



CALL FOR PROPOSALS: STENCIL DESIGNS FOR STORM DRAIN ART INSTALLATIONS IN JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

The Johnson City Public Art Committee is seeking proposals from artists or art teams for the commission of stencil designs to be installed on sidewalks by storm drains in Downtown Johnson City and surrounding neighborhoods. Installation will occur in December of 2026.

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

BUDGET: Up to eight proposals will be selected for the project, and each finalist will be paid a \$300 honorarium for his/her finalized design. The artist will be responsible for submitting a digital file of the design only; they will not be responsible for fabrication of the stencil or installation.

DEADLINE: November 11, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

QUESTIONS: Cheyenne Kumbhare ckumbhare@johnsoncitytn.org 423-975-2706

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Johnson City Public Art Committee plans to install oversized stencil designs on sidewalks by storm drains within Downtown Johnson City and surrounding neighborhoods.

The stencil designs will be installed using the product called "Invisible Spray" manufactured by the Rainworks company which, when applied, creates a superhydrophobic coating that repels water. The stencil designs made with the Invisible Spray are practically invisible when the concrete surface is dry, but when they become wet, the artwork will appear.

The spray is eco-friendly and will last 2 to 4 months. When the designs fade, the Public Art Committee will conduct up to two reinstallations, maintaining the exhibit for a period of about 8 months to a year. The reinstallations will occur in new locations to increase visibility of the project and broaden the population that will encounter the artworks.

The artist will be responsible for submitting a digital file of the design only; they will not be responsible for fabrication of the stencil or installation.

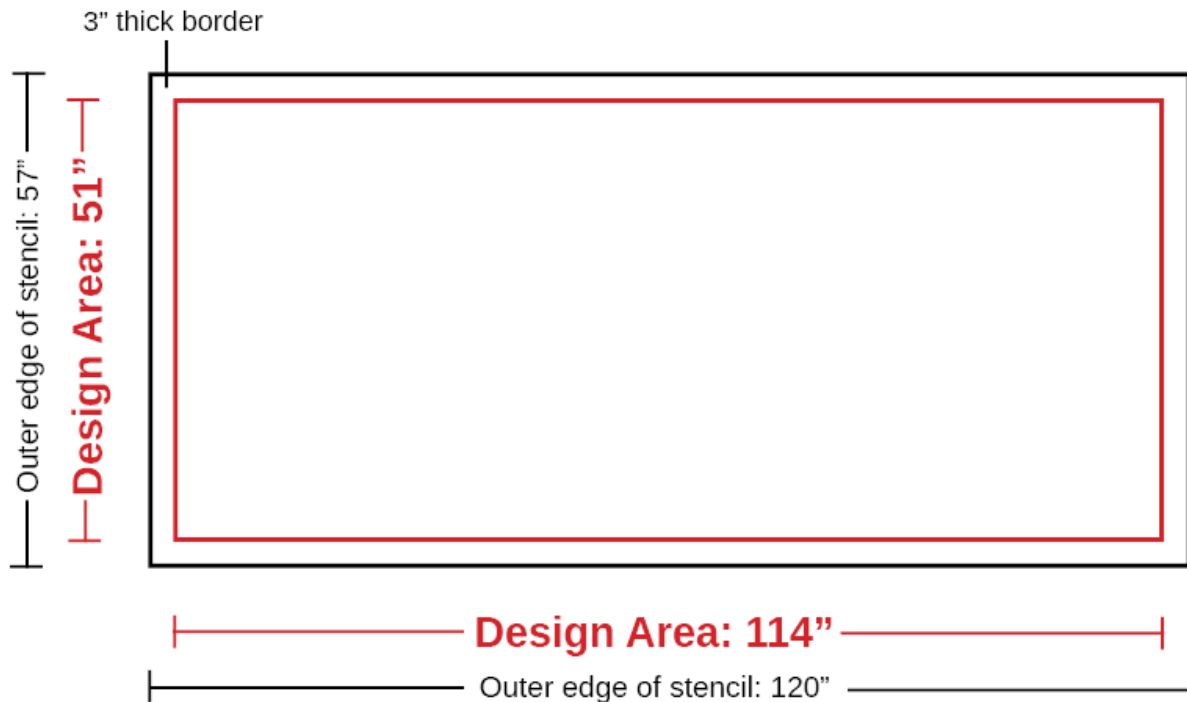
PROJECT THEME:

The designs will be installed next to storm drains to raise awareness about the importance of environmental stewardship in relation to water quality. They will contain imagery and text that remind passersby that the storm drains feed directly into creeks and rivers, and therefore, pollutants around them (chemicals, litter, pet waste, etc.) should be minimized. **For more information about keeping the stormwater system and waterways clean, view the City of Johnson City's [Stormwater Brochure](#).**

All designs will include the text, "**Only Rain Down the Drain**" to create a consistent educational message across all the designs on exhibit. The text formatting, text size, and all associated imagery will be left up to the discretion of the artist.

STENCIL TEMPLATE:

The design area for the stencil will be 51 in. x 114 in. (4.25 ft. x 9.5 ft.). A 3-inch thick border will be added to each design as in the template below:



The template is available for download at: <https://jcpublicart.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2026/10/Stencil-Template.pdf>

Design Requirements:

- Stencil designs should be creative, dynamic, and include a balanced composition with a moderate level of detail.
- The design area for the stencil will be 51 in. x 114 in. (4.25 ft. x 9.5 ft.), and all designs must be proportionately suited to these dimensions
- Artwork may be designed at either a landscape or portrait orientation.
- All interior elements should be designed so that they will remain attached to the stencil when printed (no floating elements). If the design includes floating elements, bridges (connecting parts) will be added to the graphics in a way that interferes with the design as little as possible.
- Digital designs are preferred, but hand-drawn designs are also acceptable.
- Initial designs must be submitted in black and white as a jpg, png, or pdf file.
- If your design is selected, the final design must be submitted in one of the following file formats:
 - Digital files: Black and white, vector files in svg, ai, or pdf format
 - For hand-drawn images: Black and white, high resolution png or jpg

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 stencil designs**
 - 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
 - Designs must conform proportionately to the 51" x 114" dimensions of the stencil design area
- **Experience with projects of a similar scale**
- **Willingness to meet all contractual guidelines**
- **The use of content appropriate for all audiences**

AI POLICY INFORMATION:

Please view our AI policy information to ensure your design is acceptable prior to submission: <https://jcpublicart.com/jcpa-ai-policy/>

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submit a digital packet using the online form at <https://jcpublicart.com/storm-drain-stencil-project/>. Submissions shall include the following:

- **Artist's resume/CV**
- **2 digital images of previous artwork**
- **Artist Statement**
 - A typed statement (one page maximum) briefly describing:
 - Your proposed design(s) and its/their relation to the project theme
 - If AI tools were used in the development of the design, explain how these tools were used
- **Proposed design(s)**
 - Up to 3 designs may be submitted
 - Must be proportionally suited to the 51" x 114" stencil design area dimensions

- May be completed at either a landscape or portrait orientation
- Must provide a strong sense of the design composition
- Scan/photograph/upload as a digital file
 - Acceptable file types: jpg, png, or pdf
 - Black and white
- Maximum file size that may be uploaded to the online submission form is 50MB

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Deadline for Application: November 11, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Notification of Finalists: November 23, 2026

Final Designs Due: November 30, 2026

The stencil installation will take place in December of 2026.

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