

# CANAL CONVERGENCE

## Event Theme: Most Western

Request for Temporary  
Public Art Proposals

Deadline: Thursday, April 9, 2026

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*Atmospheric Collision* Performance by Scottsdale Community College Dance  
at *Parallel Flow* by Dina Fisher and David Howe, Canal Convergence 2025. Photo: David Blakeman.

## Canal Convergence | Most Western Request for Temporary Public Art Proposals: Phase I

**Deadline for submissions is Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. MST (AZ).**

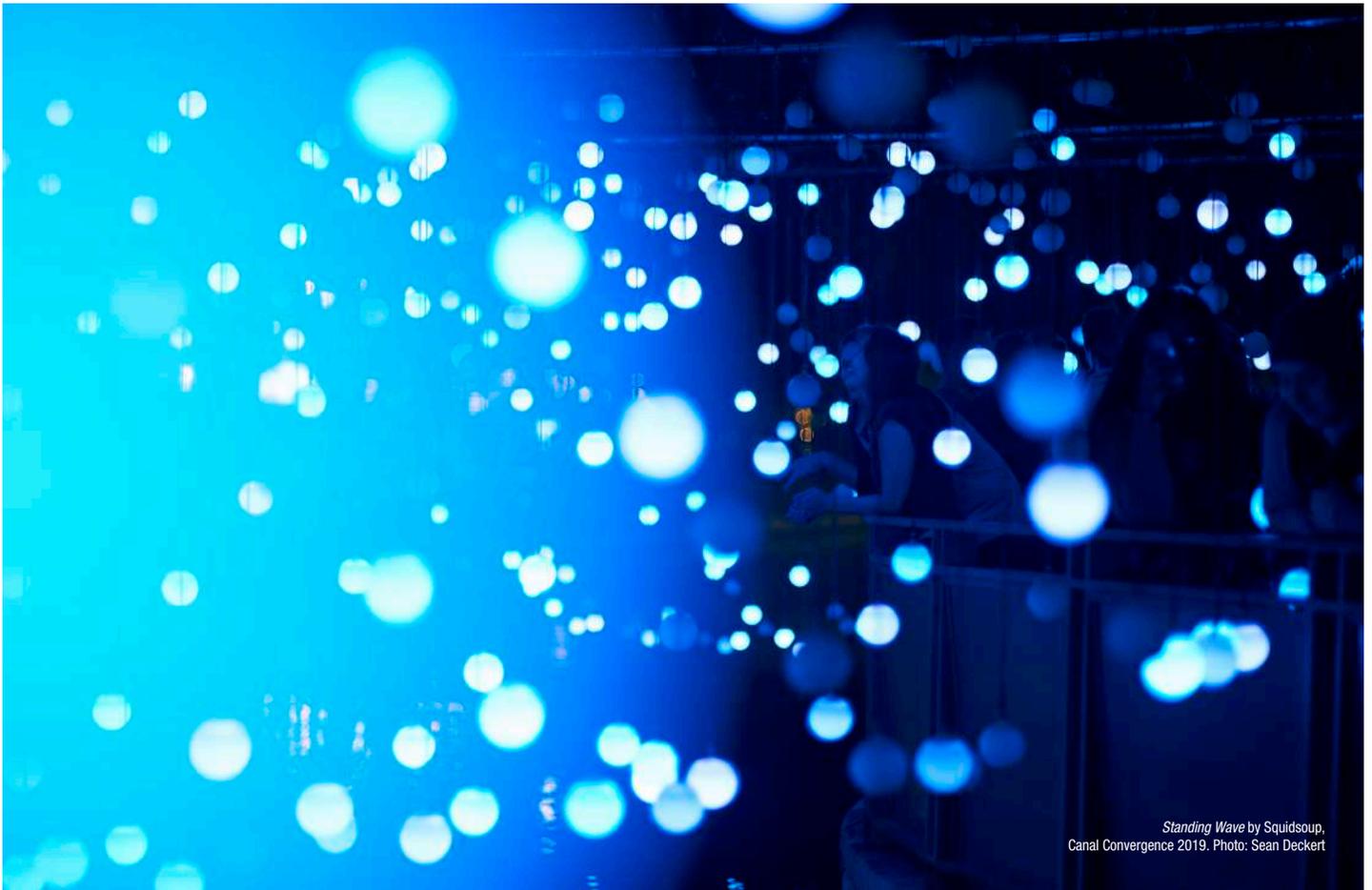
Canal Convergence seeks proposals for outdoor, temporary public artworks to be featured in, around, and suspended above the Arizona Canal at the Scottsdale Waterfront in Scottsdale, Arizona. Canal Convergence will be on view for 10 days, from Nov. 6–15, 2026. Of the final selected artworks (typically between 8 and 15 artworks), one project may be selected to remain installed at the Scottsdale Waterfront for an additional month after the Canal Convergence event dates.

