



Artwork by Kelsey Merreck Wagner, Photo by Jude McDonald

Seek Raleigh Artist Call

Installation & Performance Artwork in Raleigh Parks

raleighnc.gov/arts



Raleigh
Arts

Summary

- Seek Raleigh is a program of **site-specific art installations and performance art events** that engage the community through public art.
- Artists are invited to propose a public art project for City of Raleigh parks, greenways, and/or community spaces.
- The city will provide space and funding.
- Three (3) projects will be funded at up to \$5000, and one (1) project will be funded at up to \$30,000.
- The artist selection panel will select semi-finalists to create a detailed project proposal and budget. Semi-finalists will be paid \$100 to create the proposal.
- Applications are due **June 30, 2026, at 11:59pm**.
- Submit online at: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/88846>
- The artist selection panel will choose the final proposals based on the following criteria:
 - Feasibility of the proposed project: is the budget realistic for the scope of work/fabrication?
 - Ability to engage the community: Will the public find this meaningful or interesting? Are there opportunities for partnership and collaboration?
 - Sensory experience: Will this be an immersive installation or a performance that captures the imagination?
 - Resourcefulness: Is the artist being thoughtful with the budget? Is this a good use of public money? Will the artwork be free and accessible to the public?
 - Site activation potential: Is the artwork thoughtfully integrated into the site or does it bring attention to an underutilized park or public area.
 - Duration: How many times will the public be able to see or experience the artwork? Will this be a semi-permanent installation that remains up for months/years or will this be a performance that reoccurs over a weekend? Does the budget match the time frame?



Artwork by Ina Liu, Isabel Lu, and Sophie Tô, Photo by Danny Peña

Eligibility

- This opportunity is open to individuals and teams who **live or work in North Carolina.**
- Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States and have unexpired documents that establish employment eligibility.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
- Applicants must have at least a three-year history of professional practice. (Student without a three-year history can apply with a Faculty sponsor as the team lead.)
- Applicants must have demonstrated experience in design through the creation of high-quality work.

Budget

All submissions will be reviewed and considered. For the purpose of this Artist Call, you will only need to select a budget tier for your project.

Tier 1: \$1,000 to \$5,000

- This tier is intended for temporary/smaller artworks and performances.
- The city will select approximately three projects in this tier to receive funding.

Tier 2: \$10,000 - \$30,000

- This is intended for larger-scale and semi-permanent artworks.
- One of the goals of the Seek Program is to help public artists take their careers to the next level. This is intended to help local artists create a project that showcases their skills and vaults them to larger projects/commissions.
- We anticipate that only one project will receive funding at this level.

Artists selected as semi-finalists will be asked to provide a detailed budget breakdown, including design, fabrication, installation, insurance, travel, taxes and fees.



Artwork Taylor Allison, Photo by Julie Leonard

Project Overview

Seek Raleigh is an opportunity for artists to introduce the public to new, unusual and thought-provoking experiences through temporary public art. Artists are encouraged to explore site-specific installations and performances as a natural extension of their creative practices in parks, greenways and other community spaces.

The city of Raleigh contains more than 200 parks including art centers, athletic facilities, community centers, lakes, nature preserves, dog parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, historic sites, and open spaces. We encourage you to explore the various parks and choose a site(s) that resonates with your artwork and artistic practice.

Public Art Goals and Opportunities

- Consider both the landscape and context of the park(s). There are many opportunities to use outdoor space. Some building facades and indoor facilities may be available for approved works.

Seek Raleigh Artist Call

- Consider the duration of your artwork and whether the performances and installations will occur during the daytime, nighttime, or both.
- Consider how you would work to engage the community, attract visitors, or work with the community. This would be especially important for short-term installations or performances where an immediate audience is desired.
- While you do not have to choose a specific site in this submission, it may be helpful to note which locations have access to power and cover from rain. Please consider whether you will need access to power or if your project has other specific requirements. Raleigh Arts staff will work with artists to determine the final locations for the selected project.



Artwork by Candy Carver, Photo by Ene Hui

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.

Selection will occur in two rounds:

Round 1

The Artist Selection Panel will evaluate the submissions based on the artist's previous work and the project statement. The panel will then choose semi-finalists and invite them to create detailed proposals.

