



ARTFUL RAILINGS

Bus Rapid Transit Stations Public Art

Call for Artists | Request for Qualifications



Fence Artwork by Terolenn Barr, St. Anne Street Fence, City of St. Albert

Summary

- Design and create **Railing artworks** at 11 at **Bus Rapid Transit shelters along the New Bern Corridor**
- Designers and 2D artists encouraged to apply
- The Artist Fee for detailed final design (community engagement, location, integration method, construction documents) is **\$15,000**
- The Project budget for Public Art fabrication and installation is up to **\$150,000**
- Qualifications must be submitted by **October 6th 10am, 2021**. There is no fee to submit qualifications.
- Up to three semi-finalists will be selected for interview, and will interview remotely via Zoom and be paid a **\$100** stipend.
- **Apply**
Online: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/63236>

Eligibility

1. This opportunity is open to individuals and teams **who live or work in North Carolina**.
2. Applicants must be either a United States citizen or a permanent legal resident, and be at least 18 years of age.
3. Applicants must have at least a three-year history of professional practice. (This does not necessarily need to be public art experience, but could include studio art practice, creative design work etc).
4. Applicants must have demonstrated experience in design through the creation of high-quality work. (T
5. Lead applicant cannot be enrolled in an undergraduate course of study as of January 1, 2021.

Budget

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Project Overview

In November of 2016, Wake County voters approved a plan for focused investment in public transit which includes building approximately 20 miles of transit lanes along four (4) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors. The first BRT corridor, New Bern Avenue, will connect downtown Raleigh with Wake Med and New Hope Rd. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Summer of 2022.

As part of the project, the City of Raleigh is hiring artists to create artwork integrated in the stations. The artwork will aesthetically enhance the stations while also highlighting community stories and history.

This Artist Call is specifically for the *New Bern* Bus Rapid Transit Corridor. Selection for this project does not necessarily mean you will be selected for other BRT corridors. Artists' designs may be used in City of Raleigh publications, displayed on electronic screens at stations, and on the City of Raleigh website and social media channels.

Railing Artwork Process

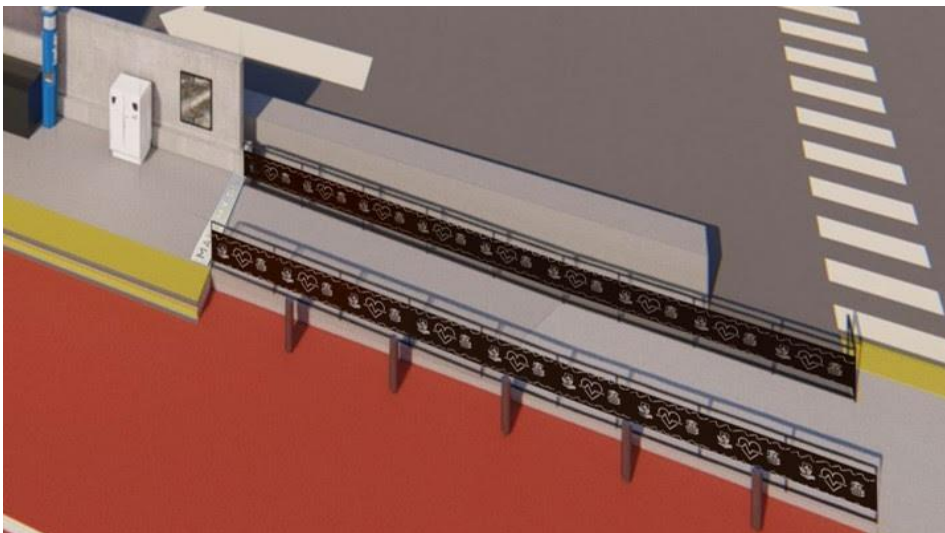
The selected artist will be responsible for designing and creating Railing Artworks for the Wake BRT New Bern Corridor. The Railing Artist can choose to either create and install the artworks themselves or to provide detailed construction drawings/designs to skilled fabricators/installers who will then make and install the

artwork. The artist will be responsible for finding and subcontracting with any fabricators/installers.

The City will provide the functional railing (top rail, bottom rail, and upright column elements). The artist will be responsible for providing an aesthetic panel inset for the railing.

Public Art Goals and Opportunities

- Create unique and aesthetically pleasing railing designs that speak to community character, stories, and/or histories
- Create Railings at 11 of the BRT Stations.
- Provide a unified aesthetic throughout the New Bern BRT Corridor while still creating a unique identity for each station.
- Collaborate with the project team (artists, architects and engineers) to design a cohesive aesthetic experience at each bus station



Community Engagement

A major component of this design process is conducting community engagement sessions to gather feedback from the communities near each station, with the goal of including the shared history and experiences of the community in the station artworks. This project requires strong interpersonal skills and the ability to listen deeply and thoughtfully to community input. Public engagement and community outreach will be supported by City staff and integrated into the Wake BRT outreach process.

Artist-in-Residence Dare Coulter has already created a roadmap of themes and possible histories at each station, but selected artists will be expected to conduct research and community sessions in order to fully flesh out themes at their 2

selected stations. Themes which have already been identified for possible inclusion in the various artworks may include history, wayfinding, nature, playful fun, and community inspiration.

The City is also working to hire a local historian who can provide a historical narrative for each station as well as a roadmap for the overall corridor. That information will be made available to artists as they begin the design process.

Artist and Design Team Collaboration

Selected artists will collaborate closely with a team of artists and designers.

