



Artist Britt Flood paints a mural to celebrate Bike Month.

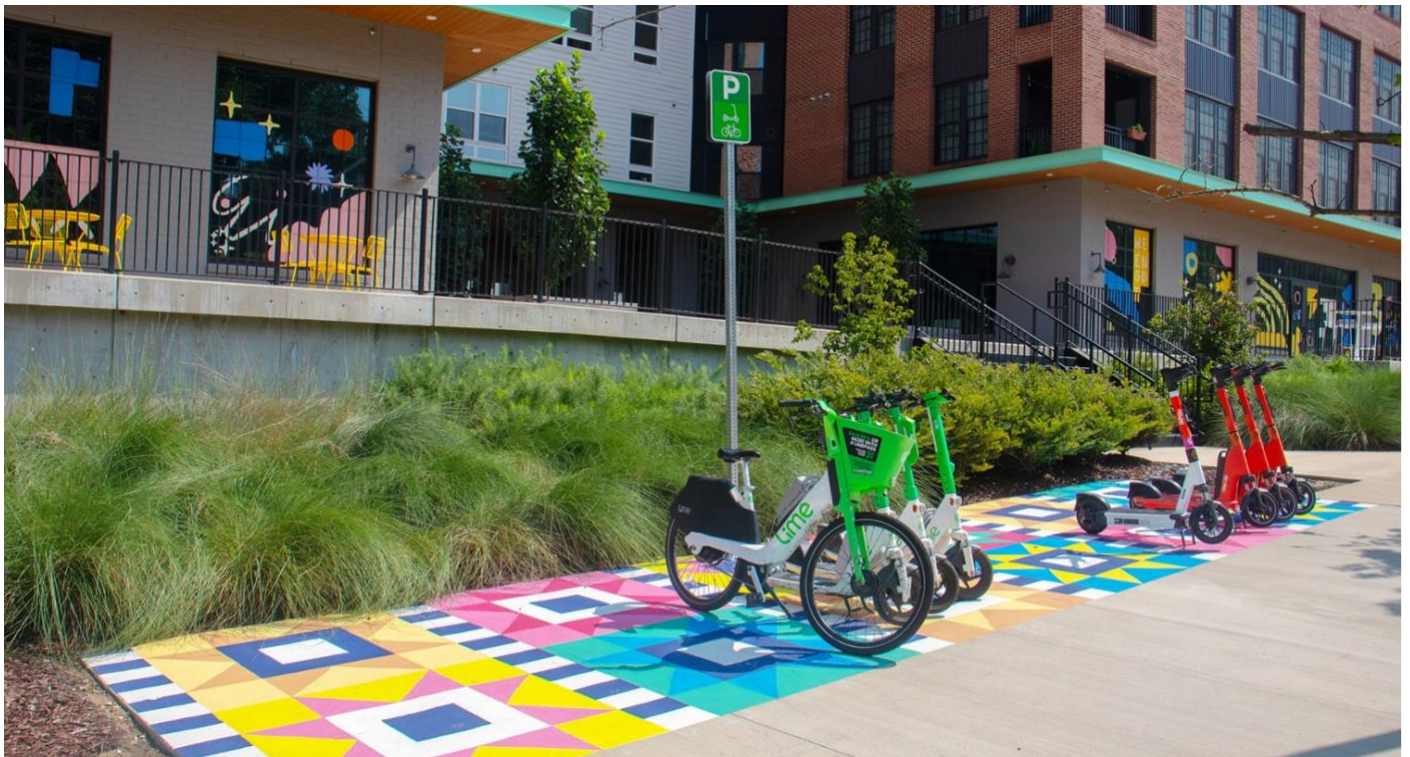
Emerging Public Artist Registry

A new way for artists to apply for public art projects

raleighnc.gov/arts



Raleigh
Arts



A micromobility scooter corral mural created by artists Kat Kuhn and Brittany Thomas.

