



CALL FOR CREATIVES

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CALL FOR CREATIVES: City of Charlotte Prequalified Creative Pool

Charlotte, North Carolina

RFQ Issue Date: Friday, January 19th, 2024

City of Charlotte Urban Design Center

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Friday, March 15, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Applications are to be submitted online through Seamless Docs using this form:

<https://seam.ly/AGwxEhCU>

There is no fee to submit qualifications. Applications will not be accepted after the **deadline on March 15, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (EST)**.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Charlotte Placemaking Program helps neighborhoods and activity centers by funding projects that create active and inviting public spaces, activating leftover and/or underutilized public spaces, implementing enhanced streetscapes, and demonstrating how public spaces can help transform neighborhoods by creating vibrant gathering spaces. The Charlotte Urban Design Center (UDC) manages the Placemaking Program and works with other divisions and departments within the City to integrate public art, gathering spaces, and celebrations into capital and economic development projects.

The UDC developed the Creative Pool program to connect local professional creatives to City and community-led placemaking projects in Charlotte.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City is accepting qualifications from local professional creatives (visual artists, performing artists, fabricators, photographers, poets, etc.), teams of creatives, and artist management businesses/organizations for potential inclusion in the Prequalified Creative Pool (Pool). The Pool will be used to match local creatives on a rolling basis, with opportunities throughout Charlotte. To help the UDC manage all the opportunities for creatives identified within City-led projects, the Pool has expanded to include professionals with experience managing public art and performance from commission through community celebration.

Creatives selected from the Pool may be commissioned to produce original work(s) and/or contracted to collaborate with the City to provide design or management services for art elements at several specific

placemaking projects. Projects will range in scale and scope. Possibilities may involve pavement surface enhancements, seating, bike racks, handrails, lighting, kinetics, wall murals, street murals, photography, live performances, etc. This call represents an opportunity for creatives and creative teams working in a diverse range of media to reach a broad audience. This request is open to creatives working in all media with demonstrated experience collaborating with architects, landscape architects, engineers, fabricators, installers, and/or community members. The UDC will use this prequalified list to match creatives with opportunities commensurate with skills and experience.

PLEASE NOTE: *Inclusion in the Pool does not guarantee a commission.*

BUDGET

Project dependent.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants not meeting the following eligibility guidelines will be withdrawn from consideration:

- Submittal of a complete application.
- Work samples demonstrate an ability to create dynamic, site-specific artworks, and/or the ability to tie creative work to a place or community.
- The creative's resume demonstrates evidence of professional competence and, experience working in collaboration with architects, landscape architects, engineers, fabricators, installers, and/or community members.
- Local creatives and creative teams are required to live within Mecklenburg County with a preference for Charlotte residents.

PLEASE NOTE: *If you are an artist who has previously been awarded a place in the Placemaking Program's Creative Pool, that you want to be included in this year's pool by emailing Kate Cavazza at Kate.Cavazza@charlottenc.gov. You do not need to complete the form in its entirety. You will be removed from the pool if we are not notified.*

SELECTION PROCESS

This solicitation process is being undertaken to enable the UDC to identify the most highly qualified creatives for several upcoming opportunities throughout Charlotte. As part of this process, applications from creatives who wish to be included in the Pool will be pre-screened by City staff for compliance with RFQ eligibility requirements.

The UDC will then review all eligible applications to create a prequalified pool of creatives, creative teams, and creative management businesses/organizations. Those accepted into the Pool will be notified by the City via email.

City staff will then use the prequalified pool to make recommendations to the Placemaking Program and City departments, matching artists to specific opportunities on a project-by-project basis.

PLEASE NOTE: *Inclusion in the Pool does not guarantee a commission.*

TIMELINE

January 19, 2024 - Applications released.

February 15, 2024 – Virtual Question and Answer Workshop

February 29, 2024 – In-person Question and Answer Workshop

March 15, 2024 at 5:00 PM EST - Application submission deadline

April 19, 2024- Selection review and notifications sent.

April 20, 2024 - Commissions for specific projects will begin and continue as projects are implemented throughout the year.

TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted online by **5:00 p.m. EST on March 15, 2024**. The submission form can be found here: <https://seam.ly/AGwxEhCU>

The following materials will be required:

- **Resume with Examples of Past Work:** Please provide your resume, portfolio, or Curriculum Vitae (CV) demonstrating your professional history and skills as a professional artist as a PDF document. Please note that there is a 250MB limit on each file upload.
- **Professional references:** Please provide the name and contact of at least three professional references for projects completed within the past five (5) years. Please note that there is a 250MB limit on each file upload.
- **Creative Statement:** Briefly describe your experience, philosophy, and creative process by answering the following questions (500 words or less):
 - What is your or your organization's connection to Charlotte?
 - What is your interest in public art and/or performance and how do your shared creative examples demonstrate the value of placemaking?
 - Do you have any personal or professional connections to a Corridor of Opportunity? (example: your grandmother lived on Beatties Ford Road).
 - The Corridors of Opportunity include Beatties Ford Road and Rozzelles Ferry Road, Central Avenue and Albemarle Road, Freedom Drive and Wilkinson Blvd, Graham Street and North Tryon Street, Sugar Creek Road and I-85, and West Boulevard. Learn more about the City of Charlotte's Corridors of Opportunity Program at: <https://charlottenc.gov/corridorsofopportunity/Pages/default.aspx>

CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED PROJECTS:

[The Corridors of Opportunity Program](#) invests in the health of Charlotte's communities and connects people to the resources and businesses they need to live and thrive. With a \$38.5 million investment, the City of Charlotte is renewing its commitment to six key corridors. Potential projects on these corridors could include:

- The creation of community brands for marketing
- The development of a comprehensive wayfinding plan
- Incorporating neighborhood identity and history into infrastructure investments
- Art installations
- Programming and events
- Street murals

Placemaking Project Grants

The UDC's Placemaking Grant program is a community-building initiative that supports quick wins, and transformative projects throughout the city to create and enhance community vibrancy, safety, and identity. The City of Charlotte will be available to pair artists with applicants when needed to help

develop their concepts, engage with the community, and implement local art. Key projects could include:

- Pavement and wall murals
- Signal cabinet wraps
- Street furniture
- Bus stop improvements
- Pop-up plazas
- Community agriculture
- Sidewalk dining
- Playscapes

Additional projects could include collaboration with other departments including Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), Economic Development, Transportation, Stormwater, and Housing and Neighborhood Services.

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFQ

For further information regarding the RFQ, please contact Kate Cavazza, Associate Urban Designer, by email at Kate.Cavazza@charlottenc.gov. She will be available for appointment only during office hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The City of Charlotte is committed to serving a diverse range of individuals and organizations through its programs and services and does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or any characteristic protected by law.