Round 2

The semi-finalists will be asked to return with a detailed proposal that includes visuals and a detailed budget breakdown. The artists selected as semi-finalists will be paid \$100 for their time further developing their proposals. In the detailed proposal, artists are encouraged to show how they will work with non-profit organizations, community groups, or neighborhood associations for community engagement and final proposal development. This is a key step in ensuring public viewership and participation.

The selection panel will reconvene to review the semi-finalist entries and choose the list of artist finalists. Proposals from semi-finalists will be evaluated based on the Feasibility of the proposed project; Ability to engage the community; Sensory experience; Resourcefulness; Duration; and Site activation potential.

Seek Raleigh Artist Call



Artwork by Max Dowdle, Poetry by Morrow Dowdle, Photo by Max Dowdle

Project Timeline

Application Deadline	June 30, 2026
Finalists Selected and Notified	July 2026
Artwork installation	Fall 2026 – Summer 2027

How to Apply

Apply online using this link: raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/88846

Have questions?

Artists are encouraged to call for a quick consultation before applying. This is a chance to talk about your proposal, site location, and estimated expenses. You can reach Jenn Hales

Seek Raleigh Artist Call

by email at Jenn.Hales@raleighnc.gov or book a virtual meeting using this link: [Book time with Hales, Jenn: 15-minute meeting](#)

Application

Those wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

Statement of Interest

You can submit this as:

- A brief statement (250 words or less) outlining your project idea.
- Or A one minute or less audio or video clip. We will only play the first minute of audio for the panel.

Please note in your statement if your project is site specific or if you are flexible on location. Please also address in your statement if your project will require certain elements (power source, indoor location, cover from rain, etc).

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.

Previous Work, Digital Images

- Images: Four digital images of recent previous work (created within the past five years)
- Videos (for performers or video artists): Up to four videos of recent previous work (created within the past ten years) in any viewable format. Please provide video excerpts for videos longer than 2 minutes.

Simple Estimated Budget - Tier

Estimated budgets should be inclusive of all expenses, including design, fabrication, installation, insurance, travel, taxes, and fees. You can submit this as a simple overall budget number (the panel does not need to see the spreadsheet breakdown yet).

Selected artists will need to have general liability insurance or event insurance (for short-term performances or installations) prior to installation, so please be sure to consider this in your proposed budget. Additionally, if your artwork or equipment will need to be insured, please include those fees in your budget as the City of Raleigh does not insure temporary public art. When working with a team of artists, only the lead artist needs insurance.

Only Semi-Finalists will be asked to provide a detailed budget breakdown as part of their second submission.

Submission Deadline

Applications should be submitted through SlideRoom and are due on **June 30, 2026, by 11:59pm.**

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 Jenn Hales, Public Art Coordinator for Raleigh Arts, jenn.hales@raleighnc.gov. For relevant information regarding the project, visit the Raleigh Arts website at: raleighnc.gov/services/arts/artist-calls.

Frequently Asked Questions

How should I decide what images of previous work to include in my application?

Quality over quantity. No social media filters, collages, or watermarks. You have limited time to capture the panel's attention, make sure your photos are engaging

What if I don't have public art experience?

That's okay! This is a great thing to address in your Statement of Interest. If you don't have a lot of public art or community art experience that is evident in your work samples, discuss that in the statement. Explain why you are interested in this project, why you want to collaborate with a community, and what your interest in community space is.

What if a private collector wishes to purchase the work?

The artist will retain ownership of the artwork after the installation period and is welcome to sell the work or install it in other places.

Are there any materials that should be avoided?

Use common sense. Nothing gross or dangerous. We want people to enjoy this, not get hurt or be repelled!

Who is on the selection panel?

Community representatives, parks staff, arts professionals, business owners, and neighborhood residents.

What will the City provide?

A location, funding, staff you can ask questions of, help with city permissions and permitting, a photographer for the installed/performed artwork, promotion via social media.

What will the artist provide?

A creative idea, managing the budget, any needed materials/performers, labor to create the artwork, a list of social media handles, artist biography, written description of artwork, images to promote the artwork on social media.

Who is funding this project?

The City of Raleigh Arts Office

Who will the contract be between?

Artists will be under contract with the City of Raleigh.