



Request for Qualifications

Public Art for Various Durham County Buildings

RFQ No. 26-020

Deadline for Submittals:

February 26, 2026

by 5:00 P.M., Eastern Time



PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

(Note: The dates below are subject to change)

Public Art for Various Durham County Buildings

RFQ No. 26-020

Advertisement date: **January 26, 2026**

Last date for questions: **February 17, 2026 by 5:00 pm, EST**

Last date for submissions: **February 26, 2026 by 5:00 pm, EST**



Request for Submission of Qualifications for Public Art

RFQ No. 26-020

Dear Artist:

You are invited to submit your qualifications online through the submission portal at <https://www.callforentry.org/> on **February 26, 2026 by 5:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time**. Submissions received after this date and time cannot be accepted. This RFQ is open to all artists authorized to work in the United States. Preference will be given to artists residing in Durham County and North Carolina.

Application materials must include the following:

Artist Statement

Briefly describe your experience, your discipline(s), and your qualifications for completing artworks. Artist teams should collectively explain their interest and qualifications.

Image

Submission should include visual representations of past artwork that demonstrate your qualifications for this project. Applicants must upload 10 - 15 images (videos are welcome, please refer to Cafe's requirements) representing at least five different projects. Each project image should have an accompanying summary of the title, location, cost, materials/medium, and date. Artist teams' images should include examples from each team member.

Resume

Resumes for each artist/artist team member should include any public or private commissioning experience and community engagement experience, if applicable.

References

Each artist should provide at least three (3) current references (non-familial) or recommendation letters, along with contact information for each reference, who can attest to the candidate's work ethic, skills, and strengths. Community references will be accepted. Artist teams may submit a total of three (3) references collectively.

All communications between the Purchasing Division and prospective Proposers shall be in writing. Any inquiries, requests for interpretation, technical questions, clarification, or additional information shall be sent via email to Rishanda Davis, Procurement Specialist, at the following email address:

Bidsprocurement@dconc.gov

All questions shall be received by the Purchasing Division no later than February 17, 2026 at 5:00 P.M., EST.

NO EXCEPTIONS.

All responses to questions will be posted online via the following:

<https://www.callforentry.org/>

and

<https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/finance/bid-opportunities>



ANNOUNCEMENT

Request for Submission of Qualifications for Public Art at Various Durham County Buildings

RFQ No. 26-020

The County of Durham, North Carolina, invites artists or artist teams to submit Qualifications for the design and installation of public artwork in, on, or around several Durham County Buildings. This is a call for multiple projects at various locations, with numerous artists and artist teams being commissioned.

Project Goals

Commissioned artwork should be respectful of the values and mission of Durham County and its Public Art Program. The work should be culturally responsive and make visible strides to engage with and connect to the public by activating and enhancing the facility's grounds. Interested Candidates will seek to create an inviting civic statement that welcomes visitors, County employees, residents, and passersby. Preference will be given to artists located in North Carolina.

Project Description

The County of Durham, North Carolina, is seeking artists or artist teams to design and install permanent public artworks in collaboration with County departments and other organizations engaged in capital development projects across Durham County, North Carolina. Multiple artists will be commissioned for various project locations, including but not limited to the Project BUILD, Sheriff's Training Facility, Durham County Utilities Administration Building, and selected community-based projects.

Timeline

Artist selections will begin in early 2026 with timelines extending through 2027.

Definition

Durham County defines Public Art as original visual art, including but not limited to sculptures, murals, 2D art, mosaics, eco art, and electronic art installations installed permanently in spaces which are visible from public streets and pedestrian walkways, free of any admission fee, through a public process providing opportunity for community input.

Project Background

Artists and Artist teams will be selected from this collection of RFQ respondents when a project's requirements render it suitable. Selection will be based on the appropriateness of the artist's medium and experience relevant to specific project requirements.

About Durham

Durham, NC, known as the "Bull City," is a dynamic city in the Research Triangle, blending historic tobacco roots with modern innovation, driven by Duke University, NC Central University, and Research Triangle Park (RTP). It's famous for its vibrant food scene, diverse arts, growing tech/biotech industries, and a strong sense of community, offering a unique mix of Southern charm and progressive energy with acclaimed restaurants, local businesses, and cultural events.

Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

Members of the Durham Public Art Committee, visual art/design professionals, and other community stakeholders will evaluate application portfolios for inclusion in the list of Artists and Artist Teams to be considered for these projects. Interviews may be requested of finalists.

Disclaimer

This RFQ does not oblige the County of Durham to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response. Furthermore, the RFQ does not oblige the County of Durham to accept or contract for any expressed or implied services. The County of Durham reserves the right to reject all submittals.

Site 1 - Project BUILD

Project type: Mural

Surface Material: Drywall

Budget Estimate: \$25K



Site 2 - Sheriff's Training Facility

Project Type: There are two opportunities for art at this site.

- 1) 2D work in lobby (site 2A)
and
- 2) 3D work/Eco Art on exterior (site 2B)

Budget Estimate(s): 1) \$40K for site 2A
and
2) \$120K for site 2B



Site 3 - Durham County Utilities Administration Building

Project type: There are two opportunities for art at this site.

- 1) 2D work in the lobby (site 3A)
and
- 2) 3D artwork outside of the main entrance (site 3B)

Budget Estimate(s):

- 1) \$30K - \$50K for site 3A
and
- 2) \$100K - \$120K for site 3B



Site 4 - Durham Center for Senior Life

Project type: Mural

Budget Estimate: \$30K - \$40K (\$5K for mentee stipend)

Surface Material: Drywall

Additional Information: This mural offers an opportunity for mentorship and mentee collaboration or a community paint day.

