Functional Public Art Installation: Frequently Asked Questions

Answers from the September 28, 2026 Q&A session with Louisville Downtown Partnership (LDP).

What is LDP looking for?
A custom, one-of-a-kind piece of public art with a secondary function, such as shade, seating, or light. It should feel like art, not off-the-shelf furniture. The piece doesn't need to provide all of these functions.

Where will it be installed?
On the middle grass area of the park next to the convention center, on city-owned land. The adjacent building, 400 West Market, manages the surrounding property and is aware of the project. The installation will use only a portion of the space.

Is this a permanent installation?
No. It is temporary, but it may stay for several years. Because it may eventually be relocated, artists should design with that in mind.

What is the budget?
The budget is up to $75,000 and should include installation costs.

What do I need to submit?
Portfolios and a letter of interest are reviewed first. The letter should introduce you or your company and describe how you would approach the project. No visual concept is required at this stage. Finalists will receive a stipend to develop a full proposal.

Is there a preference for local artists?
Local artists receive a small advantage (5 points) on large public art projects. If you work in Louisville but live elsewhere, include that in your letter, such as a Louisville office address.

Are there size or concept requirements?
No. LDP is looking for artists experienced with outdoor public art who know which materials will hold up for many years.

Can the piece have a base or footings?
Yes. A base or platform is acceptable, but please avoid major structural changes to the site.

Who maintains the piece?
LDP will maintain the piece. Artists don't need to budget for maintenance, but should include care recommendations, such as approved cleaners and surface precautions.

What about power for lighting?

Information on available power sources will be shared with finalists.

Questions?

Contact Jenny Cutshaw at jcutshaw@louisvilledowntown.org.