



NYU

ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

www.wagner.nyu.edu

PLACE & PURPOSE: URBAN LIFE THROUGH YOUR LENS

NYU Wagner Open Call for Photography

Deadline: Monday, April 20, 2026

New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service (NYU Wagner) is pleased to announce *Place & Purpose: Urban Life Through Your Lens*, an open call for photography and accompanying exhibition.

NYU Wagner's mission is to prepare people to be leaders in public service. Our students come from all walks of life and all corners of the globe to study in New York City, and Wagner's physical location in the heart of Union Square allows for a unique breadth of experiences with urban living. This open call and exhibit, centered on the role of the city—its communities and its infrastructure—invites participants and audiences at large to share their perspectives on urban life as captured through the visual medium of photography.

THEME

“Urban” encompasses not only the infrastructure, like streets and buildings, but also the people who make up a city and the ways we relate to each other. It may be seen through scenes like street celebrations, subway rides, or activities in all types of weather.

Because there isn't just one way to define urban life, the power of this exhibition lies in the variety of answers it offers and the conversations it sparks. By asking photographers to respond to the same question, we create a collection of images that reveal the many aspects of city life around the globe.



SUBMISSIONS & EXHIBITION TERMS

Elegibility

All NYU students, alumni, and employees and New York City-based photographers are welcome to apply. Photographic series with thematic and visual cohesion are strongly encouraged.

All photos must be the applicant's original work. By submitting a photo, you attest to your ownership of the image. AI-generated images are prohibited. However, standard color correction and post-production are allowed, as long as the integrity and subject matter of the image are preserved.

Deadline

All open call materials must be submitted by **Monday, April 20**. Selected artists will be notified by May 4.

Selection Criteria

Images will be selected by a committee composed of NYU Wagner students, staff, and faculty members. Submissions will be evaluated on their adherence to the theme, impact, quality, and technical merit. The final exhibition is expected to feature 12-16 prints and may consist of a series of photographs by a single artist or selections from multiple artists.

Permissions

Participants retain image copyright. Submitting a photo grants NYU Wagner non-exclusive, royalty-free permission to use, reproduce, and distribute the photo in promotional materials and digital content connected to the open call and exhibition. Final prints will be the property of NYU Wagner for exhibition purposes only.

Honoraria

Honoraria are anticipated for selected works, subject to final budget approval.

Exhibition Guidelines

NYU Wagner will assume all printing and mounting costs. The selected images (approximately 12-16 in total) will be displayed at NYU Wagner's home at 105 East 17th Street in New York City. The prints will be primarily installed on the lower level, where our Main Event Space, classrooms, and other student-dedicated areas are located.



Although artist input will be considered, printing and exhibition layout decisions are exclusively made by the curatorial team. The selected images will likely be printed on semi-glossy (luster) paper and mounted frameless on Sintra or Dibond material with brace backing. The exhibition will include labels identifying the artist's name and the artwork title, year, dimensions, and medium.

The prints will be on view uninterrupted for at least one year during 2026-2027 with the option to extend the exhibition permanently or on a recurrent basis. After the initial one-year period, NYU Wagner reserves the right to relocate, remove, or store the prints, either temporarily or indefinitely. Artists would be notified via email if their artwork is moved.

Image Specifications

Images submitted for consideration must be available as JPEG or TIFF files of high enough resolution for sharp printing at 30"x20" (preferably 9,000x6,000 pixels or higher). However, we may consider alternative aspect ratios, printing sizes, and pixel dimensions for works that fit the exhibition theme exceptionally. At the moment, we are also contemplating choosing one image for printing at a larger size for installation on one wall as a solitary piece or triptych. Such an image would need to be of enough PPI density for large scale printing.

Each entrant can submit up to 20 images.

Submission Instructions

Send your submissions to **wagner.gallery@nyu.edu** via Google Drive or WeTransfer in a folder containing the following materials:

1. A CV, resume, or short artist statement with your contact information (name, email, address, and mobile number). If applicable, include your NYU affiliation.
2. Sample image files in JPEG, PNP, or TIFF format. Photos must be clearly visible, and files should not exceed 5 GB each. Each file should be named according to the following convention: ImageNumber_LastName.FirstInitial.ext (e.g., 01_SmithJ.jpeg, 02_SmithJ.jpeg, 03_SmithJ.jpeg, etc.).
3. A Word or PDF document with a list of all images matching the file name numbers. Each numbered entry should include the image title, year of creation, setting/location, as well as the pixel dimensions of the largest digital file available. Applicants may include in this document any contextualizing information about the images or their photography practice.

Please email **wagner.gallery@nyu.edu** for questions or additional information.