

Blount-Person Corridor | Public Art Artist Call | Request for Qualifications



Summary

- Create a gateway sculpture for one of Raleigh's major downtown corridors, or a series of episodic interventions along the corridor.
- Up to three semi-finalists will be selected for interviews. Artists who are traveling to Raleigh from out of town will be paid a **\$1000** stipend. *(NOTE this may not be an option with the Coronavirus situation)*. Artists who live within a 100 mile radius or who interview via video-conference will be paid a **\$250** stipend.
- The project budget is **\$120,000**
- Qualifications must be submitted by **June 15 (10:00am)**. There is no fee to submit qualifications.
- **Apply Online:**
<https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/54431>

Eligibility:

1. This opportunity is open to individual artists and other artist teams.
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 art or design practice.
4. Applicants must have demonstrated experience in the arts through the creation of high-quality work.
5. Lead applicant cannot be enrolled in an undergraduate course of study in the visual arts as of June 1, 2020.

Budget

The public art budget for the project is **\$120,000** inclusive of all expenses including: design, fabrication, installation, travel, permits if applicable, taxes and fees.



Project Overview

The City of Raleigh is overhauling two major downtown streets, Blount Street, and Person Street, and converting them from one-way thoroughfares into two way streetscapes.

The Blount St.-Person St. Corridor can be seen through multiple lenses: as a major urban thoroughfare, as a commercial and business street, and as a neighborhood address. The corridor extends over five miles from Capital Boulevard to Interstate 40, including Wake Forest Road, Blount Street, Person Street, and Hammond Road, with the core of the corridor being the one-way pair of Blount Street and Person Street.

The project runs through several historic neighborhoods, and a close look reveals that the corridor reflects the complicated history of the American South.

The north end of the corridor is anchored by the historic Mordecai and Oakwood neighborhoods as well as William Peace University. The Mordecai House which sits along the corridor, was once the site of the largest plantation in Wake County.

The middle of the corridor cuts through the downtown core and an area that was referred to as Raleigh's Black Main Street. Within this center area are the newly renovated Moore Square and City Market (one of the few non-segregated shopping areas in the early 20th century).

At the southern end, sits the South Park-East Raleigh Neighborhoods. This historic district is a collection of African American neighborhoods that developed just after the Civil War through the first decades of the twentieth century. The thirty-block area lies east and south of downtown Raleigh and is predominantly residential with working-class and middle-class housing stock, churches, and small grocery stores. Houses are densely packed and sometimes close to the street with well-kept yards and flower gardens. Notable landmarks that about the streetscape include the Tupper Memorial Baptist Church and Shaw University (First four year medical school, and first African American University in North Carolina).

The Northern and Southern ends of the corridor also indicate a transition from Residential homes to the industrial/commercial areas outside of the downtown area.

One-way streets are a relatively recent invention intended to increase throughput and speed for motor vehicles. During the 1950s to 1970s, many two-way streets, particularly in downtowns, were converted to one-way to facilitate higher volumes of motor vehicles to, from, and through the city as well



as to encourage faster access. The unintended consequences on retail success, pedestrians, and quality of life were not well understood at the time. Many cities have restored two-way operations on some of their one-way streets in order to help revitalize street-level activity, promote business access and visibility, and calm traffic in commercial districts and neighborhoods, as the City of Raleigh has recently done on Lenoir Street and South Street.

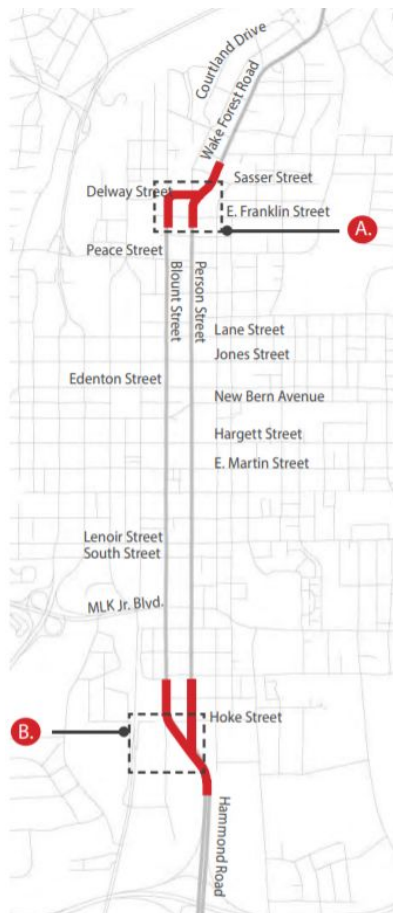
To learn more about the project visit:
<https://raleighnc.gov/projects/blount-st-person-st-two-way-conversion-project>

Public Art Goals and Opportunities

The public art can be stand-alone or integrated into the site. Potential opportunities include stand alone sculptures, and/or artwork integrated into pedestrian paving, lighting, benches/bike racks or other site elements.

The Project adds roundabouts at the north and south ends of downtown Raleigh. These roundabouts provide potential locations for gateway artwork(s).

The artist will work closely with the design team, project stakeholders, and the community.



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 Artist Selection Panel, appointed by the Public Art and Design Board. The Panel may include: a member of the Public Art and Design Board, professional artists and arts professionals, stakeholders from community groups, and representatives from city departments.

The selection process will consist of two stages: During the first stage, the Artist Selection Panel will evaluate qualifications of artists based on three criteria: artistic merit; appropriateness for the project; and how the applicants work engages the site on a social, physical, and cultural level. The Artist Selection Panel will identify up to three finalists to invite to Raleigh for interviews.

Finalists selected for the Stage 2 interviews will receive a \$1000 stipend to cover travel and related expenses associated with the interview (NOTE: in person interviews in July may not be an option with the current Coronavirus situation).

Artists who video-conference for this interview will receive a stipend of \$250.

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.**

The Artist Selection Panel will choose the artist for the project and forward that recommendation to the Public Art and Design Board. Upon approval by the Public Art and Design Board, a scope of services and budget will be developed based on the artist's or artist team's approach to the project.

Project Timeline

RFQ Application Deadline:	Monday June 15, 10am
Semi-Finalists Selected and Notified:	July 2020
Semi- Finalists Interviewed:	August 2020
Project Awarded:	August 2020

How to Apply

Apply online using this link:

<https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#!/permalink/program/54431>

Artists wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

- 1. Statement of Interest**

A 1000 word (or less) statement outlining in general terms how your artwork might translate to this specific project, experience you have working on public art projects, and how you foresee engaging with the community.



2. Professional Résumé

A résumé of no more than two pages that includes information regarding public art commissions, exhibitions, and installations, awards, special projects, community engagement, grants and education. If applying as a team, submit a single file containing separate résumés for each team member.

3. 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 art project or artwork of a similar scope.

4. Previous Work, Digital Images

Ten digital images of recent previous work (created within the past ten years). Each image should include: title, year, media, location, project budget, dimensions, commissioning agency, and collaborators or design professionals (if applicable). *File titled Lastname Firstname__list*

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 Monday , June**

1. 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 Kelly McChesney, Public Art Director for the Office of Raleigh Arts, at 919.996.5657 or Kelly.McChesney@raleighnc.gov.

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

