
FY25 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS | PUBLIC ART:
COLOR THE CURB: SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM
MARCH 17, 2025, COMMISSION MEETING

Grant Program Name:

FY25 Color the Curb: School Safety Program (CTC)

Grant Program Description:

Color the Curb: School Safety Program is a collaborative design and placemaking project created through a partnership of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and DC Public Schools (DCPS). This program aims to increase pedestrian safety by painting ground murals in curb extensions outside or near schools in Washington, DC. CAH released a Request for Applications (RFA) for mural artists and professionals with prior large-scale exterior mural painting and youth engagement experience to design and install these ground murals in the intersections of 3 (three) schools in Washington, DC. Those schools for FY25 are Columbia Heights Education Center and Marie Reed Elementary School in Ward 2, and Maury Elementary School in Ward 6. Selected artists will be paired with a designated school and will work closely with faculty and students at the paired school, to create a final mural design. DDOT will provide a ground mural technical expert who will work with each selected artist/artist team on planning and implementation of the approved final design.

Number of Cycles: 1

Allocated Budget Amount:

FY2025 **\$ 120,000**

Number of Panels: 1 Panel

Grant Manager: Deirdre Darden

Convener: Karyn Miller

Ranking and Award Justification:

- **Cut-off:** All 18 eligible applications were reviewed. Recommended finalist scores are between 83.30 and 91.38
- **Score:** Highest scored 91.38
- **Allocation of Funds:**
 - The panel reviewed all eligible applications and recommended the four top scoring finalists for funding
- **Allocation of Funds (Continued):**
 - Funding is available to support the recommended four (4) finalists for grants at \$30,000 each

- **Project Breakdown:** The recommendation is for **four (4)** finalists. Each finalist will be matched with a school and work with students to create a mural design for the curb extension outside the school. The finalists will then work to install the murals in the curb extensions.

Total Recommended request: \$120,000

Outreach and Observations:

- Grantees awarded in FY24 were not eligible to apply again for this cycle. This opened up space for new applications to apply and be selected.
- 2 grantees new to the program
- All 8 wards are represented in the 20 applications
- Recommended finalists are from Wards 2, 4, 6, and 8
- 10 first-time applicants to the program
- Three virtual workshops were held and well-attended
 - Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 11 am
 - Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 2 pm
 - Friday, January 31, 2025, at 4 pm
- CAH Communications team ran email and social media campaigns
- Direct email outreach went to eligible muralists
- The Review Panel assembled a mix of former Color the Curb grantees, mural artists, teaching artists, partners from the District Department of Transportation and District of Columbia Public Schools; and public art coordinators and city planners from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia

Committee Recommendation:

The Public Art Committee recommends adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the Commission adopt the funding recommendation for the FY 2025 Color the Curb: School Safety Program as presented for a total funding amount of \$120,000 "