



Raleigh
Arts

Call for Artists / Request for Qualifications

Fayetteville Street Viewshed Artists



Precedent: "Color Jam" by artist Jessica Stockholder, Houston Texas, 2016

Summary

- The City of Raleigh seeks to hire up to four (4) Viewshed Artists to install immersive artwork environments on Fayetteville Street. Projects will enhance the existing built environment through a combination of artworks and creative interventions to create a visually distinctive environment.
- Artists, designers, architects, and cross-disciplinary teams are encouraged to apply.
- This opportunity is restricted to North Carolina-based artists.
- This project has a quick turnaround and the City would like to have artwork installed by March 2027.
- Up to eight (8) semi-finalists will be selected to create a preliminary proposal for a viewshed and each paid \$800. Finalists will be selected based on preliminary proposal ideas.
- The finalists will be expected to use their preliminary proposal as a jumping off point for additional stakeholder engagement as they move into the Concept Design phase.
- **Deadline to apply: February 23, 2026**
- **Submit online at: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/87912>**



Precedent: "Year of the Tiger" by artist Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong in Boston, Massachusetts

Eligibility

1. This opportunity is open to individuals and teams **who live or work in North Carolina.**
2. Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States and have unexpired documents that establish employment eligibility.
3. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
4. Applicants must have at least a three-year history of professional practice.
5. Applicants must have demonstrated experience in design through the creation of high-quality work.
6. Lead applicant cannot be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study in the visual arts as of January 1, 2026.

Budget

The City is seeking to hire up to four (4) artists or artist teams to create artwork environments/viewsheds. Artists will be assigned a specific location once they are selected.

Project locations and budgets are:

- Fayetteville and Hargett St - \$140,000
- Fayetteville and Martin St - \$140,000
- Fayetteville and Davie St - \$140,000
- Market Plaza - \$25,000

Each project budget is inclusive of design, artwork fabrication, delivery, installation, taxes, artist travel, and fees. The City holds funding for community engagement on the project. More information on each of these locations can be found in the supplementary info at the end of this artist call.



Precedent: "Hang Out" by 100 Architects in Shanghai

Project Overview

The City of Raleigh seeks to hire Viewshed Artists to install immersive artwork environments on Fayetteville Street and nearby plazas to enhance the existing built environment through a combination of artworks and creative interventions to create a visually distinctive environment.

Artists will be encouraged to think of their design holistically and include both two-dimensional (2-D) and three-dimensional (3-D) artwork elements. Artists should consider how to create durable experiences that encourage playful interaction, support moments of engagement for both local residents and new visitors to the City and enhance a high traffic area. This could happen through innovative use of color, light, or materials or through thoughtful integration of amenities into artwork infrastructure. Artists may work with a team or partner with a fabricator to create the artwork.

All Viewshed Artists will be expected to work together to coordinate the overall look of the corridor and will also work closely with the Wayfinding/Seating Artist who will be chosen to create wayfinding and seating for the entire Fayetteville Street Corridor. Selected artists will work with City staff and reference the [Fayetteville Street Streetscape Plan](#) as they implement their artwork. Artists will be expected to coordinate and consult with City staff on color and placement of additional streetscape amenities provided by others. Artists will be expected to work with City staff to conduct community outreach and engagement on the project.



Image from the Activation Toolkit for Fayetteville Street from City of Raleigh's Fayetteville Street Streetscape Plan project (Plan by McAdams and SWA/Balsley)

Public Art Goals and Opportunities

- Early in the process, Viewshed Artists will be expected to provide design feedback on general area improvements in their viewshed including advising on color selection and materials being installed along the corridor, for instance: benches, replacement pavers, flexipave, and/or concrete.
- Artists may integrate multiple streetscape components along Fayetteville Street into their project including sidewalks, planters, street furnishings, and building facades (with approval of the building owner). In addition to functional components, artists may also consider adding new elements like sculpture and interactive art projects.
- Existing ground-level planting beds, often a headache for maintenance and landscaping, may be removed entirely. Artists should consider how they will utilize ground-level planting beds with artful interventions like lighting, sculpture, or interactive artworks.
- Artists should plan to use multiple approaches and mediums to create an immersive environment. Potential proposals could include:
 - Art applications on existing infrastructure like seat walls and pedestals; such as mosaic, lighting, and/or paint.
 - Artist-created functional and fixed play elements (like seating, bike racks, shade and light elements).
 - Murals or vinyl/film window applications
 - Ground plane artwork, concrete staining, or colored pavers
 - Mosaic applications
 - Sculpture and interactive art

- Artists can re-wrap trashcans and news-stand kiosks with new vinyl artwork that fits the overall aesthetic of their viewshed.
- Artwork cannot be in the roadway or on historic buildings.