Members of the team include:

- **9 glass artists** - each designing glass windscreens at 2 stations
- **1 Artist** responsible for designing and creating the **wayfinding and concrete integrated artwork** at up to 19 of the stations
- **1 Artist** responsible for designing and creating **metal railing artwork** at 11 of the stations
- The BRT station architecture and engineering team
- Installers and contractors working on the project

The design of the Glass artists work will take the lead on defining the narrative and aesthetic of each station. Using the glass art as inspiration, the Concrete artist and Railing artist will create work that speaks to the unique themes and history of that station.

To create a cohesive look at each station, the glass, railing and wayfinding/integration artists will be expected to coordinate on design inspiration and overall station aesthetics. Each station will have a unique character while enhancing and establishing the design identity of the corridor.

Artists will also work closely with the Architects and Engineers on the project to make sure designs follow transportation, transit, ADA, and other guidelines. Furthermore, artists will work with the station design team to ensure cohesion between the different types of art integration.

If you are interested in applying for other BRT public art opportunities, you can find those here: <https://raleighnc.gov/services/arts/artist-calls>

About Bus Rapid Transit

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a flexible high-capacity transit solution that combines physical and operational elements to increase service speed and reliability. BRT creates dedicated bus lanes on local roads so bus operators can bypass traffic and keep their routes on schedule. BRT stations will feature raised platforms, making it easier for passengers to board the bus. Fares are collected on the platform so

passengers can board without delay. Learn more about [Wake BRT](#) and the [New Bern BRT Corridor](#).

Selection Criteria and Process

Selection Criteria and Process Applications submitted in response to this RFQ will be reviewed by the City of Raleigh Public Art Director, who will then forward all complete and eligible applications received by the deadline to the Selection Panel. The Panel may include: a member of the Public Art and Design Board, professional artists and professionals, stakeholders from community groups, and representatives from city departments.

The selection process will consist of two stages: During the first stage, the Selection Panel will evaluate qualifications based on four criteria: merit; appropriateness for the project; collaboration and social/cultural relevance. The Selection Panel will identify up to three finalists to invite to Raleigh for interviews.

Finalists selected for the Stage 2 interviews via video-conference and will receive a stipend of \$100. In addition to reviewing qualifications, panelists will discuss with finalists their prospective approaches to the project. They will also respond to questions.

***A specific proposal is not expected at this interview**

Project Timeline

RFQ Application Deadline	October 6th, 2021 at 10am EST
Semi-Finalists Selected & Notified:	October 15th, 2021
Semi- Finalists Interviewed:	Late October 2021
Project Awarded:	Late October 2021
Initial Community Engagement/Research	Nov-January 2022
Concept Design Due:	January 2022
Determine Size/Location of integrated Artworks:	February 2022
Construction Documents:	February 2022
Further Community Engagement/Research:	Jan 2022 - Spring 2023

Collaboration with other BRT artists	January 2022 - 2023
Fabrication:	2022- Spring 2023
Installations:	Summer 2023 - 2024

The anticipated project milestones for the Wake BRT New Bern Avenue project, specifically station construction, will be refined by Summer 2022. The selected artists will work with the design team to ensure successful installation of railing art at the 11 stations.

How to Apply

Apply online using this link: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/63236>

Those wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

1. **Statement of Interest**

Outlining your connection to or interest in this project and how you foresee engaging with the community, how your work might translate to this project, and experience you have working on public projects. You can submit this information as either:

- A 500 word (or less) written statement
- A two minute or less audio or video clip. We will only play the first two minutes of audio for the panel.

2. **Collaboration**

The ability to collaborate with artists, designers and architects is integral to the success of this project. Please discuss experience you have working collaboratively on creative and/or public art projects.

3. **Biography**

A biography of no more than one page that includes information regarding your practice, experience, and education. If applying as a team, submit a single file containing separate biographies for each team member.

4. **Three Professional References**

Contact information for three references: including name, title and affiliation, phone number and email address. References should be able to speak to your ability to provide services for a public project or artwork of a similar scope.

5. **Teams (optional)**

In the spirit of cross-collaboration the City would like to allow artists to apply as teams across the three New Bern BRT Artist Calls. If there are

Railing, Concrete, and/or Glass artists you propose working with you can list their name(s) here.

- You can apply across the Artist Calls and let us know if you would like to work together, but the **Glass or Concrete** artist will need to submit a **separate application** for that particular call.
- If you intend to work with another artist on the **Railing art** you can submit your applications **together**.
- The city reserves the right to use teams as proposed or make individual selections based on the discretion of the selection panel.

6. **Previous Work, Digital Images**

Eight digital images of recent work. Each image should include: title, year, media, location, project budget, dimensions, commissioning agency, and collaborators or design professionals (if applicable). You can also choose to submit renderings/sketches of how their work could translate to a public project. Please do not submit specific proposals for this project as any concept design will need input from the design team and community.

Do not provide or submit any other materials with your application. They will not be reviewed by the panel and will not be returned.

Submission and Deadline

All RFQ materials must be received **no later than 10:00am. EST Wednesday October 6th 10am, 2021**. Incomplete or late submittals will not be considered.

Non Discrimination Policy

The policy of the City of Raleigh is, and shall be, to oppose any discrimination based on actual or perceived age, mental or physical disability, sex, religion, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial or marital status, economic status, veteran status or national origin in any aspect of modern life. The City of Raleigh Arts Commission strives for a diverse representation of voices, life experiences, views, and interests to reflect the collaborative community we have and wish to serve.

Additional Information

For questions, contact Jenn Hales, Public Art Coordinator for the Office of Raleigh Arts, Jenn.Hales@raleighnc.gov.

For relevant information regarding the project, visit the Office of Raleigh Arts website at: <https://raleighnc.gov/services/arts/artist-calls>