



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

New Bedford Public Schools



Call for Artists for the Congdon-DeValles Elementary School

Request for Responses #26300060

Submissions Due: Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 2 pm

Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

New Bedford Public Schools
455 County St
New Bedford, MA 02740



CALL FOR ARTISTS

Public Art for Congdon-DeValles Elementary School New Bedford, Massachusetts, Spring 2026

Description

The City of New Bedford (City) seeks proposals from artists interested in creating an art installation for the Congdon-DeValles Elementary School which is currently under construction.

The Congdon-DeValles Elementary School will be a new school built on the former Goodyear Plant site at 350 Bolton Street in the south end of New Bedford, MA. The school is designed for 760 students in Grades Kindergarten – 5. The site is approximately 8 acres. The building is approximately 124,000 square feet on three floors.

The building is designed with themes related to nature to support wayfinding through the building. There are four basic themes: 1) Earth, 2) Water, 3) Wind, and 4) Sun. The earth theme is in the shared use spaces of the school. The other three themes relate to each floor of a three-story classroom wing with 2 grades on each floor.

Art installations that will be considered include, but are not limited to, interior murals (painted in the field or vinyl applied graphic), exterior murals (painted in the field), or site installations/sculptures. The architect has reserved two locations within the building for murals: one is a multi-story space within a stairwell and the other is a large wall area adjacent to the school lobby and library. There is also potentially a large exterior blank brick face that could support a mural located in the courtyard. There are no designated spaces for exterior 3-dimensional installations although there are several areas throughout the site that could support such an installation.

Residents of New Bedford, Massachusetts are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. The City does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Proposals inspired by New Bedford's history, natural resources, arts community, or immigrant community are encouraged, but not required.

The total estimated available budget for the art installation(s) is \$75,000. The goal of the City is to award to several artists.

Proposals MUST attach the following items in order to be considered. If more than one artist is participating on one piece of art, they must all include their names on the proposal.

- Resume/Bio with contact information and website (if applicable)
- Four jpeg or pdfs of previous work of similar size and scale. Please note whether the prior work was indoor or outdoor installation.
- Site Specific Project: (if proposing more than one, one proposal for each site)
 - Title
 - Location

- Description of Project
- Total Cost
- Three jpegs or pdfs of Proposed Work
- Material/Medium
- Dimensions
- Method of Installation
- Maintenance Requirements
- Timeline
- Budget
 - Estimated cost including artist time and materials, transportation, engagement, insurance, and contingency.

Proposals should include the artist's signature (or identifying mark) as it would appear on the art installation.

Proposals will be ineligible if they involve:

- A breach of intellectual property rights (i.e., somebody else's idea)
- Trademarks, brand or business names, logos, or copyrighted images
- Profanity, obscene images, or anything that is harmful to a third party
- The painting or impediment of City roadways

How to Submit Your Proposal

- Proposal should be signed by the proposer.
- The proposer's name, email address, address, and telephone number shall be included in the submittal.
- Proposals must be submitted electronically to purchasing@newbedford-ma.gov by Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 2 pm.
- Late proposals will not be considered.

Schedule

Call to Artists posted	Thursday, January 8, 2026
Information session	A site visit will be held on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 3:00 pm at the P3 trailer in the southeast corner of the Congdon-DeValles Elementary School construction site at 350 Bolton Street, New Bedford, MA 02744.
Proposal due date	Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 2 pm to purchasing@newbedford-ma.gov .
Art completed by	No later than December 23, 2026

Disclosure Statement

The City of New Bedford is not liable for any costs incurred by the proposer in submitting this proposal. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to award the agreement in its best interest. The City reserves the right to make multiple awards.

All costs and responsibilities for permits, equipment, and releases for any easements, covenants, or any other restrictions that may be present on the property will be the responsibility of the proposer including but not limited to any municipal, state, or federal provisions. Proposers should be aware of zoning regulations for the particular area.

Evaluation Criteria

Each Proposal will be reviewed for completeness, responsiveness and compliance with the general requirements of the proposal criteria. Additionally, each Proposal shall address all of the elements of the request including both the minimum evaluation criteria and comparative evaluation criteria requirements. The minimum evaluation criteria must be met.

Proposals will be reviewed by the School Building Committee for completeness and adherence to proposal criteria. Qualifying Proposals will be reviewed by the selection committee. If the Proposal does not satisfy the requirements of this request, it shall be deemed unacceptable. The City will award a grant to responsive and responsible proposers submitting the most advantageous proposal taking into account the price AND the following evaluation criteria:

- Experience & Competence – seeking candidates with experience in art installations, especially murals.
 - Proposers who have led several art installations of a similar scale will be considered highly advantageous.
 - Proposers who have led at least one art installation, especially in a similar size or scale, will be considered advantageous.
 - Proposers who have participated in the creation of art installations will be considered acceptable.
 - Proposers who have not led or participated in art installations will be considered unacceptable.
- Sustainability – seeking projects that can last many years with little degradation, and relatively low maintenance. Use of materials that will hold up to sunlight, weather, and general wear and tear required.
 - Proposals that show understanding of high quality and long-lasting materials, and requiring little-to- no maintenance will be considered highly advantageous.
 - Proposals that show understanding of high quality and long-lasting materials, and requiring moderate maintenance will be considered advantageous.
 - Proposals that use durable materials and require moderate maintenance will be considered acceptable.
 - Proposals using low-quality, or highly degradable materials, or that require high levels of maintenance will be considered unacceptable.
- Idea/Design quality – how closely the design matches the City’s vision and design criteria.
 - Proposals that embrace New Bedford’s character with high quality design will be considered highly advantageous.
 - Proposals with high-quality designs will be considered advantageous.
 - Proposals with quality designs will be considered acceptable.
 - Proposals without quality designs will be considered unacceptable.
- Price – the selection committee will choose one or more qualifying proposals, as determined by the cost of implementing the installations and the project budget. No proposal should exceed \$75,000.
 - Funding is inclusive of materials, artist fees, insurance, design and development, fabrication, contingency, and installation costs.

Results

The selection committee will use the above-listed evaluation criteria to determine the most advantageous proposals for the City. The committee will be comprised of individuals from the Congdon-DeValles Elementary School Building Committee.

The successful proposer(s) shall complete work no later than December 23, 2026.

Further information

Artists interested in submitting a proposal may email purchasing@newbedford-ma.gov to receive a drop box link with further information about the school design including:

- Fly through video of proposed school
- PDF Floor Plans to scale indicating potential locations for murals
- PDF Site Plans to scale
- PDF Interior Elevations to scale of potential mural areas
- PDF Exterior elevations to scale of potential mural areas