

## **Highland Park “Band-Aid” Sculpture Project**

### **Concept:**

Following the widely successful public art projects of the CowParade in Chicago and the Trail of the Painted Ponies in New Mexico, the Highland Park Art Commission of New Jersey endeavors to create a public art project celebrating the innovative nature of central New Jersey, where multiple life-size, outdoor “Band-Aid” Sculptures will be cast out of polyurethane for artist(s) to use as a blank canvas to explore themes of protection, invention, and innovation.

### **Rationale:**

With many inhabitants of Highland Park somehow affiliated with Johnson & Johnson, a leader in medical devices and pharmaceutical and package consumer goods, and Rutgers’ University, one of the largest research institutes in the country, these themes should spark great interest and enthusiasm in the community.

In central Jersey, there is a long and substantial tradition of innovation from Thomas Edison, who still holds the largest number of patents in America, to Earle Dickson of Highland Park who along with Thomas Anderson invented the Band-Aid in the 1920s, while they both worked at Johnson & Johnson. As history has recorded, Earle Dickson developed this adhesive in aid to his wife’s frequent cuts and burns as she cooked. The prototype allowed her to attend to her wounds easily without any need of assistance. Prior to the Band Aid, gauze was used. Since then, J&J and many other companies (Curad for example) have produced this product/bandage – this staple of everyday living – and in so doing, have provided millions of people with the simple, self-care remedy (for almost a hundred years).

This Band-Aid Public Sculpture Project is meant to engage the public’s interest in the borough of Highland Park’s history and to support New Jersey artists in creating works of art that can provide a memorable, thought-provoking, and/or possibly whimsical experience for locals and visitors alike. This call for proposals is also quite timely in that Earle Dickson was recently inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame on May 8, 2017 and Rutgers University just celebrated its 250th year in “revolutionary thinking.” The location of the pieces to be erected include the two entrances to Highland Park: 1) Centennial Park at River and Raritan Avenue and on Raritan Avenue and Brookville Avenue, right on the cusp of Edison named for Thomas Edison.

“When [public art] is placed where it is a part of a community’s everyday environment, the experience makes public spaces more welcoming, and at the same time becomes a source of civic pride” (The Trail of the Painted Ponies, c 2001, page 11). Our hope is that this project engenders pride and a renewed interest in the value of art. This public art project should support the work of talented New Jersey artists while also serving the Highland Park, J & J and Rutgers’ communities. Our current plan is to place the sculptures at the various entrances to Highland Park.

## **Call for Artist(s) Entries**

We are officially placing a call for submissions from individual artists or teams of artists from New Jersey (preference given to Central New Jersey artists) to propose ideas to re-imagine the “Band-Aid” as an outdoor “sculpture” – be it painting, sculpting or populating the piece. All-weather accommodating materials and approaches may be considered. Attention should be paid to the fact that viewers will be driving by the work. We are particularly interested in works that inspire drivers to come back to the piece on foot to appreciate the artist’s or artists’ vision more closely.

Each selected artist or artists will be provided with one (1) 7-feet high by 2-feet wide by 6” deep polyurethane “Band-Aid” blank canvas to work with in whatever way they proposed. The canvas will be partially hollow with a steel rod that extends to the bottom to allow the work to be bolted to a base. There will be approximately 3 to 4 foot bases to anchor the sculpture.

The Highland Park Arts Commission intends to award two (2) artists or artist-groups to create a Band-Aid Sculpture.

Applicants interested in applying are required to send in the following items;

- 1) proposed design – photographs and sketches;
- 2) written proposal detailing how the work explores the theme(s) delineated above (1000 words maximum);
- 3) digital portfolio of 15-20 works (if a team of artists is applying, please submit examples of past collaborations, if this is a new team, please submit no more than 20 works total)
- 4) resume/cv; and
- 5) list of materials the artist wishes to use and budget. (Note: all works will require UV-protective automotive clear coat, which will serve to protect the work from exposure to outdoor elements.)
- 6) contact information, cell and email.

Email the above to: [info@hpartscommission.com](mailto:info@hpartscommission.com). Subject line should read Band-Aid Sculpture Proposal. All files should be labeled with Artist last name and first initial.

Or mail to:

Highland Park Arts Commission  
Borough of Highland Park  
221 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Highland Park, NJ 08904

Questions may be also be directed to: [info@hpartscommission.com](mailto:info@hpartscommission.com)

The chosen artist(s) will be given up to a \$1200 materials budget to use at his/her or their discretion. A full timetable for completion and installation of the work of art will be provided to the selected artists.

Applications will be accepted September 15 through October 15. Applications postmarked after October 15 or received after 11:59pm on October 15 will not be accepted.

Notification of acceptance by the Highland Park Arts Commission Sculpture Committee will be on November 15 by email. Final acceptance by artists is December 1, 2017.

The Jurors include artists Amée Pollack, Allan Arp and curator Paola Morsiani.

Biographies.

**Allan Arp** is Chair of the Visual Arts Department Chair at The Hun School of Princeton. Currently teaching courses in CAD / Design / and 3D Printing. He holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Sculpture from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers. Recent shows with the Washington Sculpture Group. He is a longtime resident of Highland Park.

**Paola Morsiani** is Acting Director at Brodsky Center, Rutgers University's artist-in-residence program. Working at some of the country's most significant art institutions, she has enabled museums to evolve into vibrant artistic centers where both tradition and innovation promote and sustain learning. Through her exhibitions, she has contributed an original perspective and scholarly interpretation, and supported the creation of new artworks. She is recognized for a creative outlook, a progressive educational approach, and dynamic initiatives. Prior to joining Rutgers in 2016, from 2012 to 2014, Morsiani was Director of the Neuberger Museum of Art of Purchase College, SUNY, where she worked on expanding opportunities for curricular development and interdisciplinary learning.

**Ameé J Pollack** is mixed media artist who currently advises BFA Visual Arts students at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Her sculptural works are in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum, Yale University and The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum-Smithsonian among others. Pollack received a fellowship from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and an MFA from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

