



WORKS IN PUBLIC

Model to Monument

PUBLIC ART FOR PUBLIC SPACES

**THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK with
THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS and RECREATION**

Works in Public (WiP), formerly known as Model to Monument (M2M), is a two-year professional development program for current and new students who will accomplish several goals by creating site-specific large-scale public sculptures within the context of a two-year program at the Art Students League of New York. The program was founded in 2010 by master sculptor Greg Wyatt, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Starting in 2022, Works in Public was re-conceived under the leadership of Haksul Lee and Natsuki Takauji, alumni and former consultants of the program, and instructors at The Art Students League of New York. To date, fifty-four artists have completed this program and had their sculptures installed in year-long public exhibitions at two locations in Riverside Park South and Riverside Park at 145th Street. The program is open to advanced League artists in any discipline. Artists not currently attending the League are also invited to apply. Once accepted into the program, WiP participants are required to enroll in League classes.

THE WiP LEARNING EXPERIENCE

WiP PRACTICUM will engage a team of artist-participants in every phase of the conception, creation, and installation of site-specific sculptures, providing them with direct work experience in the physical materials and processes used to create original works of public art. WiP students will each receive a stipend and a tuition scholarship for a full-time class for the duration of the program.

- Year One will be dedicated to seminars on the history and contemporary understanding of public sculpture, the study of sculptural concepts, proposal and presentation methods, site analysis, fabrication processes, engineering, and studio visits. This year culminates in the creation of a proposal for a full-scale public artwork.
- Year Two will be dedicated to the fabrication process, culminating in the installation of the artwork in Riverside Park for a one-year public exhibition. A plan for public programming will also be developed as part of the exhibition.

The course will offer weekly seminars, as well as interaction with guest lecturers and critics. It will include visits to public art sites and artists' studios, discussions, recommended readings, assignments, and consultations. There will be additional meetings as needed.

Because of the rigorous nature of the program, students must be willing and able, should they be selected, to make a substantial time commitment. Each individual artist works independently and within the League's class offerings to fulfill program requirements.

SELECTION OF ARTIST PARTICIPANTS: Visual artists working in any medium who demonstrate a strong sense of artistry as well as sculptural thinking are eligible to apply.

Four artists are selected for the two-year program based on portfolios and proposals. The selection committee will be composed of League and NYC Parks administrators, along with invited gallerists, curators, and/or artists. More specific details are addressed in the following *Frequently Asked Questions* section. Applicants must read this section.

