



Request for Qualifications

Public Art Opportunity in Fairfax, VA

Deadline for Submission September 10, 2021

Applications can be submitted on-line at <https://artsfairfax.submittable.com>

Summary

ArtsFairfax is accepting qualifications from artists or artist teams for a public art project in Fairfax County, VA. The selected artist/team will design, fabricate, and install a permanent work of art at 2317 Huntington Avenue, Alexandria, VA at The Arden in Spring/Early Summer 2022.

Background Information

Wesley Housing is constructing and will own The Arden, a seven-story, 126-unit multifamily affordable community with studios, one-, two-, and three-bedrooms, located a block from the Huntington Metro station at the intersection of Huntington Avenue and Biscayne Drive. Building amenities include a welcoming residential lobby, leasing center, community room and fitness center. Additionally, Wesley Housing will be relocating its main office to the property's new 7,500 square foot commercial space on the ground floor. Outdoor amenities include native drought-resistant landscaping, an interior courtyard, new site lighting, and outdoor space with seating areas. The development will be Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) affordable to low and moderate-income households and will be restricted to serve residents with incomes ranging from 40%-80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Huntington is a quiet neighborhood at the southernmost end of the beltway and located at the last stop on the WMATA Metro's yellow line. Neighborhood pride for Huntington bleeds across its physical boundary over the Metro tracks and captures the pioneering spirit of residents located in the adjacent Fairlawn, Pavilions at Huntington and Jefferson Manor communities. The Arden is poised to become Fairfax County's single most important new opportunity for affordable housing in nontraditional areas.

Scope of Work

The artist/team will be responsible for designing, fabricating, and installing a permanent iconic work of art that will welcome residents and provide place-making for the area. Both figurative and abstract designs will be considered.

The development has completed an extensive entitlement review and approval with Fairfax County, along with other stakeholders. Consequently, a concept/direction for the art piece was agreed upon by these stakeholders. Any variation from the general nature of the approved concept would require interpretation by planning for final approval. However, the artist is encouraged to "think outside of the box" with the design of the piece and to inject their own creativity into the installation. Please see attached approved art concept for reference.

Project Budget

The \$40,000 artist fee includes design, materials, fabrication, insurance, travel, packing, shipping, installation, and a maintenance plan for the artwork. All necessary site preparation, such as the concrete base and the junction box for lighting will be provided by Wesley Housing's general contractor. However, specifications for the concrete base will need to be provided by the artist.

Installation Site

The installation site is located in a planting area adjacent to the public sidewalk near the entrance of the building, at the corner of Biscayne Drive and Huntington Avenue. The installation must be placed within the 9.5 foot by 4.8 foot section of the planting area, as outlined in red on the site plan. Please note that there will be a canopy that covers a portion of this section. If the artist

proposes an installation that is to go beneath the canopy, the artwork may not go above a height limit of eight feet. The structural base for the art piece will be approximately 6 inches thick.

Link to Site Plan, images, and background information:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F5xFi9_Ze5NvnJ2CLN8C4amlihR8dsZ2?usp=sharing

1. Site Plan
2. Rendering
3. Approved Concept
4. The Arden Fact Sheet
5. The Arden Brand Book

Eligibility

Professional artists and design professionals are invited to apply as individuals or teams. Public Art experience with comparable scaled projects is required. Local artist(s) are preferred.

How to Submit Qualifications

Applications must be submitted on-line at <https://artsfairfax.submittable.com> by September 10, 2021.

The following materials will be required to be uploaded:

1. **Statement of Interest.** Describe your interest in the project and experience working on comparable projects, and preliminary ideas for how you would approach this project. If applying as a team, identify all team members in the statement. (500 words maximum)
2. **Resume.** Maximum of three pages outlining your professional accomplishments. If submitting as a team, please include resumes for each team member, with each resume being no longer than three pages.
3. **Images of Past Work.** At least five unique examples of installed past work of similar scope, scale and budget as shown with a minimum of five and a maximum of ten (10) jpeg images of prior public art projects. Each image must be numbered and include the title, date of completion/installation, media, dimensions (height x width x depth, in feet), location, final project cost and a brief description of the work.
4. **Three Professional References,** including name, affiliated organization (if appropriate), email address, phone number, and relationship to each reference. References should be able to speak to your ability to provide services for the public art project.

Finalists will be invited to present:

1. Written description of project (**up to 1000 words**), which includes **an overview of the concept, description of materials and fabrication method being contemplated;**
2. Visual illustration(s) of the concept(s) in either a rendering or maquette;
3. Site plan showing how artwork will fit into the site;
4. Preliminary budget(s) that address major costs, including materials, fabrication, insurance, installation requirements, transport, and fee considerations.

Anticipated Schedule

RFQ Issue date..... August 19, 2021

Deadline for Submission of Qualifications..... September 10, 2021

Notification of Finalists.....	September 24, 2021
Finalist Submission.....	October 15, 2021
Finalist Interviews.....	October 22, 2021
Artist selection.....	November 5, 2021
Award of Contract(s).....	November 26, 2021
Final Design Review.....	December 31, 2021
Installation	Spring/Early Summer 2022

Selection Process and Criteria:

A panel of stakeholders will select artist/team(s) based on preliminary submission materials and will interview up to four finalists. Please note that the owner has a preference for local artists. Finalists invited to interview and present their proposals will receive an honorarium of \$500. Site visits are welcome. The following criteria will be used to make the selections:

- Artistic merit as evidenced by digital representation of past work.
- Experience of artist/team with projects of similar scale and scope.
- Appropriateness of the artist/team’s medium, style, and previous professional experience as they relate to the goals and site for this project.
- The ability of the artist to successfully work within the project timeline and budget.

Questions

Please contact Lisa Mariam at LMariam@artsfairfax.org for questions on this RFQ.