



Raleigh
Arts

Call for Artists / Request for Qualifications

Fayetteville Street Wayfinding and Interactive Seating Artist



*Rendering of potential wayfinding from City of Raleigh's Fayetteville Street Streetscape Plan.
(Plan by McAdams and SWA/Balsley).*

Summary

- The City of Raleigh is hiring a Wayfinding/Seating Artist to create artistic wayfinding and interactive seating on Fayetteville Street.
- The project budget is \$300,000.
- Artists, designers, architects, and cross-disciplinary teams are encouraged to apply.
- This project has a quick turnaround, and the City would like to have artwork installed by March 2027.
- Up to three (3) semi-finalists will be selected to create a preliminary proposal for wayfinding and seating and each paid \$800. The final artist or team will be selected based on the preliminary proposal ideas.
- The Wayfinding/Seating Artist 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/87913>**



Precedent: "The Cloud Swings," by artist Lindsay Glatz, Georgetown, 2022

Eligibility

1. This opportunity is open to individuals and teams **who live or work in the United States.**
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 project budget for creating artistic wayfinding and seating is \$300,000. This budget is inclusive of design, artwork fabrication, delivery, installation, taxes, artist travel, and fees. The City of Raleigh will hold separate funds for community engagement (non-inclusive of travel and artist expenses).



Precedent: "Common Corner" by Urban Conga, 2025, Bronx, NY

Project Overview

Fayetteville Street is Raleigh's Main Street and the Wayfinding/Seating Artist will be asked to create iconic art that celebrates Raleigh, fosters engaging moments, and helps citizens and visitors navigate to major attractions downtown.

The selected artist(s) will work with City staff and reference the [Fayetteville Street Streetscape Plan](#) as they implement their work. Early in the process, the Wayfinding/Seating Artist may be expected to provide design feedback on general area improvements along the corridor including advising on color selection, off the shelf items, and materials being installed. Artists will be expected to work with City staff to conduct community outreach and engagement on the project.

The Wayfinding/Seating Artist will work closely with up to four Viewshed Artists (see supplemental info at the end of this document) who will be creating immersive art environments at intersections and plazas along Fayetteville Street to coordinate how their wayfinding and seating elements complement the art planned for each viewshed.



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

- The Wayfinding/Seating Artist will create large wayfinding artworks along the corridor from Morgan Street to Lenoir Street. They will be expected to work closely with the Viewshed Artists to integrate colors/themes.
- Early in the process, the Artist will be expected to provide design feedback on general area improvements including advising on color selection and materials being installed along the corridor.
- Wayfinding artworks will be placed at each intersection.
- Each block will also include a swing or artful seating created by the artist.
- Artwork cannot be in the roadway or on historic buildings.
- Artwork should be constructed out of durable, long-lasting materials, and the artist will be asked to supply instructions for maintaining the artwork.

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	October 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.

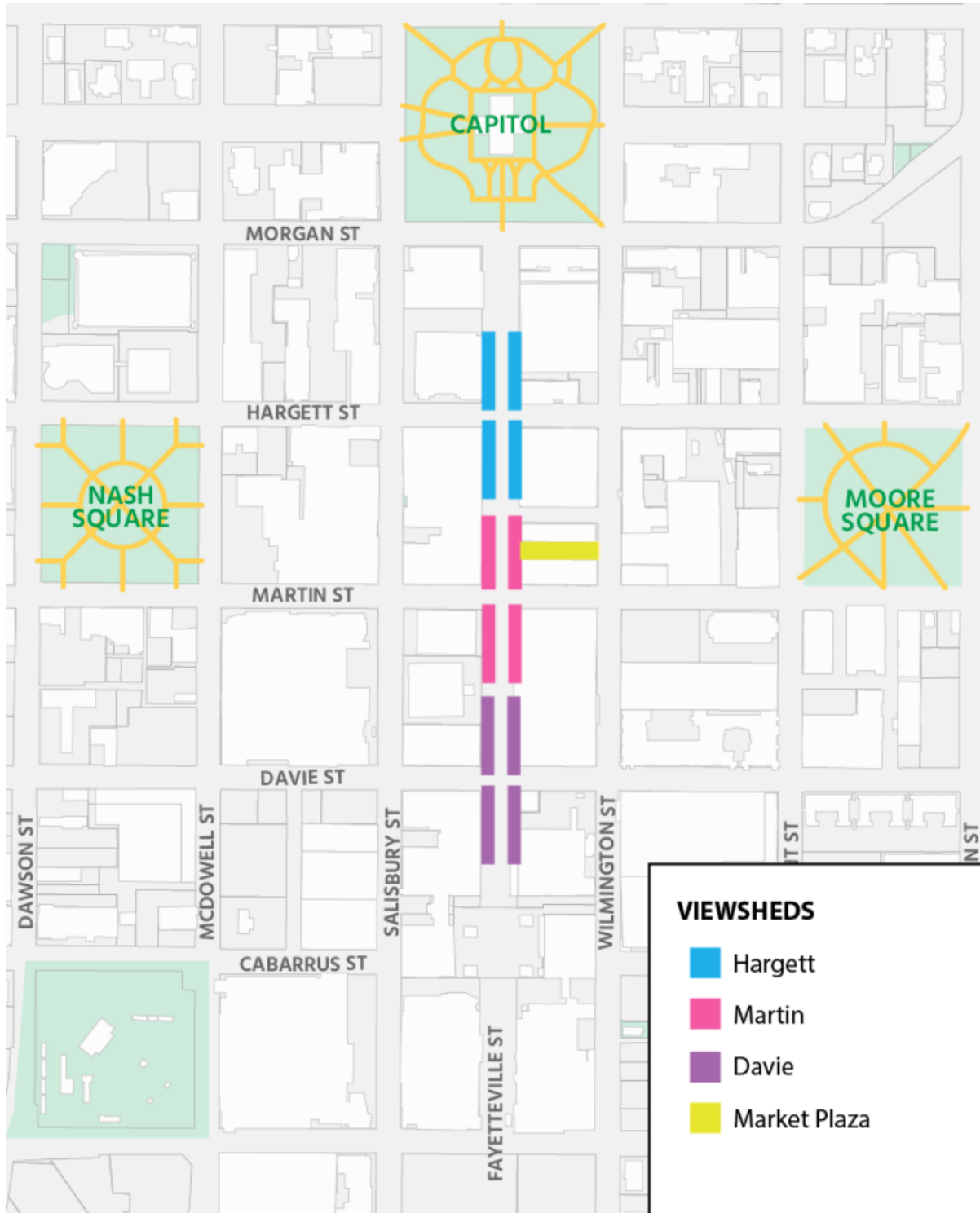
Non-Discrimination Policy

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.hales@raleighnc.gov.

Supplementary Info:



This map shows the four different viewsheds along Fayetteville Street. The Wayfinding/Seating Artist will be expected to work closely with the Viewshed Artists to integrate wayfinding and artistic seating elements.