

SAFE PLACES, ACTIVE SPACES!

PUBLIC ART

MINI

A Playbook for Transforming Public Spaces in Your Neighborhood

ACTIVATING OPEN SPACES AT NYCHA



THIS MINI PLAYBOOK IS A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR COMMUNITIES INTERESTED IN ACTIVATING PUBLIC SPACES AT NYCHA WITH ART

Every community deserves neighborhood public spaces that are safe, and this mini Playbook offers tools for one of the ways communities can directly shape change in their public spaces using City resources and processes.

This mini-guide is an excerpt from **Safe Places, Active Spaces!** — available free online — where you will find information on a variety of ways to transform public spaces to improve your community's safety and well-being. In the full playbook, we focus on the agencies that manage public housing (NYCHA), streets and sidewalks (DOT and SAPO), and parks and gardens (NYC Parks).

No matter where you are in your journey towards resident-led neighborhood improvement, we hope you will find helpful tips and resources to assist you.

Public spaces:

Outdoor spaces that are accessible to the public

Neighborhood activation:

A coordinated effort from public entities working with communities to improve neighborhood safety and well-being through changes in the built environment, programs/events, and policy

VIEW THE FULL COMMUNITY PLAYBOOK:
nyc.gov/safe-places-active-spaces

HOW CAN AN ACTIVATION PROJECT ADDRESS MY COMMUNITY ISSUE?

Public Art

What is public art?

Public art includes murals and temporary art installations in spaces free and accessible to the public, such as building walls, ground surfaces, green spaces and open spaces. Public art engages with the community and can reflect and connect to a neighborhood's local culture.

How does public art address community issues and bring community benefits?



