



Raleigh
Arts

Raleigh Convention Center Expansion— Interactive Public Art on the Plaza

Call for Artists | Request for Qualifications



Conceptual rendering of the western façade of proposed RCC expansion, facing Dawson Street.

Summary

- Activate the Dawson Street entrance with permanent, outdoor, interactive artwork(s) as part of the expansion of the Raleigh Convention Center.
- The artwork(s) will be located in future green space planned along Dawson Street.
- Total project budget is up to **\$500,000. The final budget will be dependent on approved designs and cost estimates.** Budget scope should include artist design, presentations and renderings, travel, engineering and construction documents (if needed due to attaching sculptural elements), equipment, paint and materials, fabrication, coordination, and installation.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to outline relevant project experience.
- Three to five semi-finalists will be selected to interview and paid a **\$100** honorarium.
- The selected artist 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.
- **Deadline to apply: November 2, 2025, by 11:59pm**
- **Submit online at:** <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/86657>



Conceptual rendering of new RCC expansion, showing the proposed art location along Dawson Street.

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. Lead applicant cannot be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study as of January 1, 2025.
6. Lead Artists who have received a commission or purchase for over \$75,000 from the City of Raleigh cannot be considered for another commission or purchase over \$75,000 for 3 years after the date of a signed contract or letter of agreement. Artists affected by this rule can still apply as a member of an artist team, during the 3-year time frame, as long as they are not applying as lead artist. This rule does not apply to artist invitationals, only to open artist calls.

Budget

The project has a budget of **up to \$500,000. The final budget will be dependent on approved design and cost estimates.** The budget is inclusive of 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 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, not inclusive of travel. These funds will be administered by the arts office and can cover things like public meetings, creative input gathering events, working with local community historians, and hiring local artists to help with outreach. The Artist will work with Raleigh Arts to create an engagement plan.



Current RCC featuring Thomas Sayre's "Shimmer Wall."

Project Overview & Site History

The City of Raleigh seeks to hire an artist or artist team to create permanent, outdoor, interactive public art as part of the Raleigh Convention Center (RCC) expansion project.

Since opening in 2008, the RCC has become a bustling hub for culture, commerce, and technology in Downtown Raleigh. The 500,000 square-foot facility includes a 32,000 square-foot ballroom and sweeping 150,000 square-foot exhibit hall. Located steps away from Red Hat Amphitheater and the Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts, and home to Raleigh's iconic *Shimmer Wall* public artwork, it sits at the epicenter of the city's entertainment district.

Design is underway for the expansion of the RCC as well as the relocation of Red Hat Amphitheater. This will add an additional 500,000 square-feet. Coming years will also see the opening of a new 550-room Omni Hotel. This area could also be incorporated into

the [South Park Heritage Trail](#) and/or the [Chavis-Dix Strollway](#) projects which will encourage walking, biking, and socializing along the pathway. Historically, the location falls in what was formerly known as the [Fourth Ward](#). A site has been developed to include personal [histories of residents who lived in the Fourth Ward](#).

The public art will be in a highly visible, high traffic location and should be both permanent and interactive.

SITE DESIGN | INTERACTION



Examples of possible interactions and locations for the proposed public art.

Public Art Goals and Opportunities

- Artwork(s) will be located in new planned green space along the Western-facing facade of the RCC expansion, facing Dawson Street.
- 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.
- Applicants are encouraged to think about how the art can elevate the aesthetics of a prominent city structure and reflect the cultural and creative character of downtown Raleigh.

- Artwork should engage drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and attendees to Convention Center and Red Hat Amphitheater events.
- The artist will work closely with the design team, and on a tight timeline, to integrate the artwork into plans for the building.
- The selected artist will work with the Public Art and Design Board through the City of Raleigh Arts Commission and City staff, including planning and development, engineering services, Raleigh Convention Center and Raleigh Arts to integrate artwork into the site.

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, Raleigh Convention Center staff, community artists, arts professionals, design professionals, and other stakeholders.

The Artist Selection Panel will evaluate the qualifications of artists based on four criteria: artistic merit of portfolio; appropriateness for the project as determined by submitted portfolio, artistic statement and CV/Biography; project management experience; community engagement process.

Project Timeline

RFQ Application Deadline	November 2, 2025
Semi-Finalist Interviews	November 2025
Project Awarded	December 2025
Concept Design Contracting Complete	January 2026
Concept Design and Engagement Phase	January 2026 – May 2026
Final Design & Fabrication Contracting Complete	June – August 2026
Final Design and Construction Drawings	August - October 2026
Fabrication (fabrication time dependent on methods & materials)	2027-2028
Delivery & Installation (installation time dependent on methods & materials)	2029

This is a tight timeline for design and artists will need to be fully engaged in design during 2026 to meet the deadline for integrating artwork into the design plans for the building.

How to Apply

Apply online using this link:

<https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/86657>

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 500 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 **November 2, 2025**, at 11:59 pm. 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, kelly.marks@raleighnc.gov.

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