

Call for Artists



Release Date: March 15th, 2021
Application Deadline: May 1st, 2021

Brief

The **Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation (WCDC)** is issuing an RFQ (Request For Qualifications) for artists interested in participating in a public art project along the Wood Street commercial corridor in Wilkinsburg. Once RFQs are reviewed, two professional artists will be selected to submit one proposal each for a public artwork to be permanently displayed.

About the Project

The **Wood Street Corridor Art Project** is being spearheaded by the **WCDC's Design Committee**, a group of Wilkinsburg residents, stakeholders and experts working to create a unified, vibrant business district by developing plans for physical improvements. The goal of the Wood Street Art Project is to collaborate with artists to create a sense of place in Wilkinsburg and enhance the streetscape from Pennwood Avenue to Wallace Avenue, uplifting the corridor as a destination. The larger project is envisioned to unfold over the course of 10 to 15 years.

The scope of the overall project has yet to be determined as we are still in the early stages of fundraising. To date, the Design Committee has commissioned a proposal for a lighting installation piece by Adam Frelin to initiate the project. The timeline for completion of this round of proposed works may be 2-3 years away.

About RFQs

An RFQ invites artists to send their qualifications to be reviewed by a selection panel but does not require a specific proposal or idea to be submitted. RFQs are used to choose artists based on their past and current art, achievements and alignment with program goals as expressed in the criteria. Specific information regarding the physical location, potential possibilities and constraints will be communicated to the selected artists along with the invitation to submit a full proposal. There is no fee for submitting qualifications, nor is there a stipend.

About Proposals

After the RFQ stage, two artists will be invited to develop a detailed proposal for the site not to exceed \$9,000, including artist fees and materials. As the WCDC is still fundraising, proposal selection does not guarantee the artist(s) will be selected to implement their ideas or proposed art. However, we know how much work it can take to research and develop a full proposal! Each artist selected for this stage will be placed under contract and paid a \$200 stipend for proposal development and presentation.

Timeline

Monday, March 15th, 2021 - RFQ Released
Saturday, May 1, 2021 - RFQ Application Deadline
Saturday, May 15, 2021 - Shortlist Invited for Full Proposals
Tuesday, June 15, 2021- Full Proposals Due
2023 - 2024, Estimated Project Implementation
This timeline is subject to change based on fundraising.

Eligibility and Criteria

This opportunity is open to visual artists with experience working collaboratively with communities. Professional artists who are new to the field of public art are encouraged to apply. Applicants will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Prior work that:
 - Shows a strong, consistent, and clear artistic voice;
 - Has achieved sustained resonance, impact, or value;
 - Facilitates collective expression, engagement, and/or reflection that transcends individual perspective and experience; and
 - Shows interest in working in the public realm;
- Experience working collaboratively and/or in a community-based setting;
- Demonstrated ability to execute creative concepts; and
- Completeness of application materials.
- Professional artists who are new to the field of public art are encouraged to apply.
- Preference will be given to artists that live or work in Wilkinsburg, but all Pittsburgh area artists are welcome and encouraged to apply.

Collaborations and groups are eligible to apply. All artistic mediums are welcome, however, artists must be able to create a piece that can withstand the elements, as we are looking for permanent pieces that will remain outdoors year-round.

Artists submitting qualifications should be prepared to develop a full proposal submission if selected. Full proposals must include: a project description, drawings/renderings/models/photographs illustrating the artwork to be created, materials list, budget, a timeline and details on fabrication and installation, references, and maintenance information as appropriate. Artists can anticipate developing proposals with guidance from the WCDC's Design Committee to help ensure feasibility of the project.

Budget and Contract Information

If selected to advance to the proposal development phase, artists will receive a \$200 stipend. Funds to complete the work have yet to be raised. We ask that artists understand a timeline for completion may be 2-3 years away. The amount of the contract for Final Design and Implementation will be: \$9,000

RFQ Submission Requirements

Please complete the [RFQ questionnaire](#) via Google Forms to be considered for selection.

The submission form requests the following:

- Contact Information
- Portfolio via Web Link or Upload
- Statement of Interest
- Artist CV, Resume, or Bio

For questions regarding the project or submission process please feel free to contact:

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