



## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS: TRAFFIC CONTROL BOX ART WRAP AT HANDS ON! DISCOVERY CENTER AND THE ETSU GRAY FOSSIL SITE & MUSEUM**

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The Johnson City Public Art Committee is seeking proposals from artists or art teams for the commission of a site-specific artwork designed for a traffic control box wrap by Hands On! Discovery Center and the ETSU Gray Fossil Site & Museum.

**ELIGIBILITY:** This opportunity is open to all professional artists over the age of 18 with previous professional art and design experience. Artists must reside in the United States. Refer to the Selection Criteria listed below for additional requirements.

**BUDGET:** One proposal will be selected for the project, and the finalist will be paid a \$500 honorarium for their finalized design. The selected artist will be responsible for own materials and photography equipment, if applicable.

**DEADLINE:** July 31, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**QUESTIONS:** Cheyenne Kumbhare [ckumbhare@johnsoncitytn.org](mailto:ckumbhare@johnsoncitytn.org) 423-975-2706

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### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Johnson City Public Art Committee plans to install a site-specific traffic control box art wrap at the intersection by the entrance to Hands On! Discovery Center and the ETSU Gray Fossil Site & Museum. Traffic control boxes are located at signalized

intersections and house the components that power traffic lights. Their prominent placement on street corners and their blank, metal surfaces offer an excellent space to incorporate art.

**Proposed designs should reflect the science and arts-based exhibits, activities, and programming provided by the Hands On! Discovery Center and ETSU Gray Fossil Site & Museum as outlined in the “Artwork Theme” section below.** Artists may submit up to three designs, and the design content must be appropriate for all audiences.

Artwork must be designed to fit within the specific dimensions of the control box to ensure that the image is not distorted or off-center. The artwork may be designed at any size as long as it is proportionally suited to the control box. Please refer to the template below for dimensions.

After the design is selected, the artist will be allotted one week to finalize the artwork if they have not already done so. The artist will upload/scan/photograph their work and send to the Johnson City Public Art Committee. The design will be printed on a durable, vinyl wrap and will be installed on the box. The committee will oversee the processing and installation of the wrap.

## **PROJECT SITE:**

The traffic control box will be located at the intersection of Suncrest Dr. and Sam Jenkins Rd. in Gray, Tennessee. The box will be on the southwest corner of the intersection, diagonally across the street from the Hands On! Discovery Center sign. The discovery center and the ETSU Gray Fossil Site & Museum share space at this location and are partnered together to serve as a dynamic hub for science and education in northeastern Tennessee.

## **ARTWORK THEME:**

The chosen design will align with the spirit of the Hands On! Discovery Center and ETSU Gray Fossil Site & Museum and their place in the community, highlighting the sense of curiosity and discovery that these facilities inspire within individuals of all ages.

The wrap artwork should reflect the science and arts-based exhibits, activities, and programming provided by the Hands On! Discovery Center and ETSU Gray Fossil Site & Museum and utilize the following key terms as inspiration for the design:

- **CURIOSITY**
- **DISCOVERY**
- **STEM/STEAM\*** educational frameworks, specifically in relation to the following:

- Tesla Coil (<https://visithandson.org/tesla/>)
- Discovery Garden (<https://visithandson.org/garden/>)
- Fossils at the Gray Fossil Site (<https://www.etsu.edu/gray-fossil-site-museum/about/dig-site.php>)

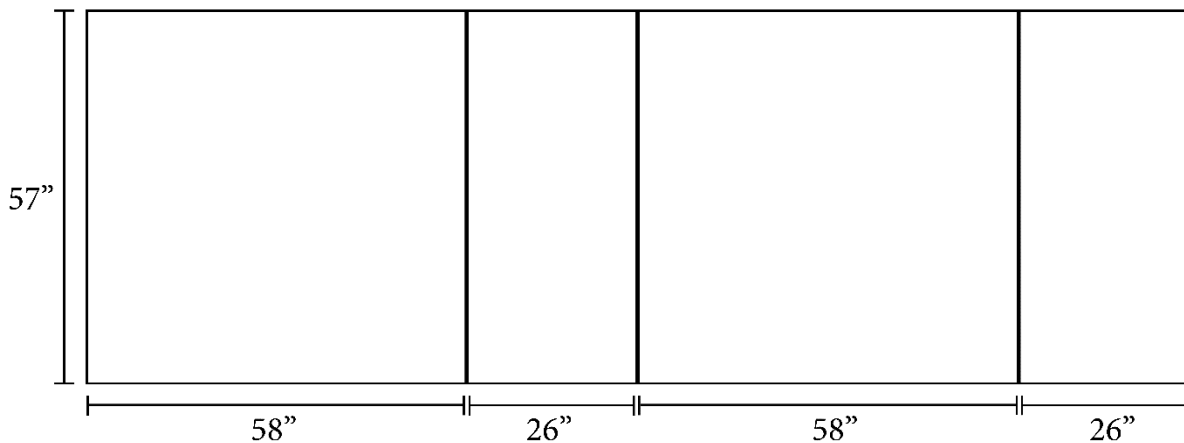
\*(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics / Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics)

