

Request for Qualifications Oberlin Road Public Art Project Raleigh, North Carolina



127 W. Hargett St,
Suite 408
Raleigh NC, 27601
919.996.3610

Summary

The City of Raleigh is seeking an artist or artist team to submit qualification to develop site-specific public artwork for integration as a part of a road improvement project on Oberlin Road.

Up to three finalists will be selected for interviews and paid a **\$1000** stipend.

Qualifications must be submitted by **02/04/2019**. There is no fee to submit qualifications.

Apply Online at <https://raleigharts.wufoo.com/forms/ruldrzq0yhwpfd/>

Eligibility:

- This opportunity is open to individual artists and artist teams.
- Applicants must be either a United States citizen or a permanent legal resident, and be at least 18 years of age.
- Applicants must have at least a two-year history of professional art or design practice.
- Applicants must have demonstrated experience in the arts through the creation of high-quality work.
- Lead applicant cannot be enrolled in an undergraduate course of study in the visual arts as of January 1, 2019.

Budget

The public art budget for the project is **\$60,000** inclusive of all expenses including: design, fabrication, installation, travel, taxes and fees.

Oberlin Road Project Overview

As a result of increased density, the City of Raleigh is improving Oberlin Road (between Park Drive and Bedford Avenue). This major streetscape project will include a road diet, expansion of sidewalks, bike lanes, undergrounding utility lines and adding amenities such as benches, bike racks, street trees and planters. The Oberlin Village neighborhood has seen rapid changes since its founding and residents have expressed a desire to preserve and highlight the unique African-American history of the area.

Oberlin Village, one of the first free black communities in North Carolina, was founded in 1866 by James Harris, a former slave and future senator. The community included cultural institutions such as churches, a public school, and Latta University (1892), an institution which provided industrial and vocational schooling as well as an orphanage. Oberlin Village was home to free African American homeowners, educators, business people, military service members, and crafts people (such as stone and brick masons, carpenters, tailors, etc).

Also of historical significance is Oberlin Cemetery, which according to oral tradition was established in 1873 at the site of a slave graveyard. Grave markers vary, ranging from fine marble and granite obelisks to plain stone markers with no inscriptions. Local archaeologists and historians are currently working with Friends of Oberlin Village to record the histories of those laid to rest in the cemetery.

In 1949 Cameron Village shopping center was built within Oberlin's parameters and ushered in an era of continued development, which has erased much of Oberlin Village's physical and historical landscape. This public art project seeks to highlight the history of Oberlin Village and of black settlement in Raleigh.

Request for Qualifications Oberlin Road Public Art Project Raleigh, North Carolina



127 W. Hargett St,
Suite 408
Raleigh NC, 27601
919.996.3610

Friends of Oberlin Village is a non-profit organization created to preserve the Oberlin Cemetery and the history of Oberlin Village. It is the desire of living ancestors and stakeholder groups that the artwork act as either a gateway marking the entrance into what was once Oberlin Village, or artwork that might create a community gathering place, or placemaking that speaks to the history. During community meetings, stakeholders discussed the significance of front porches and porch swings in Oberlin Village, that acted as communal gathering places that strengthened the community.

Voices from the community about Oberlin Village

Residents responded to surveys and outreach with their thoughts about the Oberlin Village Area. Some takeaways from the surveys include:

Some of the things that make Oberlin Village special are:

- Oberlin Village was a self-sustaining community of business owners, schools, churches and trades people. The community was tight-knit and there was a sense of kinship even among folks not biologically related.
- Past and present landmarks include Oberlin school, Oberlin Playground, Bedford Ave. and Latta.
- Sites like Oberlin Cemetery, Latta house, Graves Turner house and Hall house have documented historical significance.
- Descendants of the original founders live in the neighborhood and describe the importance of ancestral ties in Oberlin Village.
- Residents feel a strong sense of history, community, identity and resilience.

In 2040, I hope the Oberlin Village area will be:

- A strong presence in Raleigh with its history and contributions being revered. I hope the Oberlin Cemetery will have been designated as a national historic site. I hope there will still be an omnipresent knowledge of Oberlin's location and its culture.
- A vibrant part of downtown that people will enjoy living, working, and playing in.
- Intact, welcoming, engaging, historic, remembered, studied, diverse, accessible.
- Remembered for Latta, Oberlin School, brick masons, military personnel and civic personnel like Wilson Morgan, the 1st black us representative.
- I hope that this area will retain its physical and spiritual character, and that the public art will honor that.

