



Comic Book for Emergency Preparedness

Call for Artists | Request for Qualifications

Keeping an emergency preparedness kit in your home can help your household be ready for a variety of emergencies. An emergency kit should provide supplies for your household for three days without power. The kit should be kept in a sturdy bag. Rethink your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.

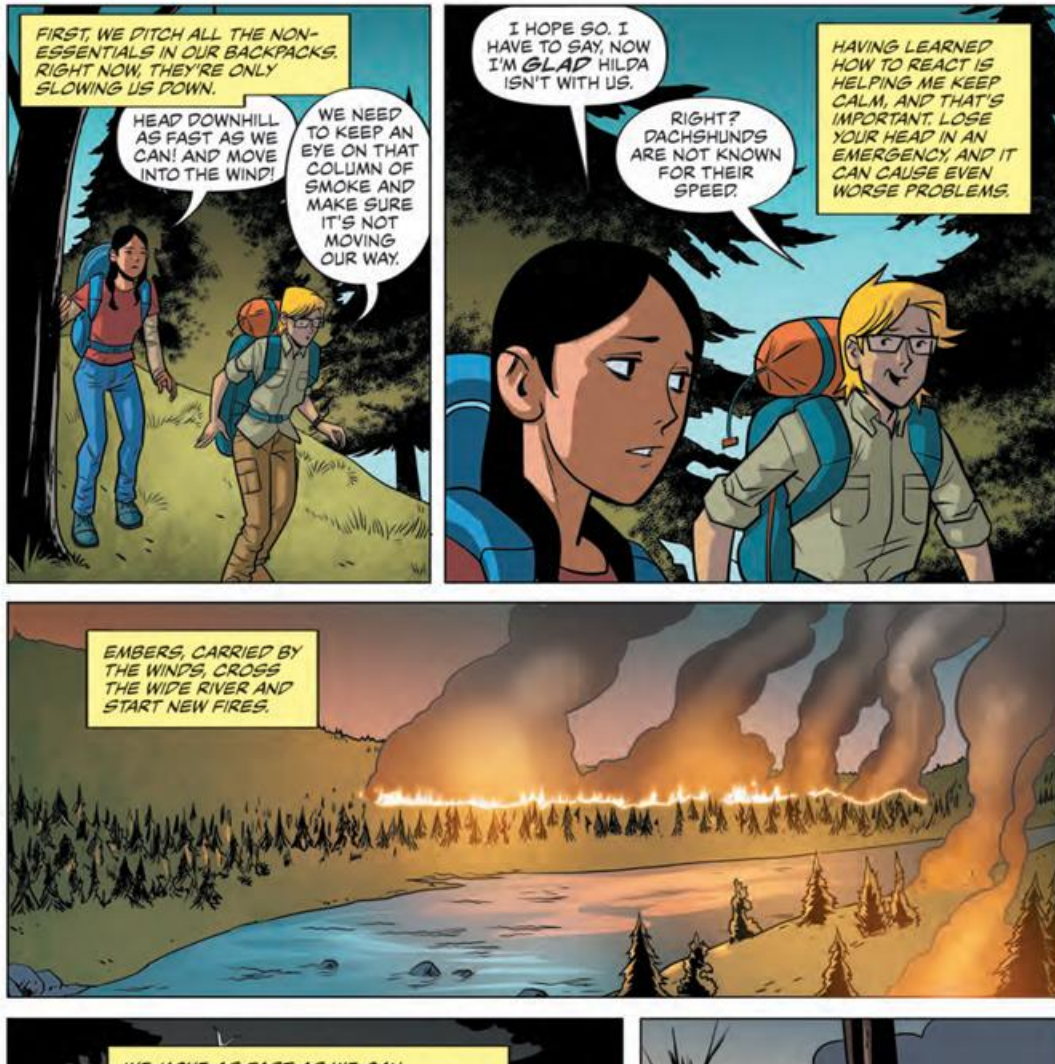
For more information on building an emergency kit go to:
www.ready.gov/kit



A 2-page spread from Raleigh Ready, a guide for disaster preparedness

Summary

- Work with the Raleigh Fire Department's Division of Emergency Management and other City staff to **create a comic book that educates teens and the general public about emergency preparedness.**
- One artist will receive a **\$20,000 budget** to write and illustrate the comic book and deliver a final print-ready file.
- Up to three finalists will be selected and paid a **\$250 honorarium** to submit a book proposal that includes info on page length, topics covered, and project timeline.
- **Deadline to apply: December 7, 2025**
- **Submit online at:** <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/87245>



A page from [Without Warning! Wildfire](#), by Paul Tobin and David Hahn, commissioned by Oregon Office of Emergency Management

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

\$20,000 budget – includes meetings with the City of Raleigh project team, writing and illustrating the comic book, incorporating at least two rounds of feedback from the project team, delivering print-ready files, and troubleshooting with the printer on any issues.

The city will cover the cost of printing the comic book.



A page from Disaster Preparedness Tokyo, commissioned by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Project Overview

The City of Raleigh seeks to hire an artist to create a comic book/zine/graphic novel to educate teens and the general public about emergency preparedness topics. The artist will use the [Ready Raleigh guide for disaster preparedness](#) as a starting point for creating the comic book and include the topics and themes outlined in the Public Art Goals and Opportunities.