Summary

- The City of Raleigh's public art team is creating an Emerging Public Artist Registry to aid in the selection of artists for non-Percent-for-Art projects with a **budget under \$30,000**.
- Applications are open to all North Carolina based artists, working in a wide range of media: murals, sculpture, photography, illustration, ceramics and mosaics, fibers, digital art, and more.
- This is considered an entry- to mid-level opportunity, with no prior public art experience necessary. Artists self-select if this opportunity is a good fit for them.
- Artists who are accepted to the registry will be eligible for a two-year period before having to reapply.
- Applications are due **February 19, 2027, at 11:59pm**.
- Submit online at:
<https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/91619>



A streetery mural in front of Raleigh Times by artist Sean Kernick.

Eligibility

- This opportunity is open to individual artists who **live and 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 need not show prior public art experience but should be able to show evidence of an artistic practice and/or demonstrated experience in the creation of high-quality work.

About the Registry

An artist registry will simplify the application process for artists, streamline the internal selection process for smaller, interdepartmental projects, and remove current barriers to finding artists for City projects in an efficient and timely manner. Having a vetted list of artists to choose from for smaller and/or interdepartmental projects will allow those projects to get started more easily and quickly.



Artist Kelly Schrader paints a micromobility scooter corral mural.

Types of Projects and Budgets

Raleigh Arts receives multiple requests each year for interdepartmental projects or partnerships that are not funded by Percent-for-Art or Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funds. Artists who are accepted onto the registry will be considered for these projects as they arise without having to submit an RFQ or apply for an artist call. Selection will be based on the relevance of the artist's medium and experience to the project requirements.

Examples of projects that registry artists might be eligible for:

Projects with a budget of \$5,000 or less

Many City departments look to Raleigh Arts for assistance in identifying artists for projects at this scale, and there are usually 5-10 opportunities for this type of project per year. Examples include sidewalk painting (like the [Raleigh ArtBeats project](#)), small murals, or digital art for bus shelter wraps, signal boxes, and trash bins.

Projects with a budget of \$5,000 to \$15,000

Examples include a series of [micromobility scooter corral murals](#), painting a series of sewer risers along the Greenway, a Stormwater education project, documentary work, or medium-scale murals. There are usually 2-3 opportunities like this per year.

Raleigh Arts Emerging Public Artist Registry

Projects with a budget of \$15,000 to \$30,000

While there are fewer opportunities at this budget level, occasionally Raleigh Arts is asked to help source artists for projects at this scale. This could include small sculptural installations, mosaic work, or large mural designs for walls or tunnels.

Registry Timeline

October 19, 2026	Registry Window Opens for Applications
Fall/Winter 2026	Information Sessions (see web for dates)
February 19, 2027	Applications Due/Registration Window Closes
March 2027	Artists Notified of Status on the Registry
March 2027–March 2029	Registry Artists Eligible for Available Opportunities
October 2028	Next Registry Window Opens



City staff installs a pedestrian safety mural designed by artist JP Powell.

Application Process and Selection Criteria

Applications for the registry will be accepted during an open window every two years. 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 be verified by a panel of City staff and members of the Public Art and Design Board and City of Raleigh Arts Commission (CORAC).

Once verified, an artist will be on the registry for two years before needing to reapply.

To apply, artists will submit their application through SlideRoom, Raleigh Arts' online application software. This will include an artist statement, answers to a simple form, up to five work samples with descriptions, and three references.

Those wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

1. Artist Statement

A written statement (500 words or less) outlining your relevant art experience or experience working on public art projects. This can include your artistic approach or artist's journey, the types of projects you'd be excited to work on, and any certifications or unique skills or projects you've had.

2. 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 an art project.

3. Previous Work, Digital Images

Five digital images of recent previous work (created within the past ten years). Each image should include title, year, media, location, project budget, dimensions, commissioning agency, and collaborators or design professionals (if applicable). Work can be uploaded as jpgs, video, or pdf files.