**This call is specifically targeting outdoor, light-based installations. Nighttime presence/activation is required; daytime presence/activation is encouraged.**

### Phases I and II:

This call is Phase I of II. Phase I asks artists to focus on the proposal concept, images, rendering, and estimated total budget. Once Phase I closes on April 9, 2026, up to 30 proposals will be selected for Phase II. Phase II artists will be asked to provide more detailed information on their proposals via a 30-minute online interview and a Phase II questionnaire.

The collected information will be presented to a selection panel made up of event and community stakeholders for final review. Required information for Phase II will include, but is not limited to, a detailed timeline, itemized budget, support crew, heavy equipment, and power requirements, etc.



## Artwork Considerations for Canal Convergence 2026:

The following are different types or formats of art installations and recommended directions that Canal Convergence looks for when selecting artworks. Submissions that adhere to these aspects **will be given a higher priority** in the final selection.

- Artwork that speaks to the 2026 featured theme, Most Western.
- Artwork that is designed for interaction, enabling the public to physically engage with the installation and elicit a direct reaction.
- Interactive artwork that three or more people can activate/engage with at one time.
- Artwork that is designed to activate at timed intervals, or continuously with performances of light, sound, movement, etc.
- Modular artworks that can be installed in narrow (4-8 feet wide), walking-path adjacent sections of landscaping without damaging or destroying existing plant-life.
- Modular artworks that can be installed in a variety of arrangements/orientations and topographies (gravel, grass, inclines, etc.).
- Artwork that is designed to float on the water in the canal\* (see p. 9 for important canal information and restrictions) and have a conceptual justification for being in the canal/water instead of on land.
- Artwork that can be suspended over the canal\* or over pathways, grass, etc.
- Artwork that do not require 24-hour security.
- Multiple (2 to 3) artworks for the event that can be shipped to and from Canal Convergence in the same truck, container, etc.

\*Canal Convergence is looking to commission 1 to 2 suspended artworks over the Arizona Canal using preexisting permanent poles installed along both sides of the canal bank as suspension points. Contact Jennifer Gill, deputy director of Canal Convergence, at [JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org](mailto:JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org) for examples of past suspended artworks, or with questions about site measurement, weight loads, event-supplied resources, rigging consulting, etc.

## Themes

Canal Convergence's mission is to provide an authentic and immersive art experience in and around the Arizona Canal in Scottsdale.

All local, regional, and international artists—including architects, designers, and multimedia specialists—are invited to submit proposals, either existing artworks or new commissions, for outdoor installations that take into consideration the 2026 central theme, Most Western, and our perennial themes of water + art + light, interactivity, and sustainability.

- **Most Western:** How does your artwork reflect, embody or explore the visual and cultural landscapes and themes of the American west and Arizona?
- **Water + Art + Light:** Does the art address the confluence of art, water, and light?
- **Interactivity:** How can the audience interact with the work?
- **Sustainability:** Does the work incorporate and/or discuss aspects of sustainability or water conservation? The use of solar power, biodegradable, and recycled/recyclable materials are also encouraged.

See the following page for a more detailed overview of the Canal Convergence 2026 theme, Most Western.



*Galascope* by Mindbender Studio, Canal Convergence 2024. Photo: David Blakeman.



*Ripple* by Ithaca Studio, Canal Convergence 2023. Photo: David Blakeman.



Flash Mob Performance at *BIG TV* by BIG ART, Canal Convergence 2025. Photo: David Blakeman.

## Featured Theme: Most Western

The American west is a diverse region renowned for its iconic panoramas and natural beauty. The sparse desert landscapes, monumental rock formations, and vast woodlands tell a story of the land and its inhabitants. The west also encompasses a rich blend of cultures whose influences span hundreds of years, resulting in an abundant variety of artforms, traditions, and social structures that continue to evolve today. These elements and more create a compelling, multifaceted identity that captivates and inspires people from all over the world.

Canal Convergence is deeply connected to the visual and cultural landscapes of Arizona and the American west. Taking place in Scottsdale, Arizona —known as “The West’s Most Western Town,”— the event honors its roots by activating the Arizona Canal with public art, commissioning numerous local artists, musicians, and performers, and more. This year’s Canal Convergence will emphasize its connection to western life and culture further with the featured theme, “Most Western.”