Public Art Goals and Opportunities

Oberlin Road has been selected for public art based on its geographical location and significant African-American history.

Below are several goals for how public art can play a role along Oberlin Road:

- Memorialize the African-American history of the Oberlin Village community.
- The public art can be stand-alone or integrated into the site. The artist will work closely with the design team, project stakeholders, neighborhood Citizen Advisory Councils, and the Friends of Oberlin Village to ensure a successful outcome.

**Request for Qualifications
Oberlin Road Public Art Project
Raleigh, North Carolina**



127 W. Hargett St,
Suite 408
Raleigh NC, 27601
919.996.3610

Possible avenues for artwork along this corridor include, but are not limited to:

- Artwork that acts as a gathering place in honor of the culture of Oberlin Village.
- Artwork that serves as a vibrant streetscape experience and creative wayfinding solution that incorporates the history of Oberlin Village.
- Artwork that creates a gateway to Oberlin Village

Selection Criteria and Process

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 the Artist Selection Panel, appointed by the Public Art and Design Board. The Panel may include: a member of the Board, professional artists, design professionals, Historical Commission Members, stakeholders from community groups, and a representative from the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department.

The selection process will consist of two stages. During the first round, the Artist Selection Panel will evaluate qualifications of artists based on five criteria: artistic merit; creative placemaking experience; experience in educational and collaborative art making; project management experience; and technical expertise. Prior public art experience is not required.

The Artist Selection Panel will identify up to three finalists to invite to Raleigh for interviews. Finalists will receive a **\$1000** stipend to cover travel and related expenses associated with the interview. In addition to reviewing qualifications and previous experience in detail, panelists will discuss with finalists their prospective approaches to the project. They will also respond to questions. A specific proposal is not expected at this interview.

The Artist Selection Panel will choose the artist for the project and forward that recommendation to the Public Art and Design Board. Upon approval by the Public Art and Design Board, a scope of services and budget will be developed based on the artist’s or artist team’s approach to the project.

Project Timeline

This project requires commitment to the following timetable:

RFQ Application Deadline:	02/04/2019 by midnight
Finalists Selected and Notified:	03/01/2019
Finalists Interviewed:	April, 2019
Project Awarded:	May, 2019

How to Apply

Apply online using this link: <https://raleigharts.wufoo.com/forms/ruldrzq0yhwpfd/>

If you have trouble with the online form, you may email your documents to jenn.hales@raleighnc.gov.

Artists wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

1. Statement of Interest

A one-page statement outlining your interest in this project and your experience working on public art projects, or relevant art experience. Include how your work and experience will complement this project.

File titled Lastname Firstname_statement.

2. Professional Résumé

A résumé of no more than two pages that includes information regarding public art commissions, exhibitions, and installations, awards, special projects, community engagement, grants and education. If applying as a team, submit a separate résumé for each team member. *File titled*

Lastname Firstname__résumé

3. 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 a public art project or artwork of a similar scope.

File titled Lastname Firstname__references

4. Previous Work, Digital Images

Ten digital images of recent previous work (created within the past ten years) in JPG format (150 dpi at minimum size 5.5" x 7"; maximum size 11 x 14"). All images must be saved using a file name and number that corresponds to the image identification list.

Image titled Lastname Firstname__image #

5. Image Identification List

An image identification list corresponding to the submitted digital images. Each image should include: image number, artist's name, title, year, media, location, project budget, dimensions, commissioning agency, and collaborators or design professionals (if applicable). *File titled Lastname Firstname__list*

Do not provide or submit any other materials with your application. They will not be reviewed by the panel and will not be returned.

Submission and Deadline

All RFQ materials must be received **no later than 11:59pm. EST on Monday, February 4th**. Incomplete or late submittals will not be considered.

**Request for Qualifications
Oberlin Road Public Art Project
Raleigh, North Carolina**



127 W. Hargett St,
Suite 408
Raleigh NC, 27601
919.996.3610

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.

Additional Information

For more information about the project, help with submissions, or to learn more about the selection process, please contact Jenn Hales, Public Art Assistant for the Office of Raleigh Arts, at 919.996.4689 or jenn.hales@raleighnc.gov. For relevant information regarding the project, visit the Office of Raleigh Arts website at: www.raleighnc.gov/parks/content/Arts/Articles/CallForArtists.html.