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WiP Prospectus & FAQ / 2026

WORKS IN PUBLIC: Frequently Asked Questions

- *What does “attending” The League mean? What is the commitment if I am selected?*
 - WiP is a professional development program for students. Enrolling in and attending League classes is integral to the program. If accepted, you will be required to take classes at The League.
 - You will be awarded a tuition scholarship to attend either full-time class (meeting five-days/week) or part-time classes during the program.
 - This is an in-person program. You must be located in or be able to commute to New York City for regular weekly meetings and other events, as well as to attend classes. Note: WiP does not provide funding or assistance for housing, travel, or cost of living.
 - Satisfactory progress through the program requires attendance at weekly meetings, which typically last four hours.
 - You must meet the deadlines for assignments and maquette-making.
 - Students are evaluated at the conclusion of year 1 for satisfactory progress in the program. If it is determined that the student does not meet the standards expected for satisfactory progress, they may be asked to leave the program.
- *What is the budget for the proposed project?*
 - Applicants are encouraged to propose projects that can be realized within the range of \$12,000-15,000 for materials and fabrication. Individual project budgets will be developed within the program. Engineering (if required), transportation, and installation are budgeted separately. Final project budgets will need approval based on available funds.
- *Where will sculptures be fabricated?*
 - Fabricators are selected based on the unique requirements of each proposal.
- *Do I need to be experienced in sculpture or public sculpture?*
 - Some experience working in 3D is helpful but not required. You do not need to have any experience in public sculpture.
 - Though the program requires “hands-on” participation, students are not expected to have the capability to fabricate the final sculpture. To ensure the success of your proposed sculpture, in the course of the program you will have to acquire a basic understanding of fabrication processes on a large scale and the more in-depth, specific knowledge that your proposed sculpture may require.
- *Do I have to make a physical model (maquette) of the proposal?*
 - Yes. You will be required to submit photographs of your maquette as part of the application portfolio. Your maquette should approximate as accurately as possible the actual materials or the appearance of your proposed sculpture. As a general guide for scale, the maquette should be up to 12 inches in its longest dimension and/or fit within a 12-inch square base. Graphic animation or representation of your proposal is optional.
- *What are the criteria for a successful public art proposal?*
 - The artistic merit of your portfolio is as important as your proposal. Artistic maturity of WiP participants is crucial. We also want to see how your general art practice (as presented in your portfolio) is connected to your proposal. This doesn’t mean that you must propose only ideas similar to your portfolio. What is sought in this proposal are visual, conceptual, and/or technical relationships to your ongoing art practice.
 - In addition to a unique artistic vision, successful public art is often site-specific, addressing the spirit of the time (social or political climate, and/or holding public serviceability in visual enhancement, education, or community engagement).
 - Public programming related to the sculpture and site that creates engagement with the community.

- *Should I propose a sculpture for a specific site? Can that change?*
 - WiP sculptures are installed on existing ground structures. There are two sites in each location: Riverside Park South at 61st Street and Riverside Park North at 145th Street. You are encouraged to select a specific site for your proposal and demonstrate an understanding of the site and its neighborhood. See below for map site locations.
 - As your proposal develops, the site of your sculpture can be re-assigned by the program directors.
- *Do I have to create the sculpture exactly as proposed if I am selected?*
 - Participants are selected to develop and fabricate the proposed project. It is understood that a project may be modified and refined over the course of the program. The League reserves the right to determine the viability of a project.
- *What will happen to the installed sculptures after the exhibition ends?*
 - All individual sculptures fabricated under WiP belong to The Art Students League. Every effort is made to place the sculptures in permanent locations following the exhibition as The League develops relationships with other municipalities.
 - Furthermore, the program requires fabrication and exhibition of a presentation maquette at the mid-point of the program that represents your project at scale. This maquette will become the property of the Art Students League for archival purposes.
- *What will I gain from this program?*
 - An understanding of the process of applying for public sculpture commissions.
 - Fabrication and exhibition of your proposed sculpture in Riverside Park and the potential for permanent placement following the exhibition.
 - A scholarship to attend classes at The League and a stipend during the program.
 - An understanding of the difference between studio and public art, the examples of successful public art, the role and possibility of public art, as well as public safety and its technical challenges and solutions.
 - Participation in group discussions and critiques, lectures, and consultations moderated by the program managers.
 - Interactions with guest lecturers and critics, curators, and renowned artists.
 - Exposure in the media and the NYC community. In the past, the program was featured in NY Times, WSJ, Daily News, DNA info, and other major TV news programs.
- *What is the selection process and composition of the jury?*
 - The selection panel will include representatives from the Parks Department, the League, and invited professionals established in the field of sculpture
 - Artists are chosen based on the following criteria:
 - Artistic Merit & Creativity:
 - Originality of concept and sense of aesthetic vision
 - Quality of artwork and demonstrated artistic skill
 - Proposal Development & Feasibility:
 - Demonstrated grasp of how the proposal can be fabricated
 - Demonstrated clear ideation from concept to maquette
 - Public Engagement:
 - Demonstrated understanding of the installation site and how the project will resonate with the local community
- *Will I receive feedback about my proposal if my application is not accepted?*
 - Due to the number of proposals received we are unable to offer feedback on individual submissions. The selection process and criteria are covered in the recorded Information Session, which we advise all applicants to view.