



Raleigh
Arts

Transit Corridor Artist: Public Art Elements Along the Bus Rapid Transit Southern Corridor (Raleigh to Garner)

Call for Artists | Request for Qualifications



Conceptual rendering of the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor.

Summary

- Create Public Artwork – **up to three (3) Public Art Elements** along the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor
- One artist will receive **\$160,000** to design and fabricate up to **three (3)** transit hub opportunities.
- Up to **three (3) finalists** will be selected to interview and paid a **\$100** honorarium.
- **Deadline to apply: December 21, 2025**
- **Submit online:** <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/87216>



Rocky Branch Trail example of an open, natural canvas that could provide a location for sculptural treatment.

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, 2025.
7. 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

\$160,000 budget - inclusive of design, artwork fabrication, delivery, installation, taxes, travel, and fees.

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 local community historians, and hiring local artists to help with outreach. The Artist will work with Raleigh Arts to create an engagement plan.



I-40 Underpass Along 401 (Top to Bottom)



Over Under, Jim Galluci and Scott Richardson 2012, *Bridging The Gap*, Darlene McClinton 2020 (Left to Right)

Artists could consider the I-40/Wilmington Street underpass as a canvas for an artistic activation.

Project Overview

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a flexible high-capacity transit solution that combines physical and operational elements to increase service speed and reliability. BRT creates dedicated bus lanes on local roads so bus operators can bypass traffic and keep their routes on schedule. BRT stations will feature raised platforms, making it easier for passengers to board the bus. Fares are collected on the platform so passengers can board without delay. Learn more about [Wake BRT](#) and the [Southern BRT Corridor](#).

In November of 2016, Wake County voters approved a plan for focused investment in public transit which includes building approximately 20 miles of transit lanes along four (4) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors. The preliminary design phase (0 to 30 percent) for the Southern Corridor BRT has been completed, and the project has now entered final design (30 to 100 percent). The corridor is approximately 5 miles. Buses along it will operate in both dedicated transit lanes and mixed traffic between GoRaleigh Station in Downtown Raleigh, and North South Station and Walmart in

Garner. The exact location and of BRT stations along the corridor will be finalized at the end of the 60% design phase.

As part of the project, the City of Raleigh is hiring an artist to create public art elements in up to three locations between station locations along the corridor.

This Artist Call is specifically for the **Southern Bus Rapid Transit Corridor**. Selection for this project does not necessarily mean you will be selected for other BRT corridors. Please note that artwork designs may be used in additional formats including City of Raleigh publications, digital displays at BRT Stations, and on the City of Raleigh website and social media channels.



Precedent Image: Land Wave by Groundworks, Boston, MA.

Public Art Goals and Opportunities

- Artwork can be free-standing or integrated into the existing landscape.
- Artists are encouraged to think about how artwork could be placed along the open natural expanses and/or roadway infrastructure that exists between the nine transit station areas along the **Southern Bus Rapid Transit Corridor**. Other possible opportunities could include art integration with a new pedestrian bridge or in the highway underpass.
- Artwork should engage both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- The selected Artist will work with the planning and design teams to integrate artwork into the landscape and built elements of the site.



Conceptual rendering of a pedestrian bridge/HNTB & Neighboring Concept.

Community Engagement

A major component of this design process is conducting community engagement sessions to gather feedback from the communities along the corridor, with the goal of including the shared history and experiences of the community, as well as creating an aesthetic continuity between stations. This project requires strong interpersonal skills and the ability to listen deeply and thoughtfully to community input. Public engagement and community outreach will be supported by City staff and integrated into the Wake BRT outreach process.

Artist-in-Residence David Wilson has already identified possible art locations along the corridor in a [public art plan](#). The selected artist will be expected to conduct their own research and community sessions to identify their preferred locations and fully flesh out themes. Themes which have already been identified for possible inclusion in the various artworks include history, wayfinding, nature, playful fun, and community inspiration.

Artist and Design Team Collaboration

The Artist will collaborate closely with a BRT Southern team of artists and designers. Members of the team include:

- The BRT Southern station architecture and engineering team
- Installers and contractors working on the project
- The BRT Southern Artist-in-Residence David Wilson
- Up to **Nine Windscreen/Railing Station Artists** along the BRT Southern Corridor

The Artist will also work closely with the architects and engineers on the project to make sure designs follow transportation, transit, ADA, and other guidelines.

Furthermore, the Artist will work with the design team, City staff, and the Public Art & Design Board to ensure cohesion between the different types of art integration.

A separate Artist Call will be issued for the **Windscreens & Railings at Shelters**. If you are interested in applying for other BRT public art opportunities, you can find those here: <https://raleighnc.gov/services/arts/artist-calls>.

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 of portfolio; appropriateness for the project based on portfolio; community engagement/collaboration strategies.

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	December 21, 2025
Semi-Finalist Selected & Interviewed	January 2026
Project Awarded & Contracting	January – February 2026
Initial Community Engagement/Research Phase	March – May 2026
Initial Concept Design Proposal to Determine Size/Location of integrated Artworks	May 2026
Further Community Engagement / Concept refinement phase 1	May – August 2026
Final Concept Design Due	August 2026
Design refinement Phase 2	September 2026
Final Designs Due	October 2026
Construction Documents Due	December 2026

Fabrication Phase	2027
Installation	TBD

How to Apply

Apply online using this link: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/87216>

Those wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

1. **Statement of Interest**

Outlining how you foresee engaging with the community, how your work might translate to this project, and experience you have working on public projects. You can submit this information as either:

You can submit this as:

- A written statement of 250 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. **Collaboration**

The ability to collaborate with artists, designers and architects is integral to the success of this project. Please discuss experience you have working collaboratively on creative and/or public art projects.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **Previous Work, Digital Images**

Up to Eight digital images of recent 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 **December 21, 2025**, 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, kelly.marks@raleighnc.gov.

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