Precedent: Craig & Karl at Guilford Town Centre in Surrey, BC

Project Timeline

The project timeline below is an example of the anticipated schedule. The project milestones will follow the overall project schedule and may be adjusted.

RFQ Application Deadline	February 23, 2026
Semi-Finalist Selected & Notified	February 2026
Preliminary Proposals Due	March 29, 2026
Project Awarded & Contracting	April 2026
Concept Design	April – June 2026
Final Designs	June – August 2026
Construction Documents	August – September 2026
Fabrication Phase	September 2026 – January 2027
Installation	February – March 2027



Precedent: "Now You See Me" by Wade Jeffree and Leta Sobierajski, Shoreditch, London

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. The Panel may include a member of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, community artists, arts professionals, design professionals, and other stakeholders.

The Artist Selection Panel will evaluate the qualifications of artists based on three criteria: artistic merit and innovativeness; appropriateness for the project; community engagement and collaboration.

Those wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

1. **Statement of Interest**
A statement outlining how your / your team's work and experience will complement this project specifically and how you might engage this site.
You can submit this as:
 - A written statement of 300 words or less
 - Or a one minute or less audio or video clip. We can only play the first one minute of audio for the panel due to time constraints.
2. **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.
3. **Three Professional References**

Contact information for three references should be submitted, 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

Eight digital images of recent previous work (created within the past ten years)
Each image should include: image number, artist's name, title, year, media, location, project budget, dimensions, commissioning agency, and collaborators or design professionals (if applicable).

Submission and Deadline

All RFQ materials must be received no later than **February 23, 2026**, at 11:59 p.m.
Incomplete or late submittals will not be considered.

About Urban Projects Group

The City of Raleigh's Urban Projects Group (UPG) is a division of the Planning and Development Department established in 2022 with a mission to accelerate plan and project implementation through internal coordination, external partnerships, and creative problem-solving.

To achieve this mission, UPG deploys a variety of economic, policy, real estate, and design tools, in partnership with many other City departments and external stakeholders. These tools are designed to leverage mutually beneficial partnerships to create a prosperous and healthy Raleigh.

Learn more about the ongoing projects that this team is advancing in the [UPG Progress Report](#).

About Raleigh Arts

Raleigh Arts is the City's hub for public art, community arts programming and organizational support for the cultural sector. Raleigh Arts also oversees the Pullen and Sertoma Arts Centers and manages several exhibition spaces as well as the Municipal Art Collection. We work to ensure every resident has access to the arts and support our local creative community.

