



# GoRaleigh/GoWake Access Transit Facility Public Art

*Call for Artists | Request for Qualifications*



*Precedent Image: "Many Roads Many Hands," a sensory wall at the Braille Institute Los Angeles by artists Megan Whitmarsh and Carla Tome.*

## Summary

- Create public artwork for the new GoRaleigh/GoWake Access Transit Facility.
- Total project budget is **up to \$200,000**. The final budget will be dependent on approved designs and cost estimates. Budget scope should include artist design; presentations and renderings; travel; engineering, permitting, and construction documents (if needed); equipment; fabrication; coordination; and installation.
- Artists/Designers with lived experience or knowledge of universal design principles and/or designing for accessibility are encouraged to apply.
- Up to three semi-finalists will be selected to interview and paid a **\$100** honorarium.
- **Deadline to apply: April 6, 2026**
- **Submit online at:** <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/88506>



*Schematic Design for the new City Paratransit Facility to be located at 4401 Poole Road.*

## 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 an undergraduate course of study in the visual arts as of January 1, 2026.

## Budget

The project has a budget of up to \$200,000 for public art at the new ADA Transit facility. The design should follow best practices for accessibility and principles of universal design. Artwork could be located on the interior or exterior of the building. Final budget will be dependent on approved design and cost estimates. This budget covers the design, engineering, fabrication, and installation of the artwork, inclusive of taxes, equipment, travel, and fees. Ultimate budget is contingent on proposed design approval with cost estimates. The selected artist/team will be awarded a contract for conceptual design proposal with an estimated budget. Upon acceptance of the concept proposal, the artist will receive a fabrication contract.

Raleigh Arts will hold separate funding to cover community engagement expenses and accessibility accommodations for the project. These funds will be administered by the arts office and can cover things like public meetings, creative input gathering events, working with facility users, and hiring local artists to help with outreach. The Artist will work with Raleigh Arts to create an engagement plan.



*Precedent Image: Clifton Multisensory Art Experience by artist Liz Richter, located in Louisville, Kentucky.*

## **Project Overview**

The City of Raleigh seeks to hire an artist or artist team to create public art at the City's new GoRaleigh/GoWake Access Transit Facility to be located at 4401 Poole Road. This new facility will replace the current building which was built in the 1970s on top of a landfill from the early 1900s. Over time, the building has become unsafe and out-of-date. The space is shared with Wake County's GoWake Access program. Together, nearly 100 vehicles operate from this facility, which is well past its useful life.

A new facility is being planned to better serve the community. It will include about 17,700 square feet of office and operations space, plus 31,400 square feet for a modern maintenance garage. New office space will support the operations team, provide ADA eligibility testing for the City's paratransit program, and host call centers for both Raleigh and Wake County. These call centers schedule more than 2,000 daily trips for people with disabilities, older adults, and rural residents who rely on public transit in Raleigh and Wake County.

The City's goal is to create a marquee paratransit facility and art can play a role in this. While the facility will primarily support staff, it will also serve a small, but steady stream of public visitors daily, including those with a range of individual needs—such as low vision or blindness, mobility impairment including wheelchair users or senior citizens, and other limitations. The artwork will be used as a showcase, a teaching tool for best practices when training staff, and included on public art tours.

As such, the public art should exemplify principles of universal design, ensuring the artwork is not only accessible but also usable and engaging for everyone, regardless of age, ability, or background. The art should be created for equitable, flexible, and intuitive use and help foster an inclusive experience.

## **Public Art Goals and Opportunities**

- Artwork can be stand-alone or wall mounted and could be located exteriorly or interiorly.
- Art should be accessible and inclusive, following and going beyond ADA-compliance.
- Artists are encouraged to think about how the art could not only support facility users as they navigate the facility but also create a meaningful experience for all visitors to the center, those with and without disabilities.

- Artists should consider universal design principles, such as how to engage audiences with low vision, from high contrast imagery to audio descriptions. Artwork could invite interaction (sound, light, touch) through digital components or incorporate tactile elements.
- Artists could consider opportunities for co-creation of the art with members of the disability community.
- Artists could consider the facility’s location at the intersection at Poole and South New Hope Roads when they site the artwork and how the art interacts with the public realm or might contribute to creating a place of significance in the neighborhood.



Precedent Image: “Walk Your Own Path” sidewalk mural in Winston-Salem, in partnership with artist and mobility specialist Shelby Glass.

## 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; appropriateness for the project; and knowledge and experience in designing for accessibility.

## Project Timeline

RFQ Application Deadline	March/April 2026
Semi-Finalist Selected & Notified	April 2026
Semi-Finalists Interviews	May 2026

Project Awarded	May 2026
Contract Finalized	June 2026
Concept Designs	August 2026

The selected artist will create concept designs by Summer 2026 with the final design completed by October/November 2026. Construction documents by January 2027. Artwork fabrication will occur in 2027 and installation will occur at the end of project construction.



*Precedent Image: "Peacehaven Community Farm Sensory Space" by artists Cynthia Frank and Carrie Gault, located at LaBauer Park in Greensboro, NC.*

## About GoRaleigh Access

The City of Raleigh provides transportation services for people with disabilities. GoRaleigh Access (formerly Accessible Raleigh Transportation) enables eligible persons to access public transportation. Paratransit service is available to GoRaleigh Access users who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA mandates that each public entity operating a fixed route transit system provide complementary paratransit service to individuals whose functional disabilities prevent use of accessible fixed route bus and rail systems. The level of service for these individuals is to be comparable to the level of service provided to individuals without disabilities.

## How to Apply

Apply online using this link: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/88506>

Those wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

1. **Statement of Interest**

A statement, outlining your interest in this project and your experience working on public art projects, or relevant art experience. Include how your 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 two minute or less audio or video clip. We will only play the first two minutes of audio for the panel.

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).

Please contact Kelly Marks if you need additional accommodations in applying.

### **Submission and Deadline**

All RFQ materials must be received no later than **April 6, 2026**, at 11:59 p.m. 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 Marks, Public Art Project Manager for Raleigh Arts, at [kelly.marks@raleighnc.gov](mailto:kelly.marks@raleighnc.gov).

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