



People's Budget FY25

Mural Arts Philadelphia, Office of the City Budget

RFQ Released: December 18, 2022

RFQ Due: January 15, 2024

Pay: \$2000 flat fee, \$400 for materials + installation expenses

Contact:

Phoebe Bachman, Facilitating Artist

Phoebe.h.bachman@gmail.com

For submissions, [follow this link](#).



1. Introduction

Over the last three years, Mural Arts has produced three public art projects about the city budget. These projects aimed to increase public awareness through popular education on the city's budget process and offer a platform for residents to share what the city should fund. Artistic outcomes included Quilts handmade by residents across the city showing priorities for the budget, postcards to city council members, a People's Budget Festival, a series of People's Budget posters wheat-pasted across the city, and most recently the People's Budget Office at LOVE Park. The goals of these projects is to advocate, negotiate, collaborate, and dream of a city budget that is more just, equitable, and sustainable.

[Read more about previous projects!](#)

Now we invite artists to join us again for the FY25 Budget cycle!

From May to June, the People's Budget Office will open near city hall as a space for city residents to co-create the People's Budget. We intend for the People's Budget Office to be an accessible location for residents to learn about the budget from city officials, everyday Philadelphians, and grassroots groups.

Artists, Researchers, and Activists are invited to participate in two-week residencies during the installation, visualizing and re-imagining the budget by creating new artwork. Participants can apply as individuals or as a collaborative team. During their residences, selected residents are asked to participate in city wide workshops, host one public event at the People's Budget Office (workshop, teach-in, performance), attend a roundtable hearing at City Hall, and contribute something lasting to the People's Budget Office. Before the residency, residents will need to attend a teach-in on the city budget and research their topic area.

The project is created in partnership with the City's Budget Office, Councilmember Kendra Brooks' Office, and Philadelphia Revenue Project. The City's Budget Office will host teach-ins on the budget process and provide important details about the proposed budget. Additionally, they will serve as a liaison to other offices as needed.

Key dates:

Dec 18: RFQ Announced

Jan 15: Application due

Jan late: Artists Announced

Feb - April: Teach-ins and research

Early March: Proposed budget introduced by Mayor Parker

April: People's Budget Hearing

May: People's Budget Office Opening

May 4 - 18: Residency 1

May 19 - June 1: Residency 2

June 2-15: Residency 3

2. Background (full project description)

Calls to “defund” programs and “invest” in others echo in cities across the United States. Activists and policymakers are demanding cuts to police, debt servicing, and fossil fuels, and reinvestment in social services, financial safety nets, and renewable energy. Services that directly support, instead of harm, those most impacted by crime, poverty, and public health issues band communities together with resources rather than cause them to fight for scraps. Disproportionately, Black, Brown, and immigrant communities face a double-edged sword of underfunding, aggressive law enforcement, and environmental conditions that challenge their very survival. While budgets are complex financial documents, they are also a mission statement for the city – a real-world accounting of officials’ priorities. Organizations that advocate for a just budget recognize that building a multi-issue and multi-racial coalition is necessary towards providing for all Philadelphians.

Over the last three years Mural Arts has produced three public art projects about the city budget. These projects aimed to increase public awareness through popular education on the city’s budget process and offer a platform for residents to share what the city should fund. The goal is to advocate, negotiate, collaborate, and dream of a city budget that is more just, equitable, and sustainable.

The first project, *Stitching our Futures* was a collaboration between artists Phoebe Bachman and Jesse Krimes about the FY22 budget. The first phase consisted of a series of online teach-ins that covered different parts of the city budget. City officials, activists, and non-profit leaders participated in roundtables touching on five core themes: how we live together and share space, how we exchange and steward, how we heal and protect our communities, how we learn and grow, and how we govern and administrate. Participants then created quilt squares of what they wanted to see included in the budget. Those were stitched together into two quilts and displayed at a budget event over the summer. Participatory postcards were also distributed as part of the project and shared with city council members. Partners included the City of Philadelphia Budget Office, Social Justice Sewing Academy, Philadelphia Modern Quilt Guild, and Philadelphia Revenue Project.

For FY23, *A People’s Budget*, artist Phoebe Bachman convened a group of five artists to collectively reimagine Philadelphia’s city budget. Selected artists Blanche Brown, Eugenio Salas, Samantha Rise, and Maia Chao researched the city budget through meetings with budget officials, department heads, and grassroots organizations. They worked to visualize the five core



components of the city budget used in the previous year. Through these negotiations, artists created a series of posters wheat-pasted across Philly and a People's Budget Festival in May that invited the public to imagine what they want to see from the budget. Partners included the City of Philadelphia Budget Office, Councilmember Kendra Brooks' Office, and Philadelphia Revenue Project.

