

DOWNTOWN IS PAWSOME

CALL FOR ARTISTS

APPLICATIONS DUE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

BACKGROUND

The Downtown Albany Business Improvement District (BID) is pleased to release a call for artists for our third round of Downtown is Pawsome. The BID has commissioned another ten 36” tall sculptures of Albany’s famous canine resident, Nipper the Dog. A beloved mixed-breed terrier residing in Bristol, England in the late 1800s, Nipper was immortalized in the 1898 oil painting “His Master’s Voice” by Francis Barraud. He became an instantly recognizable mascot for the RCA Recording Company throughout the 20th century, perhaps most familiar to locals via the 28-foot, four-ton statue that keeps guard over the Capital City from a perch atop the former RCA distribution warehouse at the corner of Broadway and Tivoli Street. The sculptures will adorn highly visible outdoor public locations throughout downtown Albany’s business and entertainment corridors, July through October 2025.



The BID views public art as integral to our community’s fabric because of its roles in improving quality of life, enhancing neighborhood identity, strengthening economic development and tourism, and enriching the spirit and pride of our citizens. The BID invites artists, educational institutions, and community groups to submit proposals for Downtown is Pawsome, our 2025 free outdoor Placemaking project.

The Downtown Albany BID is accepting submissions from artists who wish to participate until Friday, May 16, 2025. For more information, please see the information below or contact Don Wilson at dwilson@downtownalbany.org or 518.465.2143 x 112.

ELIGIBILITY

The Downtown Albany BID seeks 10 artists, teams, or community groups to create original artwork on 36” tall Nipper sculptures.

- Artists of all ages are encouraged to submit proposals.
- There is no application fee.

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GUIDELINES

- Content and subject matter of the works must be deemed appropriate for public display.
- Original sculptures are 36” tall primed white fiberglass replicas of the Albany Nipper statue and will be provided to artists to customize and create.
- Mediums may include acrylic paint, spray paint, markers and other materials that can be painted over with a latex outdoor sealer (artists should not use oil-based productions). The BID will apply a sealer after the final sculpture is dropped off for installation.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Placemaking Selection Committee will select 10 artists for the exhibition based on:

- The quality and thoughtfulness of the proposal.
- The reputation and quality presented in the artist’s portfolio.

HONORARIA

Each artist/group will receive payment as described below.

- A \$750.00 stipend will be provided for each sculpture to assist with the costs of materials
 - 50% to be issued at artist pick up, remaining balance to be issued when completed work received by BID
- 2 tickets to the Garden Party exhibit launch event in July (\$120.00 value)
- 30% of proceeds from sale of sculpture at the end of the exhibition

MARKETING AND PROGRAMMING

The Placemaking initiative will be heavily promoted to the public and programmed to encourage visitors and tours to view and experience the exhibition. Marketing and promotional activities will include:

- Artists’ names included on walking tour map – printed and downloadable
- Extensive press and media outreach and coverage
- Artists’ names included in The Core Report e-newsletter exhibit article (7,500+ subscribers)
- Artists' names and sculptures promoted via BID social media channels and website
- Artists' names and sculptures promoted at the Garden Party

ENTRY PROCEDURE

To apply, please submit the following:

- A completed Placemaking application form (attached or available for download from www.downtownalbany.org).

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- A concise statement of interest addressing why this project interests you, past experiences with public art or community engagement, if any, and a brief description and/or rendering of your artistic vision for this project.
- Artists should include a current, personal or organizational biography of 50 words or less for marketing purposes.
- Up to three (3) paintings or artistic examples of the artist's work may be submitted for consideration in any of the following ways:
 - By e-mail attachment to dwilson@downtownalbany.org
 - By providing a URL to artist/organization's web site.
 - In digital .jpg or .pdf format delivered on flash drive or link to images online. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of materials if requested.

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Important Notes

- **Transportation:** Artists will be responsible for retrieving their 3-foot-tall pups and returning the finished work to a central staging area at Albany Center Gallery (488 Broadway, Albany) prior to installation.
- **Completed work:** Nippers are slated to be ready for pick up the week of June 2, 2025. Deadline for completion of artwork will be **July 7, 2025**.
- **Sealer:** The BID will apply sealer to the finished product to protect artwork from the elements.
- **Installation:** The Downtown Albany BID will bear the costs of installing the sculptures on the selected site(s) at the beginning of the exhibit and for removing the sculptures at the conclusion of the event.
- **Insurance: The Downtown Albany BID will secure insurance protecting the BID and artists against claims of personal injury during the exhibit.**
- Artists understand that sculptures may be subject to damage, vandalism or theft and that the Downtown Albany BID, the City of Albany or their assigns are not responsible or liable for such occurrences.
- Artist is an independent contractor and not considered a BID employee. No medical or worker's compensation insurance will be provided.
- Artists will be required to enter into a professional service contract with the Downtown Albany BID.
- Completed artwork will become the property of the Downtown Albany BID until sale following the exhibit. Artist will receive 30% of sales price, with the remainder defraying program expenses and supporting continued art programs in downtown Albany.

APPLICATION BEGINS ON PAGE 4

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ARTIST APPLICATION

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Cell or Office Phone

Email Address

I.

Title of Work

Medium

Date

II.

Title of Work

Medium Date

Date

III.

Title of Work

Medium Date

Date

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Why does this project interest you? Please include experiences with public/community engagement, if any:

Professional/Organizational Biography (50 words or less):

Describe your artistic vision for your sculpture:

What medium(s) do you intend to use for your sculpture?

I understand that the decisions of the Downtown Albany BID and the juror(s) are final and, if accepted, I agree to abide by the event's rules and regulations. In addition, I hereby discharge the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District, the City of Albany and their assigns of and from all manner of actions, suits, damages, and claims while participating in the 2025 Downtown Albany Placemaking exhibition.

Signature

Date

Please mail your completed application along with the supporting materials requested to

Downtown is Pawsome
c/o Downtown Albany BID
21 Lodge Street | 1st Floor
Albany, NY 12207

Or via email: dwilson@downtownalbany.org

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