



CITY OF RALEIGH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

News Release

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Artists Invited to Submit Qualifications for Moore Square Project

The City of Raleigh is seeking qualifications from artists or artist teams to work as a public art consulting member of the design team for Raleigh's Moore Square project. The artists or artist teams should have experience in integrating art elements into public spaces.

The selected artist or artist team will help develop conceptual and schematic designs and a budget for integrated art elements that emphasize the goal of establishing a world-class urban space. The ability to collaborate and work well with the project design team and the public throughout the design process is imperative to the success of the project.

The \$15,000 design fee includes travel, hotel, transportation and mileage expenses.

Qualifications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 26. There is no fee to submit qualifications.

Moore Square was originally conceived in 1792 when it was designated as one of four public spaces in Raleigh. Today, Moore Square is a premier historic public space in downtown Raleigh. It is listed as a National Register Historic District and has been central to the African-American community since its establishment. It is also zoned as a Raleigh historic overlay district.

Large events and heavy foot traffic in Moore Square have created significant maintenance issues and impacted the attractiveness of the park. In 2009, Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker issued a "call for ideas" to re-conceive the four-acre Moore Square to best serve a new era and to inform potential applicants to the City of Raleigh's first design competition. In May 2011, the City Council approved the Moore Square Master Plan. In the new Moore Square, visitors will experience a sense of welcome, safety and excitement. To read the master plan, visit the City of Raleigh's website at www.raleighnc.gov and search for "Moore Square Master Plan."

Public art at selected City of Raleigh sites is authorized by the Half Percent for Art Ordinance adopted by the City Council in 2009 and implemented by the City's Public Art and Design Board and the City's Arts Commission.

Under goals established by the Public Art and Design Board, the integrated art elements for the Moore Square could:

- Honor Moore Square's 1792 origins as one of Raleigh's four defining town squares;
- Celebrate the park's historical significance as an African American hub;
- Reflect on Moore Square's continuing evolution with regard to physical and social attributes as a public gathering place; and,
- Consider sustainability, including long-term tree management, site program and material selection.

There will be two rounds in the selection process. In the first round, a five-member artist selection panel appointed by the Public Art and Design Board will evaluate the artists' qualifications. Evaluation will be based on criteria that include artistic merit, place-making experience, collaborative public art processes, project management experience and technical expertise. The artist selection panel will identify up to three finalists to invite to Raleigh for interviews as part of the second round of the selection process. Finalists will receive a \$750 stipend.

For details and application guidelines, visit www.raleighnc.gov/arts and search for "Artist Calls." For more information, contact Kim Curry-Evans, public art coordinator for the Office of Raleigh Arts, at 919-996-4688 or kim.curry-evans@raleighnc.gov.

The Office of Raleigh Arts supports and promotes the arts in Raleigh by administering the programs of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission and the City's Public Art and Design Board, and supporting the Pullen and Sertoma arts centers. The Office of Raleigh Arts is part of the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.