Submission and Deadlines

Applications should be submitted through SlideRoom:

<https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/91619>

All registry application materials must be received no later than **February 19, 2027, at 11:59pm**. 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.



Tunnel mural on the Rocky Branch Creek Trail by artist Taylor White.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why an Artist Registry?

In our 2025 Artist Survey, we heard from artists that applying for multiple artist calls can cause frustration and take away from the time artists could be making art. Based on this feedback, Raleigh Arts hopes a registry might streamline the selection process for smaller, interdepartmental projects.

These same artist calls also take valuable staff time and resources to manage and hinder the process of connecting artists with the City teams that want to hire them. The hope is a registry will remove current barriers to finding artists for City projects in an efficient and timely manner.

Why an “Emerging Public Artist” Registry?

Our 2025 Artist Survey identified a need for more small and mid-size public art projects. We heard from both established studio artists looking for ways to break into public art and working public artists wanting to scaffold their growth and reach the next level. Raleigh Arts wants to support all artists who are interested in expanding their practice into public art and create more pathways to do so with less paperwork.

What Does Emerging Mean?

This opportunity is intended for artists who are newly breaking into public art or have some public art experience and are looking to grow their portfolio, increase their skills, and take on higher commissions. Artists can look at the types of projects and budgets outlined above to determine if this opportunity is a good fit for where they see themselves in their career path.

Why Not Have a Rolling Deadline?

By having a defined open application window, the public arts team can better plan, promote, and educate artists about the registry and application process. After the application window closes, all submissions for that year will be verified by a panel at one

time, guaranteeing all registry artists are able to be considered for all registry projects over the next two years.

Why every two years?

Because there isn't a rolling deadline, it's important new artists still have a way to apply for the registry if they miss this year's application window. Since a goal of the registry is to eliminate some administrative work for both artists and the public arts staff, a yearly application window felt potentially at odds with that goal. Two years allows artists to update their portfolios without having to apply every single year.

Why must registry artists reapply?

Because a large focus of this registry is helping connect newer public artists with work, it feels appropriate and even beneficial to have artists revisit their artist statements and portfolios every two years to make sure they are sharing their most recent work and skill sets. Reapplying every two years allows artists to show their growth, highlight new competencies, and make themselves more competitive for future registry projects.

Can artists update their portfolio during the two years?

Unfortunately, no. This is a limitation of our current application management software. As technology improves, we hope to find a way to offer this as an option in the future.

Why limit the registry to North Carolina Artists?

Many of the art opportunities this registry will serve operate on short timelines and require close coordination with City staff. Focusing on local artists is easier for our partners and fulfills another request we heard from our 2025 Artist Survey—more opportunities for artists in our own community. Raleigh Arts is committed to supporting and growing our local public art ecosystem.

Will there still be artist calls?

Yes. Projects with budgets over \$30,000, CIP/Percent-for-Art projects, and projects that have specific criteria outside of the Emerging Public Artist Registry requirements will still

have artist calls that require a separate application. These calls will still be posted on the Raleigh Arts website and promoted through our Arts Flash newsletter and communication channels. Artists on the registry who meet the requirements of the call are welcome to apply but will have to do so.

How will artists be notified about their registry status/potential opportunities?

Raleigh Arts will let all applicants know their status after the panel has met in March 2027. Registry artists who are considered for opportunities will be notified if they are semi-finalists or awarded a project. All registry artists will receive quarterly updates from the public arts team outlining how many projects have been offered, who was selected, and other relevant information.

Can you tell me why I wasn't selected for a project?

Because the selection process will be done by other departments or teams, we won't always have insight into what they responded to in an individual application. However, artists are always welcome to reach out to the public art team for a quick meeting to talk about a project, their application, or a registry opportunity.

Additional Information

If you have additional questions or need accommodations in applying to the registry, please contact Jenn Hales at jenn.hales@raleighnc.gov or Kelly Marks at kelly.marks@raleighnc.gov.