



**CALL TO ARTISTS:
Drew Park Artist Wrapped Signal Boxes**

This is a Call for Artists Who:

- Have an interest in creating artwork for traffic signal boxes in Drew Park
- Recognize the value of celebrating the diversity of Drew Park through iconic imagery
- Are visual artists or who can transfer artwork to a digital format
- Live in Tampa

Budget \$1000.00

Application materials must be received electronically by September 28, 2026 at Midnight

About:

The Drew Park Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) invites artists to apply to be considered for the creation of Traffic Signal Box artwork throughout the Drew Park CRA. The Drew Park CRA is specifically interested in wrapping signal boxes with vinyl wrap. Artists are not responsible for the management of the installation.

Eligibility /Qualifications:

This opportunity is open to all artists residing in Tampa, Florida, both emerging and established artists, who have completed projects for private clients, public agencies, or for grassroots/community projects. Prior Public Art experience is not a requirement to apply but is preferred. Artists will have to obtain a high-res scan and/or vector file for submission of deliverables. Artists must follow FDOT and City of Tampa Guidelines for designs. These include: no numbers or text, road signs, and recognizable faces. No offensive imagery will be considered.

The Art Selection Committee will review all submitted work samples and select five artists. Each selected artist will be assigned a project theme and provided a minimum of four weeks to develop and submit two design concepts for the committee's review.

After evaluating the submissions, the Art Selection Committee will select the preferred design concept. The committee may request minor revisions before granting final design approval.

Locations:

Tampa Bay Blvd and HCC driveway

Lois Ave and Osbourne Ave

Lois Ave and MLK Blvd

Lois Ave and South Ave

Lois Ave and Crest Ave

Selection Process:

Information and materials submitted in response to this RFQ will be evaluated by a committee comprised of arts professionals and Drew Park CRA designees to determine eligibility to apply for specific opportunities. Each Artist will include what Themes they would like to be eligible for. Each artist can pick as many themes as they want. From one theme or all themes. Please make sure to include which Themes you want to apply for. Artists are expected to do their own research to elaborate on these themes.

Themes: Choose 1- Select all project themes for which you would like to be considered.

Drew Field: The history of Drew Park begins with Drew Field, Tampa's first municipal airport, which opened in 1928 on land owned by local cattleman and developer John H. Drew. What started as a 130-acre grass airfield quickly became one of Florida's most modern airports after improvements funded through New Deal-era public works programs added paved runways, hangars, and lighting.

During World War II, Drew Field was transformed into Drew Army Airfield, a major military training and operations base. At its peak, tens of thousands of service members trained there, with facilities including barracks, hospitals, maintenance shops, and prisoner-of-war camps for German and Italian soldiers. The construction of Dale Mabry Highway in 1943 connected Drew Field to MacDill Army Airfield, strengthening Tampa's role in the nation's wartime defense.

After the war, the military returned the property to the City of Tampa, and the airfield evolved into what is now Tampa International Airport. The surrounding area, once filled with military buildings and support facilities, gradually developed into the mixed-use neighborhood known today as Drew Park. Today, Drew Park is home to businesses, light industry, Hillsborough

Community College, and major entertainment venues, while its roots as a pioneering airport and vital World War II military installation remain an important chapter in Tampa's history.

Borden Dairy: A Drew Park Landmark

For decades, the Borden Dairy plant was one of Drew Park's most recognizable employers and landmarks. Building on Tampa's long dairy tradition, the facility processed and distributed milk and other dairy products throughout much of Florida, becoming a familiar part of daily life for generations of residents. Its presence reflected Drew Park's growth as a center for industry and manufacturing following World War II. Although the dairy is no longer in operation, Borden remains an important part of the neighborhood's industrial heritage and Tampa's agricultural history. The logo cannot be used.

Aviation History in Drew Park

Aviation has been at the heart of Drew Park's identity for nearly a century. In 1928, Drew Field opened as Tampa's first municipal airport, helping establish the city as an emerging aviation hub. During World War II, the airport became Drew Army Airfield, where thousands of pilots, aircrews, and support personnel trained before deployment overseas. The airfield also supported aircraft maintenance, logistics, and military operations, playing a vital role in the nation's war effort.

Following the war, Drew Field evolved into Tampa International Airport, one of the nation's most highly regarded airports. The surrounding neighborhood developed into today's Drew Park, where its aviation roots continue to influence the area's identity through nearby aerospace businesses, transportation industries, and its enduring connection to flight and innovation.

Cypress Trees and the Natural Landscape

Long before Drew Park became a center for aviation and industry, the area was part of Tampa's rich natural landscape of wetlands, cypress domes, and pine flatwoods. Towering bald cypress trees thrived in the seasonal wetlands, where their distinctive flared trunks and "knees" helped support a diverse ecosystem. These wetlands filtered water, reduced flooding, and provided habitat for wading birds, turtles, fish, amphibians, and countless native plant species.

Although much of the original landscape has been altered through development, cypress trees remain a powerful symbol of Drew Park's natural heritage. They serve as a reminder of the

ecological systems that once defined the area and the importance of preserving Tampa's remaining wetlands for future generations. **W.T. Edwards Tuberculosis Hospital**

In 1952, the W.T. Edwards Tuberculosis Hospital opened in Drew Park as one of Florida's most advanced medical facilities dedicated to treating tuberculosis. Named after W.T. Edwards, the hospital served patients from across the state and was the only Florida facility equipped to treat children with tuberculosis while also caring for patients requiring long-term isolation. As medical advances greatly reduced tuberculosis cases, the hospital closed in 1974. The site was later redeveloped as part of Hillsborough Community College, but its legacy remains an important chapter in Drew Park's history of public health, medical innovation, and community care.

Small Businesses, Churches, and Community

As Drew Park developed after World War II, it became home to a diverse mix of small businesses, neighborhood churches, and locally owned industries that helped shape the community's identity. Many of the original military buildings from Drew Army Airfield were repurposed into warehouses, workshops, and commercial spaces, providing opportunities for entrepreneurs and family-owned businesses. Churches served as gathering places for worship, fellowship, and community support, while modest commercial buildings reflected the neighborhood's hardworking character. Together, these businesses, places of worship, and historic structures tell the story of Drew Park's transformation from a military installation into a thriving center of commerce, industry, and community life

The Application Process:

Artists are being asked to submit images of past works and resumes to be reviewed by a committee. **No new designs are to be submitted at this time.** Deliverables by artist(s) will be graphic images only. Please do not include pictures of yourself in the images of the artwork. This should be artwork only; otherwise, these images will be disqualified.

A complete application consists of the following items:

1. Digital Images of past work:

- Please include up to 10 images (no fewer than 6) of completed art works or projects. Please have each image no larger than 3MB.

2. Professional Résumé (PDF):

- Maximum length two (2) pages.

- Please be sure to clearly state name, address, email, phone, and website/social media on résumé.
- Please include which themes you want to be considered for in the body of your email.

3. Design Idea(s):

Please create a one-page document outlining your design ideas for each theme you are applying for. This document can include a brief description or a few sentences explaining your creative approach and initial concepts for each theme. The purpose is to provide the Art Selection Committee with insight into your vision and how you plan to interpret the selected themes.

How to Submit:

Please email documents to tampaCRAarts@tampagov.net. All items for submission must be uploaded as one zipped folder or preferably a PDF labeled with the artist's name. Mailed submissions will not be accepted. **Materials must be submitted electronically by September 26, 2026 at Midnight.**

Questions? Contact the CRA Arts and Cultural Project Coordinator via email:

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Email: TampaCRAarts@tampagov.net

Website: www.tampagov.net/cra