline:

Submission due March 15, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Questions?

Contact Ellie Hohulin (eleanor.hohulin@metc.state.mn.us)

Learn more and check for updates on the [Met Council website](#). A sample contract for artists will be uploaded to the website following the information session on Feb. 28.

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1. About the Met Council

The Met Council is the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services in the seven-county Twin Cities metro area. Our mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous region.

The 17-member Met Council is a policy-making board that guides the strategic growth of the metro area. We partner with 181 cities and townships, 7 counties, other government entities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and others. Elected officials, local government staff, and residents share their expertise with the Met Council by serving on key advisory committees.

The Met Council provides essential services and infrastructure — Metro Transit's bus and rail system, Metro Mobility, Transit Link, wastewater treatment services, regional parks, planning, affordable housing, and more — that support communities and businesses and ensure a high quality of life for residents. We rely on several funding sources, including user fees for wastewater treatment and transit services, state and federal funds, and a seven-county property tax.



The Met Council is listening to people from across the metro region as we collectively envision the future we want. Imagine 2050, the next regional development guide, builds on the principle that together we can tackle challenges that individual communities may not be able to take on alone.

As the seven-county metro region's long-range plan, Imagine 2050 will include a vision and goals, and will set the policy foundation for land use, housing, transportation, water resources, and regional parks. It will also address critical issues that cross policy areas: climate, equity, natural systems, and public health, safety, and well-being. The guide will shape how this region grows in the next 30 years.

Imagine 2050 will be informed by the values and desired outcomes articulated in the local comprehensive plans of the communities in the region. It will emphasize the importance of partnerships across all sectors to create a prosperous future for our children and grandchildren.

Imagine 2050 Goals

Our region is equitable and inclusive

Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated; and all people feel welcome, included, and empowered.

Our communities are healthy and safe

All our region's residents live healthy and rewarding lives with a sense of dignity and wellbeing.

Our region is dynamic and resilient

Our region meets the opportunities and challenges faced by our communities and economy including issues of choice, access, and affordability.

We lead on addressing climate change

We have mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure our communities and systems are resilient to climate impacts.

We protect and restore natural systems

We protect, integrate, and restore natural systems to protect habitat and ensure a high quality of life for the people of our region.

Met Council Policy Plan Areas



Land Use & Housing

Communities thrive when they have a range of housing choices for residents in all circumstances and stages of life. The Met Council works with local governments to identify and plan for their future housing needs.

- Establishing regional housing policies and planning
- Reviewing the housing element of local comprehensive plans
- Funding housing development through Livable Communities Act (LCA) grant programs
- Administering the state's largest Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program through the Metro Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA)



Parks & Open Space

We care deeply about connecting people to the outdoors, protecting natural resources, and making sure everyone in the region has access and feels welcomed to our regional parks and trails.

- The Twin Cities metropolitan area is home to a regional parks and trails system that is nationally renowned for its beauty, size, and variety of features.
- With 56 regional parks and park reserves totaling more than 54,000 acres, nearly 400 miles of interconnected trails, and 8 special recreation features, the system provides a wealth of opportunities for recreation, exercise, gatherings, and solitude. Our regional parks and park reserves also protect significant green space and wildlife habitat.
- We work in partnership with 10 city, county, and special park districts who own and operate the parks and trails to create and maintain one of our region's greatest assets.



Transportation

A financially sustainable, world-class transportation system that includes travel by car, bus, rail, truck, bicycle, foot, and airplane is vital for a thriving Twin Cities regional economy.

The Met Council is responsible for ensuring that transportation infrastructure equitably meets the demands of our residents as the region grows, and plays two central roles in regional transportation:

- As the region's federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Met Council works with local, state, and federal policymakers to plan for and anticipate the transportation needs of our growing region.

- As the region's primary regional transit services provider, the Met Council works with partners to build and operate a 21st century bus and rail system. Customers rely on our transportation services to meet their daily transportation needs.



Water Resources

Water resources have sustained this region for millennia — and wise planning now can ensure a water-rich future for generations to come.

- Our policy integrates water resources planning for wastewater, water supply, and surface water with the goal of protecting, conserving, and utilizing the region's groundwater and surface water in ways that protect public health, support economic growth and development, maintain habitat and ecosystem health, and provide for recreational opportunities.
- We treat wastewater for 111 cities and townships with 2.7 million people in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, monitor air and water quality, and plan for a long-range water supply to meet future demand.
- Through its policies and planning, we are committed to working collaboratively with state and federal agencies, local and county government, watershed management organizations, interest groups, and the public to protect the region's rich water resources as the region continues to grow.

2. About the Art + Policy Project

To truly Imagine 2050, the Met Council is bringing in the arts and artists to synthesize and amplify the Regional Development Guide, seeking to inspire community imagination and foster civic dialogue. Art + Policy is a project that engages artists in translating policy and planning into a shared future for the region. The goals of the project are to:

- Make policy playful and fun with creative practices and artistic expression.
- Break down complex issues through continued arts-based engagement.
- Invite greater civic participation in more creative ways.

We are inviting artists to bring Imagine 2050's values, goals, and policy areas to life through creative community engagement. Their artistic works and ideas will be showcased throughout the metro area this summer and fall — rolling across our transit network and popping up in parks, on our infrastructure, with civic and institutional partners, and out in the community. This project will highlight the Met Council's work and invite greater civic participation creating a shared future for the region in new, exciting, and engaging ways.