Reduce vandalism and petty crime



Celebrate culture, heritage, belonging and identity

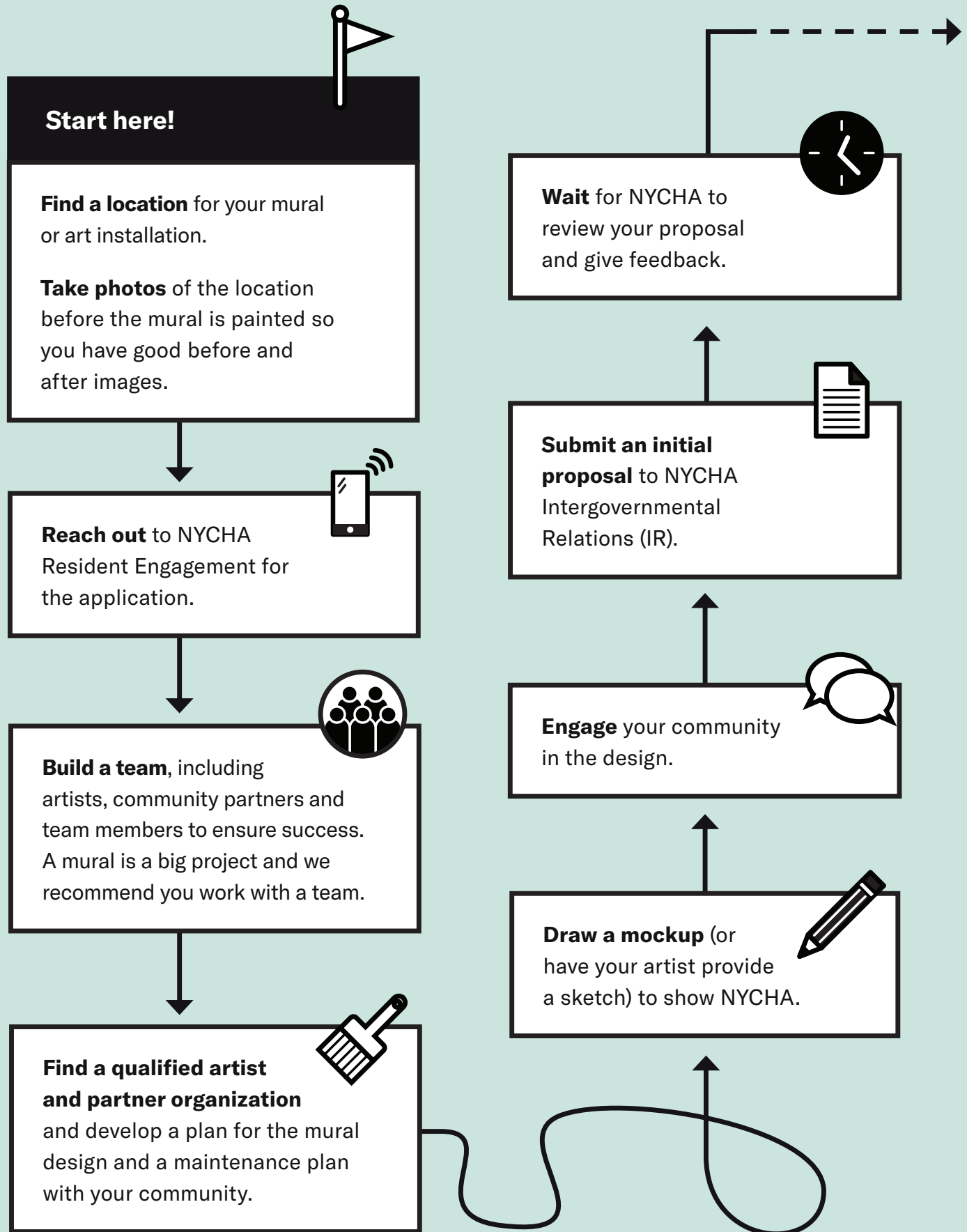


Promote community pride and stewardship

**“SPACES WITH
UNIQUE IDENTITIES
TEND TO FEEL SAFER.”**

Brownsville resident at focus group, July 2017.

Public Art at NYCHA





Your mural is complete!

Paint the mural with your team!

Your property manager will negotiate a **work schedule** with your artist.

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) provides housing for low- to moderate-income residents throughout the five boroughs of New York City.

How Do I Activate Open Spaces at NYCHA?

You can activate open spaces at NYCHA through programs and events, public murals and art installations, and community gardens.

Partner up. NYCHA recommends that you connect with resident associations, youth councils and other approved partners to help guide and support you. Many approved partners are borough based and some are citywide.

Reach out to NYCHA early.

To find approved partners, contact NYCHA Resident Engagement at

resident.engagement@nycha.nyc.gov

and go to NYCHA's Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) page

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/residents/rees.page>

for more information. You can find a list of approved partners linked at the bottom of the REES page under "A New Experience for Partners."

Key Information

For more information on resident associations, youth councils, and how to get involved as a resident, visit NYCHA's Engagement page online:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/residents/getting-involved-as-a-resident.page>

You may be able to get money for certain NYCHA projects through Tenant Participation Activity (TPA) funding. TPA funding is provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to NYCHA

to support specific resident engagement and self-sufficiency activities. It is provided to Resident Associations for approved activities.

Some approved reasons for funding include skills training programs, Family Days, health programs, and supplies for resident associations.

For more information on TPA funding, visit NYCHA's Tenant Participation Activity page online:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/residents/nycha-tpa.page>



Public Art at NYCHA

What to Know Before You Start

NYCHA recommends that you consult with your property manager and Resident Association as early as possible. In addition, have a funding partner in mind as part of your application, as NYCHA does not fund murals. The applicant is responsible for artist fees, materials, transportation, and other expenses.

NYCHA requires resident engagement in the process. This can vary from a brainstorming meeting, to helping paint the mural, or a community celebration.

As part of the application, NYCHA also requires documentation (including but not limited to photos, a description of the event, or a presentation).

You must find an artist or arts organization capable of carrying worker's compensation and liability insurance.

The NYCHA Public Art process takes at least two months from application submission to the actual start.

There are no specific guidelines for murals regarding dimensions or locations. The application will support the process of both the site selection and size determination.



Resources

- For more tips, go to Art Resources on page 110 of full playbook online.
- See examples and learn about successful public murals and art installations on the NYCHA website: <http://nycha.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=bc1b3541320049f18811a2e93363ec06>

Key Contacts

- For questions about the mural program, contact Josephine Bartlett at the NYCHA Office of Intergovernmental Relations:
Josephine.Bartlett@nycha.nyc.gov
- For site-specific questions, contact your property manager.

Stay Connected. For updates on our criminal justice initiatives follow us on Twitter at **@CrimJusticeNYC** and visit **nyc.gov/criminaljustice**.



Above: Close up on mural by Groundswell, local youth and seniors at St. Nicholas Houses. Other partners included Saint Nicholas Houses Senior Citizen's Center, Saint Nicholas Tenant Association, Harlem Children's Zone, NYCHA, NYC Department for the Aging. Photo: Groundswell

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