



Art in Odd Places 2026: UTOPIAS

SENSE | DREAM | BODY | CARE | CONNECT

FAQs

1. Who is Art in Odd Places (AiOP)?

AiOP is an artist-run project. We have worked horizontally and collaboratively with a small staff, artists, and artist assistants to realize each festival since 2005. This is a passion project for everyone, and most of the organizing happens around busy work/life schedules.

The Art in Odd Places (AiOP) 2026: UTOPIAS festival is September 26 and 27, on 14th Street (Between First and Third Avenue on Saturday, and between Sixth and Eighth Avenues on Sunday).

The core group of organizers changes from year to year. For *AiOP 2026: UTOPIAS*, the organizers are: **Arantxa Araujo + Pancho López**, Curators; **Juliana Maurer + Valentina Zamora**, assistant curators; **Katya Usvitsky**, Producer; **Laurie Waxman**, Designer; **Ross Mabbett**, Web Developer; **Robin Schatell**, Consultant; **Michelle Leidecker**, Social Media Strategist, and **Ed Woodham**, Founder & Director.

2. What are the criteria for project selection?

We invite individual and collaborative artists to propose projects for this New York City outdoor public visual and performance art festival. We welcome projects that use installations, actions, gestures, and sound to reflect on *UTOPIAS*. Selection of projects will be based on feasibility, the originality of the concept in relation to the theme of *UTOPIAS*, creative inventiveness, and the scope of interaction with both the public and the legacy of NYC. Projects should be topical, easily accessible to the public, portable, weather-proof for the outdoors, low/no tech, and be feasibly realized with a limited budget (DIY).

3. How will the Open Call work?

The Open Call for Proposals launches on **March 21st** and the deadline is **April 21, 11:59pm EST**. The open call is free. Students are not eligible to apply. *AiOP* asks each artist or collective to provide a project description of their proposed piece, how it relates to the theme of *UTOPIAS*, and how the artist/artists intend to create a connection with New York City's people and community. Artists are asked to provide short and long project descriptions, artist and/or group bios, up to 3 images of the proposed piece, 3 examples of previous work, and artist/group website links if available.

4. What does AiOP provide to selected artists?

AiOP provides artists with promotion to a wide network of press and art world contacts, a website presence (with project info, bio, and personal web link), listing in the AiOP program. We can also help in the following ways: introductions to local business owners and other community partners, letters of support for artists who need visas, and letters of support for artists who are interested in applying for individual grants.

AiOP **does not** provide: funding, permits, insurance, security. Artists are responsible for securing any necessary permissions and all logistics.

5. Can I propose two separate projects for the festival?

We prefer a singular project proposal concept for AiOP 2026: *UTOPIAS*.

6. Will AiOP find and clear a location for the project?

Selected artists will work with the curators to determine project locations, and AiOP can help facilitate introductions to local business owners and other community stakeholders. However, the artists themselves will ultimately be responsible for working with businesses and community organizations near their desired site to utilize the space for the duration of the festival.

7. What if my project changes during development? Can I pursue an altered concept once being accepted into the festival?

There is room to discuss project alterations, though they would have to be feasible to realize within the production schedule. The deadline for any project changes is July 21, 2026.

8. Will AiOP document my project?

AiOP works with several photographers who aim to document as many projects as possible. However, photographic documentation is not guaranteed. Artists wanting specific photographic and video documentation of their work should also plan to arrange their own photographers and videographers for their projects.

9. How often should I plan to be present during the festival?

Artists should plan for presence on 14th Street to last for several hours or more (with breaks as needed). Your presence is important to your work, both in the way it may help facilitate its activation, and in how you are ultimately able to understand the success of its outcomes. The official festival hours will be noon - 5 pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

10. I live outside of New York, can I apply?

Yes! We welcome regional, national, and international project applications. However, we are unable to provide travel or housing support. We can help with a letter of support for artists seeking visas and suggest affordable housing in New York City.

11. Will AiOP assist international or artists outside of New York with travel expenses?

AiOP cannot assist international or non local artists with travel expenses. However, *AiOP* can provide a template letter to your Embassy or other possible funding sources for support. If you cannot afford to travel to NYC for the festival, we encourage you to find an NYC artist to either collaborate with or act as your project's representative. If accepted, the *AiOP* curatorial team can provide discussions and options for respective project presentations.

12. Should I obtain a permit?

No. Do not apply for a permit. All *Art in Odd Places* projects are executed along 14th Street without a permit. Feasibility is key for this to be possible i.e, do not block egresses, crosswalks, or sidewalks, no crowds of more than forty people, no painting or permanent fixtures. For any questions regarding your concept and permits please email us at aiopnyc@gmail.com.

13. Who can apply?

The open call is open to anyone who wishes to apply. Students are not eligible.