**Hands On! Discovery Center** is a nonprofit, regional, all-ages science center that provides engaging and educational experiences that inspire the discovery and understanding of science and the arts through interactive, hands-on programs and exhibits. Its mission is to inspire discovery and understanding of science and the arts in a place where learning and fun go hand in hand. The **ETSU Gray Fossil Site & Museum** is a world-class paleontological site that preserves the remains of a forested pond ecosystem that existed around 4.5-5 million years ago during the Early Pliocene Epoch. Its mission is to discover, preserve, and interpret the fossil record of the region while fostering an appreciation and understanding of natural science through research, education, and interactive experiences.

For more info about these organizations, visit <https://visithandson.org/> and <https://www.etsu.edu/gray-fossil-site-museum/>.

### TRAFFIC CONTROL BOX TEMPLATE:

The traffic control box is approximately 58”w x 26”d x 57”h. Designs must be proportionally suited to these dimensions. Download the template at <https://jcpubliart.com/traffic-wrap-art-call/>



## **DIGITAL SUBMISSION:**

All artwork must be submitted digitally. Scan/photograph physical artwork or upload digital artwork and submit in one of the following file formats:

- PDF
- JPG
- PNG

The selected artist will be required to provide a high resolution digital image for final submission. If the image does not meet specifications required for a quality vinyl print, it must be resubmitted. Guidelines for photographing physical artworks are as follows:

- **Take photo with the highest quality camera you have available and at the highest resolution possible**
- **Photograph the artwork as straight on as possible (do not angle the camera)**
- **If possible, set camera on a tripod or other stable object and use the timer function on the camera to take the photo (this will decrease the likelihood of shaking and producing a blurred image)**
- **Do not compress the photo when submitting**
- **Ensure that there is no glare present in the photograph**

## **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

A Public Art Selection Committee will review the proposals of applicant artists and make recommendations to the Johnson City Public Art Committee. The Selection Committee includes artists, arts advocates, curators, administrators, project partners, and other arts and community development specialists. Selections will be based on the following criteria:

- **Artistic excellence as demonstrated in 2 digital images of the artist(s) previous work**
- **Artistic merit**
- **Quality of proposed wrap design(s)**
  - If the design is to include text, it must be included in the design. Designs may not be used for advertisement or to promote a business, product or viewpoint
  - Designs may not include any breach of intellectual property, trademarks, brands, or images of illegal activity
  - Design must include all visible sides of the box (do not include a design for the top of the box)

- **Interpretation of the site-specific theme**
  - The design should reflect the exhibits, activities, and programming provided by the Hands On! Discovery Center and ETSU Gray Fossil Site & Museum as outlined in the “Project Site & Artwork Theme” section above
- **Experience in design of projects of a similar type and scale**
- **Willingness to meet all contractual guidelines**
- **The use of content appropriate for all audiences**

#### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

Submit a digital packet using the online form at <https://jcpublicart.com/traffic-wrap-art-call/>. Submissions shall include the following:

- **Artist’s resume/CV**
- **2 digital images of previous artwork**
- **Artist statement (a typed statement briefly explaining your design, one page maximum)**
  - Artists may submit up to three design proposals in the same application. If submitting more than one design proposal, a statement for each design must be submitted.
  - If design(s) involve the use of generative AI, this must be stated in the artist statement
- **Proposed design(s)**
  - Artists may submit up to three designs that interpret the site-specific theme
  - Scan/photograph/upload as a digital file
  - Designs that are nearly complete are recommended; the Selection Committee will make their selections based on the design presented
  - Must include basic composition and provide a strong sense of the color palette that will be used
  - Must be fitted to the template provided for the control box
- **Contact information for 2 professional references**

#### **PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

**Deadline for Application: July 31, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

**Finalist Notification: August 14, 2026**

**Finalist Final Design Due: August 21, 2026**

The vinyl wrap installation will take place by fall of 2026.

When submitting your proposal, please confirm that you can work within the timeframe noted above.