As Canal Convergence plans its 15th year and the City of Scottsdale commemorates its 75-year anniversary, Scottsdale Arts is seeking public art proposals that reflect, embody or explore the American west and Arizona. Some questions to consider include the following:

- What are the core elements that make up the American west’s identity as a region?
- What is the perception of the American west, and how does it differ or align with reality?
- What parts of the Canal Convergence event site, home city or state resonate with western life and culture?
- How does your proposal celebrate or show appreciation for the features that define the American west?

Artists are invited to consider a wide range of subjects, from physical elements like water resources, natural landscapes, native flora and fauna, and climate, to more complex topics like the diverse cultures, histories, artistic genres, and characteristics of the American west. If an artist decides to explore the cultural landscape of the American west in their proposal, they must be cautious to avoid cultural appropriation.



*Voyage by Aether and Hemera,  
Canal Convergence 2013.  
Photo: Sean Deckert*

## Details

### Eligibility

All local, regional, and international artists, artist teams, architects, designers, and multimedia specialists are invited to submit a proposal. Any international artists who apply must have remote installation (provide instructions for the art to be installed by the Canal Convergence installation team without the artist present) as an option for their proposal.

### Selection Process

A selection committee—including Scottsdale Arts staff, Scottsdale Public Art advisory board members, and community stakeholders—will select the top proposals for consideration by the deputy director, who will then make the final selection. Selection will be based on adherence to the listed themes and requirements, as well as suitability for the site.

### Artist Participation

**All artists (and/or their representatives) are required to be present and participate in the installation of the artwork and be present and available for the opening weekend (Nov. 6–8, 2026).** Artists (and/or their representatives) selected to create and exhibit **new artwork commissions** must be present during the artwork installation and through the entire event run.

We prefer artists (and/or their representatives) of **existing artworks** to be present for the duration of the event, but it is not required unless the artwork needs to be actively operated or monitored by the artist during event times.

We are also looking for artists who can propose additional programming relating to their artwork, such as creating a workshop or proposing a fun, new way to engage our community during the event. Proposals for programming are encouraged, but not required.

### Safety

Artists are responsible for addressing safety concerns for their physical artwork and installation/deinstallation plans. Artists may be required to have their designs reviewed and approved by a structural engineer licensed in the state of Arizona.

### Budget

We will accept budgets between \$5,000 and \$35,000 (USD), with a limited number of larger budgets (up to \$45,000 USD) being awarded to new commissions and/or major works of a larger physical scale.

Artists wishing to provide proposals for larger-scale budgets are required to demonstrate experience successfully producing similar projects. Applicants are encouraged to apply for a budget appropriate to their project and, if proposing a project above the \$35,000 (USD) limit, scaling options are a plus. The following will be provided by Canal Convergence, at no cost to the artist: heavy equipment (aerial lifts, forklifts), power, security, and installation staff with basic carpentry skills for installation and deinstallation.

### Insurance

Selected national and international artists will be required to provide proof of general liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million general aggregate and, if required as per the scope of your project, worker compensation insurance and automobile liability coverage.

### Weather

Canal Convergence is an evening, outdoor event. Artwork must be durable and able to withstand weather conditions for the duration of the installation. Artists are asked to consider the Arizona environment, which during the month of November can include heat (up to 105°F/40°C), cold (40°F/4°C), wind, and rain. Inclement weather and heat can impact the functionality of electronics. Significant amounts of rain and wind are not common in Scottsdale at this time of year, but it is possible.

### Installation

Scottsdale Arts can assist with the installation and deinstallation of the artwork, however, installation planning and management will be the physical and financial responsibility of the artist. Consider how the work will be installed, including equipment needs, power requirements, labor, and an installation timeline, as these elements will need to be addressed as a part of Phase II.



*Molecules* by The Urban Conga, Canal Convergence 2024. Photo: David Blakeman.

## Details (cont.)

### Site Activation

Canal Convergence takes place primarily at the Scottsdale Waterfront; a 1/3-mile stretch of pedestrian paths, open grass areas, and landscaping surrounded by residences, offices, and restaurants, all along the Arizona Canal between Scottsdale Road and Goldwater Boulevard.

View the aerial site map on p. 11 of this document and download the [Site Map Packet](#) to view ground-level daytime photos of the sites we have identified as artwork activation areas. Note that the sites identified in the [Site Map Packet](#) are recommendations, and that there are other available/feasible sites within the perimeter of the event. If you are unsure if a site you have identified is available, please contact Jennifer Gill at [JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org](mailto:JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org).