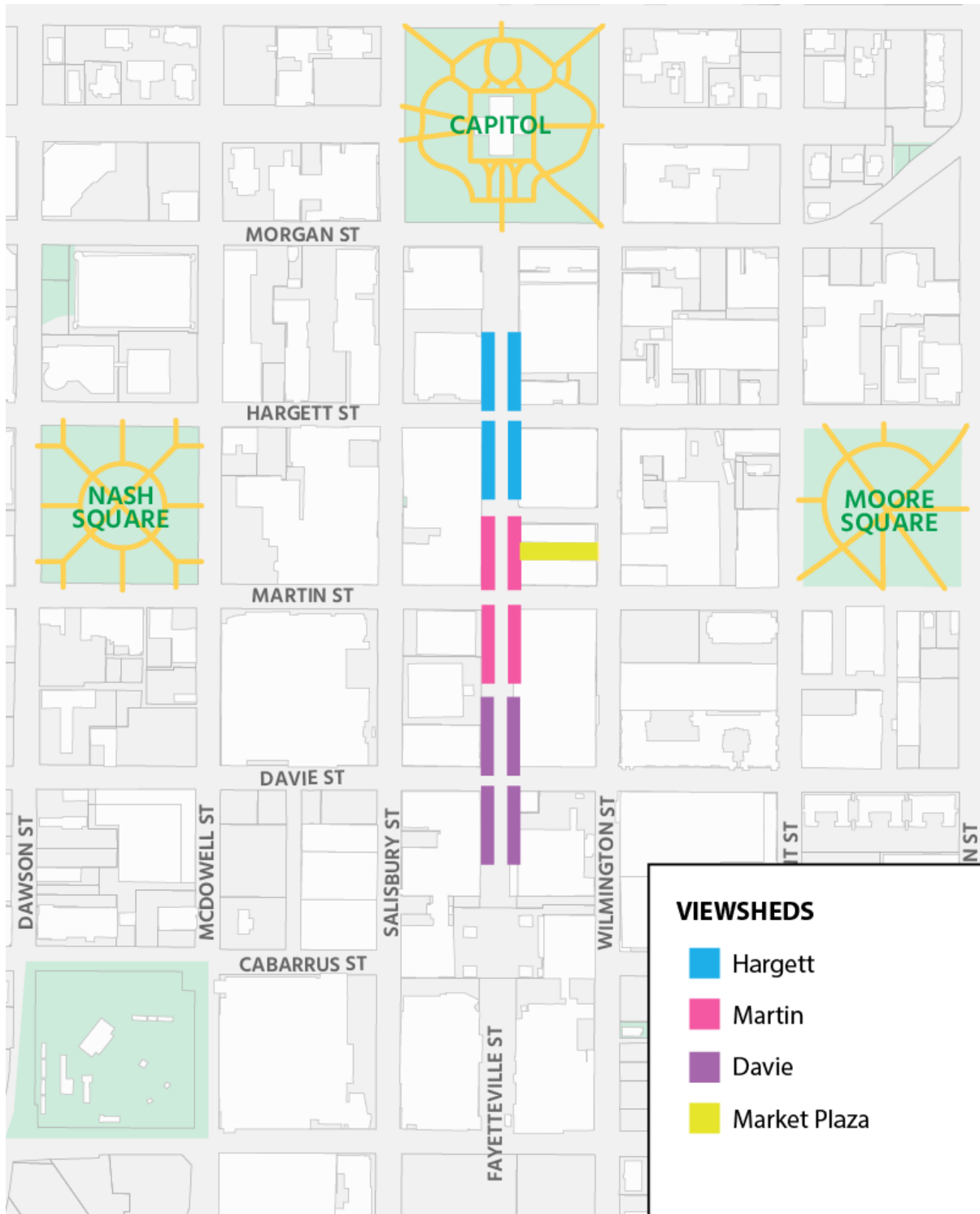
Non-Discrimination Policy

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 Project Manager for Raleigh Arts, jenn.hale@raleighnc.gov.

Supplementary Info:



This map shows the four different viewsheds along Fayetteville Street.



An example of sidewalk planters along Fayetteville Street. Viewshed artists will place artwork in each of the rectangular planters in their assigned area.

Fayetteville and Hargett St

- The artist will create artwork in each the rectangular planters in their viewshed. The entire planter is a potential canvas for artwork.
 - o Most of the planter areas have electricity.
 - o Artists are asked to replace the bedraggled plantings in the ground-level planting beds with artful interventions like lighting, sculpture, or interactive artworks.
- Other artistic interventions on the sidewalk, benches, or buildings (with permission of the building owner) are also welcome.



The backside of the planters along Fayetteville Street. Viewshed artists are invited to think about how they might activate this area between the walkway and the street- as defined by the granite line in the sidewalk pavers.

Fayetteville and Martin St

- The artist will create artwork in each the planters in their viewshed. The entire planter is a potential canvas for artwork.
- Most of the planter areas have electricity.
- Artists are asked to replace the bedraggled plantings in the ground-level planting beds with artful interventions like lighting, sculpture, or interactive artworks.
- Other artistic interventions on the sidewalk, benches, or buildings (with permission of the building owner) are also welcome.

Fayetteville and Davie St

- The artist will create artwork in each the planters in their viewshed. The entire planter is a potential canvas for artwork.
- Most of the planter areas have electricity.
- Artists are asked to replace the bedraggled plantings in the ground-level planting beds with artful interventions like lighting, sculpture, or interactive artworks.
- Other artistic interventions on the sidewalk, benches, or buildings (with permission of the building owner) are also welcome.



Market Plaza looking west

Market Plaza

- The artist is asked to consider the walls on either side of the alley as canvases for artwork. Any designs will require permissions from the building owners, so artwork is encouraged to be affixed to the building in a removable fashion.
- Benches, planters and shade structures are all possible canvases for artwork.
- The artist can explore suspended and lit elements.