Project Opportunities

- Help shape the future of the Twin Cities region
- Have your art out prominently displayed in public and featured in unique ways
- Connect with cross-sector partners at the Met Council to learn more about city systems
- Connect with other civic artists across the region
- Collaborate with the Art + Policy creative team and policymakers from across the region

Art + Policy Creative Team

Amanda Lovelee, Stephen Klimek, Ellie Hohulin, and Erika Herrmann

3. Art + Policy: Call for Community Engagement Artists

Up to ten creatives/artists will be selected to creatively interpret the Imagine 2050 planning process and bring it out into the community. This project seeks to take a more experimental approach to engaging with the regional planning process and may take any artistic medium (performance, poetry, music, dance, photography, projection, installation, animation, mural, etc.). Examples are shared below to understand ideal scope.

Selected artists will work closely with the Art + Policy team to shape engagement projects in their chosen medium. Artists will connect with Met Council staff and policymakers to learn more about the regional development guide planning process and how it can be translated for public understanding and engagement in the artists' chosen mediums.

Artists will have the spring and early summer to work on their projects and share them with the public in late summer/fall 2024, in whatever form best suits their practice and chosen community.

Artists can focus on one issue area, or incorporate multiple, but should use the themes of Imagine 2050 to drive their artistic process.

After a participating artists kick-off meeting, artists will submit initial concepts for review and suggested refinements. Once final concepts are approved, each artist will set up an engagement/performance schedule for summer/fall 2024. The Art + Policy team will support community engagement and documentation when possible.

Artists who have existing partnerships or planned projects, to which this project may be added to, can list so in their application, pending approval from the creative team. (Example: upcoming partnership at a local museum or organization).

Project Examples (Community Engagement Artists)

- Four group bike rides to a concert and conversation around each theme of Imagine 2050
- A dance performance at the wastewater treatment plant
- A nightly projection of community visions of the future
- A community poetry evening across four neighborhoods throughout the region
- Collaborating with local students on an augmented reality of our future

Artist Responsibilities (Community Engagement Artists)

Deliverables include:

- Engagement plan in coordination with Art + Policy creative team
 - Example: 4-6 in-person events depending on what's proposed and how many people reached, negotiable with approval from creative team
- An artist statement sharing how they see regional policies intersect with their creative engagement.
- Meetings: selection interview (remote), 2-3 in person, 4-6 remote over 6-month period, media and council video/photo availability.

Artist Compensation (Community Engagement Artists)

The total artist compensation for this project is \$5,000 per artist, plus up to \$2,500 in reimbursable supplies (eligible reimbursements shared in advance). The artist/artist team will enter into a contract for the deliverables listed above in Artist Responsibilities.

- The artist contract will outline a payment schedule.
- Artist compensation includes all the deliverables listed in the Artist Responsibilities section.
- The \$5,000 artist fee includes labor, time, engagement events, and collaboration with Metropolitan Council staff.

- The \$2,500 in supplies will be reimbursed upon submittal of material receipts
- Note that a team will receive the same size compensation as an individual artist.
- Travel costs included in artist fee.

Timeline (Community Engagement Artists)

All dates in 2024

February 15	Call for artists posted
February 28, 4:00-5:00 p.m. CDT	Informational meeting for artists
March 15, 4:00 p.m. CDT	Application deadline
Week of April 1	Finalists selected and notified
Week of April 8	Finalist 30-minute virtual interviews
Week of April 15	Selected artists notified
April 15-May 1	Contracting
Week of May 6	One day artist orientation and mini-retreat session
Week of June 3	Virtual check-in meeting with creative team and plan for final sign-off
End of June - Early October	Community engagement happenings (as scheduled and planned with the creative team)

Selection Criteria (Community Engagement Artists)

The Art + Policy 2050 selection panel comprising project stakeholders and staff will identify up to 15 artists or artist teams, based on the following selection criteria:

- Artistic merit of past work: examples of community engagement combined with art
- Ability to attend project meetings including Selection Committee meeting (remote), in-person kick-off, monthly check-in meetings over 6 months.
- Ability to collaborate with the design, policy, and engagement teams to develop art concepts through final design (Spring and Summer 2024); skills in navigating complex systems; past cross-sector and/or public sector projects.
- Letter of interest describing your experience, potential approach for this project, and what excites you about the project.
- The artists or artist teams on the list will be invited to a brief virtual interview via Teams the week of April 8.

4. Art + Policy: Requirements

Artist Eligibility

By submitting an application, you are certifying that you meet the below criteria.

- Individual artists/artist teams currently living or working in Minnesota are eligible to apply. All members of an artist team must also meet this requirement.
- If applying as an artist team, there is no restriction on the number of participating members, however smaller teams (2-3) are recommended. A team will receive the same compensation as an individual artist.
- Artists applying must be available during the timeline listed above.

- Current Met Council staff and members of their immediate family are not eligible to apply.
- Artists must be 18 or older and legally able to work in the United States.
- Artists are welcome to apply to both the Visual Artist and Community Engagement Artist calls.

How to Apply

Apply by March 15, 2024, 4 p.m. by emailing Ellie Hohulin (eleanor.hohulin@metc.state.mn.us) with the required materials listed below. Please list which call (Visual Artist or Community Engagement Artist) you are submitting an application for.

- Ten individual images submitted as jpegs, displaying your artistic style.
 - Only share images in which you are the artist/designer.
 - It is recommended that images be no more than 2 MB in file size
- Submit a brief image description list that corresponds to the samples provided.
- A current artistic resume with contact information including email, phone, and address.
- A list of two references, including relation, names, emails, and phone numbers.
- **For Community Engagement Artists:** A letter of interest, describing your experience, an initial concept of what you would like to do for this project (provide as much detail as you can) and what excites you about this project.