### Types of Site Activation

- Interactive, passive, and/or performative.
- Suspended above the canal or pedestrian paths.
- Floating in the canal.
- Modular artworks with the ability to activate uniquely shaped areas along the path, canal, or grass/gravel area.
- Activate the bridges, grass, gravel areas, or walkways along the canal.
- Projection mapping on the ground, temporary screens, or existing buildings and structures.
- Integrated into the landscaping at waterfront without damaging or destroying the plant life.



*GLOW* by Vessel Performance underneath *Octopoda* by Amigo & Amigo, Canal Convergence 2025. Photo: David Blakeman.



Aerial view of Scottsdale Waterfront.  
Photo: A.D.V. Media

## IMPORTANT Site Information

### The Arizona Canal and Scottsdale Waterfront

- From Soleri Bridge and Plaza to Marshall Way Bridge: Approximately 750 feet.
- From Marshall Way Bridge to Goldwater Boulevard: Approximately 650 feet.
- Canal width: Approximately 60 feet, wall to wall.
- Water depth: Approximately 7 feet, 3 inches.
- Canal wall: Approximately 7 feet, 9 inches, from the canal floor to top of vertical wall, plus a 1-foot decorative cap.
- Water velocity: Approximately 3 to 5 feet per second, flowing east to west.
- Fishing is allowed with an Arizona State fishing license. No swimming or boating.
- Canal water is not treated and often contains debris. Placing artwork in the canal may result in stains or other damage.
- Since the canal water contains debris, large and microscopic, installations that use the canal water in any active way (like pumping water or using the current to activate or power the artwork) are strongly discouraged, unless you have proof of concept in a similar body of water. If you are still considering proposing an artwork that actively uses canal water, contact Jennifer Gill at [JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org](mailto:JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org).
- The Arizona Canal is operated by Salt River Project (SRP) as a power and water utility corridor. Learn more about Salt River Project at [SRPnet.com](http://SRPnet.com).
- Power is underground along both banks of the Scottsdale Waterfront.
- The City of Scottsdale has a license agreement with SRP that allows canal bank improvements, paths, landscaping, lighting, outdoor seating, patios, and limited events.

### Issues of Concern

- SRP reviews and approves all artwork proposals and usage relative to canal function, water safety, and pedestrian access.
- As Canal Convergence takes place in a residential area, any and all artwork installation, programming, testing, and deinstallation work **MUST** start no earlier than 8 a.m., and end no later than 10 p.m. Artists must account for these limitations in their planning process.
- Canal function cannot be interrupted.
- More than 1 foot of water elevation displacement is not allowed.
- Canal bank paths must have 10-foot horizontal clearance and 15 feet of vertical clearance during the event. This is to allow for access by SRP vehicles and recreational users, as well as clearance for emergency vehicles.
- Temporary obstructions of the pedestrian path must be negotiated and planned.
- Anything placed in the water must be nontoxic and eventually removed.
- Attachments to the canal, permanent poles, walls, railing, and/or banks cannot damage the site.
- No water may be removed from the canal for any reason.
- Staking into the ground more than 6 inches is not allowed on the grass areas. Deeper staking can occur in the gravel areas with prior approval.



*Arc ZERO-Oculus by James Tapscott  
Canal Convergence 2021. Photo: David Blakeman.*

## How to Submit Your Proposal

Submissions for Phase I will be accepted via [Submittable.com](https://www.submittable.com). Follow the link below to submit your application:

[CLICK HERE TO START SUBMISSION](#)

Each artist or team may submit up to three ideas or artworks. Please submit a separate proposal with documentation for each separate idea or artwork being proposed.

### Submission Requirement:

- Artist name or team name
- Contact information (must include your phone number, email address, mailing address, and country of origin)
- Website and social media handles
- Title of artwork
- Detailed physical and conceptual description of proposed artwork (300 words max.)
- Explanation of any interactive components of your artwork, if applicable (150 words max.)
- Visual documentation or renderings (drawings, scale models, etc.) of proposed artwork (6 images max., high resolution)
- Visual documentation of past completed artworks (6 images max., 300 dpi, file size between 3–8 MB each)
- Image list with descriptions (artwork size, material, location, etc.). DO NOT put image descriptions on the images.
- Optional: Video renderings or videos of past work
- Estimated budget
- Provide responses to the following prompts:
  - a. How does your proposal relate to the featured theme and/or the event's perennial themes? (150 words max.)
  - b. Is the proposal for a new artwork or an artwork that currently exists?
  - c. If the artwork is existing, where has it been exhibited in the past two years?
  - d. If the artwork is existing, is it currently scheduled or in consideration to be exhibited elsewhere between now and Canal Convergence 2026? If so, where?
  - e. Are you interested in providing a workshop or activity related to your proposal, the Canal Convergence themes, or your artistic practice?
- Résumé (three pages max.)
- If you have created/designed an all-inclusive proposal document, you may submit it along with the other materials. However, this is not a substitute for completing the Submittable application form.
- Additional information you would like us to know.



