

Call for Designs: Myrtle Avenue Tree Guard Panels

If you've ever walked down Myrtle Avenue, you probably noticed the custom guards and benches lining most of the street's trees. We are looking to install even more tree guards and are holding an open call for panel designs! New tree guards and benches will be installed along Myrtle Avenue between Hall Street and Emerson Place, north of the Myrtle Pedestrian Plaza, slated to open in early summer 2016. These tree guards provide a 'canvas' that reflects local creativity while protecting our street trees - which are valuable in providing shade and filtering fresh air.

PANEL DESIGN INSPIRATION: Historical Local Artists

Myrtle Avenue and the surrounding neighborhoods have a rich history as an incubator for the arts, serving as home to both world renowned and locally-famous artists. To celebrate that legacy, we are looking for tree guard panel designs that are inspired by the artists who once called Fort Greene and Clinton Hill home. For your submission, please choose a local artist (either deceased or living) and her life or work as inspiration for your panel design. For help in selecting an artist, please consult the attached list (or select an artist from your own research!).

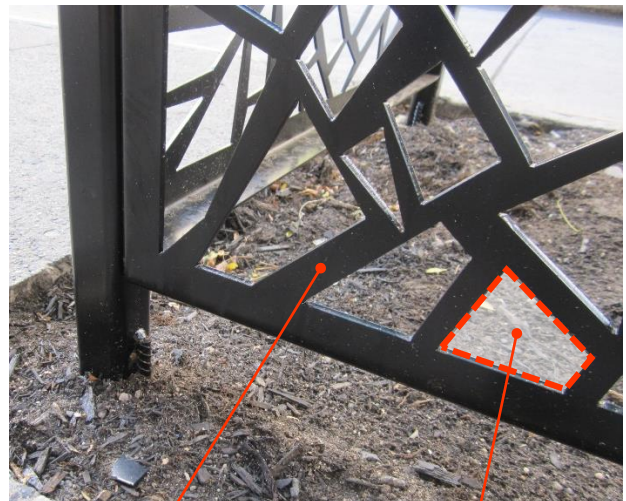
DESIGN GUIDELINES

1. Use the attached Adobe Illustrator file as a template (40" x 14" panel) for your design. The template can also be downloaded at www.myrtleavenue.org/TreeGuardDesign. Leave a 1.5" border around the artwork on all sides. *If you are not familiar with Illustrator, feel free to submit your design in another file format. We'll work with skilled designers to translate your design, if selected, into the appropriate file format for fabrication.*
2. There can be no voids, or "cut outs," in the design larger than 4" in diameter, or longer than 12".
3. Designs should not have unsupported pieces of metal in the middle of the panel.
4. No voids or "cut outs" smaller than ¼".
5. Designs should not create elements thinner than ½". Thin design elements (>½") cannot be longer than 10" (long skinny pieces of metal may warp and potentially break easily over time).
6. Concepts should not include trademarked logos or designs.

Past Design Example:



One panel. Each tree will have four panels, with each panel having the same design.



Solid elements must be at least ½" thick

Voids, or cut-outs, must be at least ¼" wide and no larger than 4" in diameter or 12" in length



LOCAL ARTISTS

Below is a short and incomprehensive list of notable artists who once lived on, or spent significant time on or near Myrtle Avenue in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. We encourage you to select an artist not listed here and to use your design as an opportunity to highlight your selected artists' biography or career. Feel free to be abstract or literal in your interpretation!

Learn more about some of the artists here, through the [Myrtle Avenue Black Artstory Podcast](#).

- Emilio Cruz
- Henry Miller
- Little Anthony
- Patti Smith
- Richard Wright
- Robert Mapplethorpe
- Slide Hampton
- Spike Lee
- Walt Whitman
- Wesley Fagan
- William Gedney
- Digable Planets

SUBMISSION PROCESS

We're inviting artists and designers (both amateur and professional) to submit designs for the panels of a new Myrtle Tree Guard. Submissions will be reviewed by our Public Art and Design Committee. Each winning design will be laser cut into the 4 panels of an individual tree guard. We may select up to 10 unique designs for new tree guards to be installed in spring 2016 along Myrtle Avenue. Selected artists will receive a \$50 stipend.

Submit your design using the Adobe Illustrator template via email or Dropbox to hello@myrtleavenue.org. The deadline is **Tuesday, January 12th at 5pm**. Please include a document (Microsoft Word or PDF) containing your contact information (name, address, telephone, email) and brief description of your design and the artist who inspired it (no more than 200 words).

QUESTIONS? Please call us at (718) 230-1689 ext. 6# or e-mail hello@myrtleavenue.org.

By submitting an entry to this competition, entrants are authorizing the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership to incorporate their submitted design into a street furniture element for fabrication, and allowing the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership to retain ownership of the design.