



Raleigh
Arts

Public Art at Red Hat Amphitheater Performing Arts Parking Deck

Call for Artists / Request for Qualifications



Conceptual rendering of new Red Hat Amphitheater location, showing adjacency to the Performing Arts Parking Deck.

Summary

- Create an iconic public artwork on the Performing Arts Parking Deck as part of the Red Hat Amphitheater relocation project. The parking deck is an existing structure that faces the new Amphitheater.
- Artwork will strengthen security through a creative, architectural facade treatment that complements downtown Raleigh's artistic identity.
- The public art could include facade treatments with durable materials or a hybrid approach of murals and durable mixed media.
- Total project budget is **up to \$700,000 for proposals using durable materials that will block some of the deck openings on the side facing McDowell Street. The final budget will be dependent on approved design 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 / 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: October 26, 2025, by 11:59pm**
- **Submit online at: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/login/program/86655>**



Conceptual rendering of new Red Hat Amphitheater. View is from the stage, looking toward the parking deck.

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 working on large-scale public art / murals that is integrated into infrastructure.
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 **\$700,000 for a public art on the façade of the parking deck, using durable materials to cover openings along the McDowell Street side of the deck. The design should utilize the spaces unobstructed by trees to have the most visual impact along the top and corner of McDowell and Lenoir. 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 selected artist will work with Raleigh Arts to create an engagement plan.



Image of the PAC parking deck's east-facing side along McDowell Street.

Project Overview & Site History

The City of Raleigh seeks to hire an artist or artist team to create public art as part of the Red Hat Amphitheater relocation project.

In 2010, Red Hat Amphitheater was built on land intended for the expansion of Raleigh Convention Center (RCC). With RCC now at capacity, an expansion project has been funded, and the amphitheater is being relocated one block south.

Situated in the heart of Downtown Raleigh, RHA is a 6,000-seat outdoor music venue. Known for its vibrant atmosphere and stunning views of the Raleigh skyline, it's a popular

destination for concerts and other live entertainment events. In 2024, the amphitheater produced \$33.7 million in total economic impact from 50 concerts, with a total attendance of 280,687 visitors.

In the coming years, RHA's adjacent sites will see the expansion of the RCC and 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 location is the Performing Arts Parking Deck located across from the future RHA site. The art will create a bold, vibrant piece in a high traffic location and expand safety objectives for the amphitheater. **Artists will need to work around existing street trees in front of the deck facade and should consider focusing their efforts on the corner of McDowell and Lenoir.**



Recommended location for artists to focus their design work to avoid tree coverage.

Public Art Goals and Opportunities

- Artwork will be located on the east-facing (McDowell Street) facade of the Performing Arts Parking Deck, with the potential to wrap the corner adjacent to Lenoir Street. The design should utilize the spaces unobstructed by trees to have the most visual impact.
- Artwork will enhance downtown Raleigh's artistic identity.
- 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. Applicants should consider the proximity to the Raleigh Convention Center and other public art, like Thomas Sayre's *Shimmer Wall*.

- Artwork should engage drivers, pedestrians, and attendees to Red Hat Amphitheater and Convention Center events.
- Artwork paints, sealants, and other materials should be selected to reduce maintenance needs and extend the life of the artwork.
- The selected artist or team 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	October 26, 2025
Semi-Finalist Interviews	November 2025
Project Awarded	December 2025
Concept Design Contracting Complete	January 2026
Concept Design and Engagement Phase	January 2026 – April 2026
Final Design & Fabrication Contracting Complete	May 2026
Final Design and Construction Drawings	June – August 2026
Fabrication (fabrication time dependent on methods & materials)	August 2026 – January 2027
Delivery & Installation (installation time dependent on methods & materials)	September 2026 – February 2027

The selected artist will create concept designs between January and April 2026 with the final design completed by May 2026. Artwork fabrication will occur between June 2026 and January 2027, depending on materials and fabrication method. Installation will occur between September 2026 and February 2027.

Painted murals require less fabrication time, require warmer weather for installation, and may anticipate an installation time closer to September-October 2026. For metals or other materials that need additional fabrication time, installation would be anticipated by or before February 2027.



Current location of RHA. Site to the right shows new location and adjacency to the parking deck. Image courtesy WTVD.

How to Apply

Apply online using this link: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/login/program/86655>

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 **October 26, 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>