In FY24, members of the artistic team from the previous year proposed to create a temporary installation near city hall, the People's Budget Office. The People's Budget Office was a public art installation at LOVE Park where residents co-created this year's [People's Budget Report](#). Residents artists Erik Ruin, Arshayla Robinson, Maria Möller, josh graupera Visitors engaged in hands-on programs, watched budget proceedings, and attended engaging events that cover urgent issues.

This year, FY25, we are continuing the People's Budget Office and adding a series of workshops in neighborhoods across the city plus a new People's Budget Hearing at City Hall. The project will expand upon research from previous years and focus on core themes that emerged from the People's Budget Office report FY24. These themes include:

- Quality & Accessible Services
- Education & Youth Enrichment
- Public Safety & Criminal Justice
- Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Development
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Health & Mental Health
- Arts & Culture
- Labor & Employment
- Tax, Revenue & Local Economy

3. Scope of Work, Budget and Schedule

Scope of Work

The resident will be responsible for the following work:

- Attend a budget teach-in by the City's Budget Office,
- Demonstrate a general understanding the overall budget process
- Research a specific aspect of the budget and being able to present that research back to the rest of the residents
- Attend a neighborhood based budget workshop
- Participate in creating communications materials for the People's Budget Office that reflect their research
- Develop and producing a public event during their two week residency, with help from Mural Arts
- Be on-site at the People's Budget Office for some portion of the residency



- Leave a lasting contribution to the People's Budget Office

Mural Arts Responsibility

- Manage the People's Budget project, including the development of the People's Budget Office
- Coordinate workshops around the city
- Manage communications of the overall project
- Manage contracts for residents and other participants in the People's Budget Office
- Liaise with City's Budget Office
- Liaise with grassroots groups to participate in the People's Budget Office
- Manage the working hours of the People's Budget Office
- Produce the People's Budget Hearings

City's Budget Office Responsibility

- Lead a teach-in on the budget process
- Connect City Departments to residents for research purposes and for participation in the People's Budget Office
- Co-produce neighborhood based workshops
- Review budget comments from residents gathered during the People's Budget Office installation

Artist Fee and Budget

Three selected participants will be compensated a **\$2000** flat fee for their participation. This includes independent research, attending and participating in budget teach-ins, creating original artwork(s), and an event and/or installation at the People's Budget Office.

Residents will have access to an additional \$400 available for materials as needed for the People's Budget Office. Further funding may be made available for installation, to be discussed with the project team.

4. Artist Selection Process

Eligibility

Residents should be based in the Philadelphia area

Process

The residents should apply via the Airtable form ([linked here](#)) and will be reviewed by a panel of former residents, Mural Arts staff, and staff from the City Budget Office. Selected residents will be informed in late January.

Qualifications and Review Criteria

We are looking for the following:

- An interest in the city budget
- Enthusiasm to creatively interpret the budget
- Experience working with city departments or in community
- Willingness to work collaboratively
- Experience producing creative outputs

5. How to Apply

Preliminary Consultation / Information Meeting

Questions or concerns can be addressed to the facilitating artist, Phoebe Bachman via email at phoebe.h.bachman@gmail.com. A phone or zoom call can be set up as needed.

Submission Requirements

- Name
- Email
- Zip Code
- Phone Number
- Biography: Addresses your practice and/or relevant past experience with community-engaged projects
- CV/Resume upload
- Out of these topics, which would you want to work on within the city Budget? [More information available here.](#)
 - Quality & Accessible Services
 - Education & Youth Enrichment
 - Public Safety & Criminal Justice
 - Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Development
 - Transportation & Infrastructure
 - Health & Mental Health
 - Arts & Culture
 - Labor & Employment
 - Tax, Revenue & Local Economy
- Why did you choose that topic area?
- How might you engage with this topic? I.e. What artistic forms are you interested in using?
- Why are you interested in working on the People's Budget?
- Have you worked with MAP before? In what Capacity?
- Work samples
- Additional Information. Is there anything else that you would like to share?



Submission Instructions

After gathering all materials, please submit your application by 11:59 p.m. EST by January 15th, 2024 [through this link](#).