The City will hold a non-exclusive license to print and re-print the resulting book.

This project is a partnership of the Office of Strategy and Innovation, the Office of Sustainability, Raleigh Fire Department's Division of Emergency Management, Communications, and Raleigh Arts.

Office of Strategy and Innovation

The Office of Strategy and Innovation boldly reshapes strategy and supports ongoing cycles of continuous improvement for greater service delivery by collecting and connecting talent to spark new ideas.

The Office leads city strategy and transformative projects like Bloomberg Challenges, Big Ideas, and Smart Cities initiatives. It also performs legislative and policy analysis and maps the organization's vision and values in a way that creates innovative solutions.

Office of Sustainability

The Office of Sustainability leads implementation of Raleigh's Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and works collaboratively to prioritize sustainability, climate, social impact, and resilience efforts in the Raleigh community. They work towards their vision by partnering to empower the community and City of Raleigh to take climate action by continuing to establish progressively ambitious goals; educating and collaborating with residents and community organizations; and by providing updates, benchmarking, and data to support best practice policymaking.

Guided by Raleigh's CCAP, Sustainability measures success by three core objectives: to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) to meet Raleigh's community-wide goal of an 80% reduction in GHG emissions by the year 2050; to build community resilience to the impacts of climate change; and to promote environmental justice, community health, and economic and social advancement, across the Raleigh community.

Raleigh Fire Department's Division of Emergency Management

The Division of Emergency Management aims to facilitate and maintain a strategic framework that enhances policies with a comprehensive and integrative program that focuses on an all-hazards approach to emergency management in the City of Raleigh. The Division coordinates planning and preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to mitigate the impacts of a disaster or emergency. By planning and preparing for natural, man-made, and technological events in advance, emergency management plays a crucial role in reducing the loss of life and property by minimizing disruptions to essential services and infrastructure.

Emergency management functions unite stakeholders and support communication, collaboration, and information sharing to improve emergency response and enhance community engagement and participation. Promoting multidimensional efforts to reduce the City's vulnerability to hazards is essential for community-wide resiliency.

The Division also manages the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is staffed with City personnel to ensure a unified response to support our community before, during, and after a disaster event.



The Cover of The Pacific Northwest Disaster Guide by Henry Latourette Miller

Public Art Goals and Opportunities

- Create a book/booklet that conveys the topics visually and appeals to teens and younger community members.
- Provide practical tips and tools that young community members can use during disasters.
- Include the following topics:
 - **A Brief overview of types of emergencies that typically occur in Raleigh:**
 - Flooding
 - Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
 - Tornadoes and Severe Thunderstorms
 - Winter storms: Snow, Ice, Ice Storms
 - Heat Waves
 - **Creating a Family Emergency Plan**
 - Create communication and evacuation plans for severe weather events
 - Identify evacuation routes and safe spaces at home

- Determine meetup locations outside the home for the family to relocate if needed
 - Practice family drills together
- **Assembling a 72-Hour Emergency Kit**
 - Always have at least 3 days of nonperishable food and water
 - Other items for consideration are NOAA weather radio, flashlight, first aid kit, whistle, prescriptions, blankets, clothing, a manual can opener, and money in small bills in case of a power outage
 - Store emergency kits in the car and home; check and rotate out items every 6 to 12 months
 - Create smaller kits to carry in a backpack or bag for situations where evacuation is imminent
- **Communicating During Emergencies**
 - Memorize important phone numbers or write them down in a notebook or pad
 - Learn other ways to receive and send information that do not involve the use of a cell phone
 - Sign up for local alerts
 - Listen to the news and radio for alerts, notifications, and up-to-date information
- **Learning Emergency Response Skills**
 - Where to learn CPR and First Aid
 - Volunteer with local preparedness community groups and programs
 - Join a Teen CERT Team
 - Attend preparedness outreach events in your community
 - Teach your friends and family members how to be prepared
- **Developing Coping Strategies & Mental Health Resilience**

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, staff from the project team, 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; and ability to collaborate with City staff and respond to feedback.

Project Timeline

RFQ Application Deadline	December 7, 2025
Semi-Finalist Selected & Notified	December 2025
Semi-Finalists submit project proposals	January 15, 2026
Project Awarded	January 2026
Contract Finalized	February-March 2026
Rough Draft	Summer 2026
Final Draft	Fall 2026
Print-ready files delivered	December 2026

Three finalists will be asked to submit project proposals detailing how many pages and topics they would cover in their comic/zine/graphic novel and a project timeline. Once the project is awarded, the finalist will meet with the City of Raleigh project team and then begin work on the rough draft.

How to Apply

Apply online using this link:

<https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/87245>

Those wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

1. Statement of Interest

Please review the [Raleigh Readiness Guide](#) and submit a statement, outlining your interest in this project and your experience working on comic book projects, storyboards, zines, graphic novels or relevant art experience. Also highlight your ability to work with a team and respond to feedback.

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). Artists are also welcome to submit PDFs of past projects.

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

Submission and Deadline

All RFQ materials must be received no later than **December 7, 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>.