Showtime! by Walter Productions  
Canal Convergence 2025. Photo: David Blakeman.

## Questions/Follow-Up

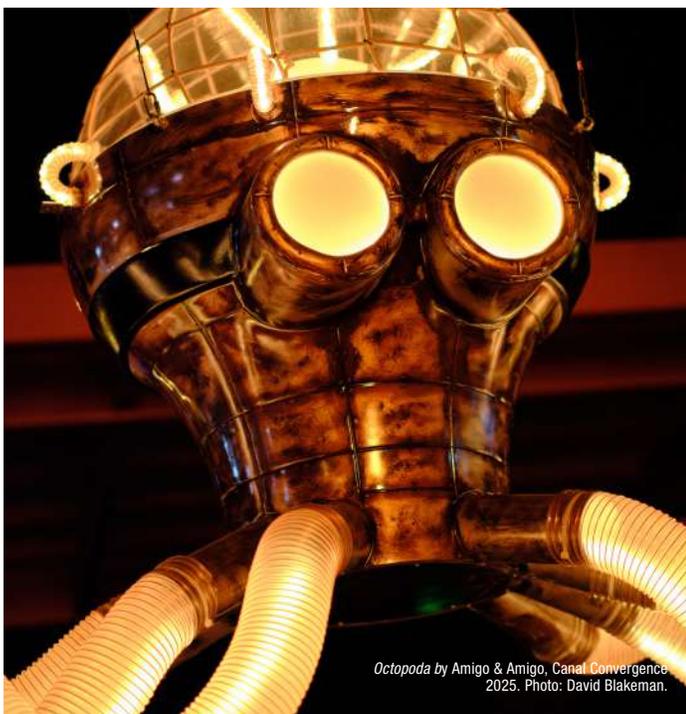
### Contact Info and Artist Info Sessions:

If you have questions about the RFP, Canal Convergence, or your proposal and its suitability for our site, we are happy to discuss it with you. Questions should be directed to Jennifer Gill, deputy director of Canal Convergence, at [JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org](mailto:JenniferG@ScottsdaleArts.org). Jennifer is also offering artists the opportunity to schedule 30-minute (max. meetings via Zoom or phone call in April to discuss their ideas for Canal Convergence. The available dates for these sessions are Thursday, March 12, and Friday, March 27, 2026. To find and schedule available times, please contact Jennifer directly via email.

## Schedule\*

<b>February 19, 2026</b>	Request for proposals released
<b>March 12, 2026</b>	30-minute meeting - session one
<b>March 27, 2026</b>	30-minute meeting - session two
<b>April 9, 2026</b>	Submission deadline for RFP Phase I at 11:59 p.m. MST (AZ)
<b>April 28–30, 2026</b>	Notification of finalist artists selected for Phase II
<b>May 11–15, 2026</b>	Phase II artist interviews
<b>May 20, 2026</b>	Submission deadline for RFP Phase II at 11:59 p.m. MST (AZ)
<b>June 8–10, 2026</b>	Notification of selected artists
<b>June 2026</b>	Proposal development and contract negotiation
<b>July–October, 2026</b>	Planning/scheduling, fabrication maintenance of artwork, etc.
<b>Nov. 2–4, 2026</b>	Installation at the Scottsdale Waterfront
<b>Nov. 5, 2026</b>	Installation contingency day
<b>Nov. 5, 2026</b>	Event rentals load-in
<b>Nov. 6–15, 2026</b>	Canal Convergence   Most Western
<b>Nov. 17–21, 2026</b>	Deinstallation of artwork

\*Schedule is subject to change



Octopoda by Amigo & Amigo, Canal Convergence 2025. Photo: David Blakeman.

# Canal Convergence Site Map: Aerial View

Download the [Site Map Packet](#) to view ground-level, daytime photos of the sites we have identified as available artwork activation areas for Canal Convergence.

For more site measurement information, go to the City of [Scottsdale Parcel Map](#) website.

