

Request for Artists Proposals

City of Charlotte, Michigan

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, May 4, 2016 by 11:59 p.m. EST

OVERVIEW

The City of Charlotte announces a request for proposals (RFP) for a new public art project, funded by the Public Art for Communities program presented by the Lansing Economic Area Partnership and PNC Bank. The project will be installed in downtown Charlotte. We are seeking a bold, innovative public artwork that will engage and reflect the community.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In an effort to continue improving what is soon to be a nationally recognized historic, traditional downtown, the Charlotte community is commissioning a new public art piece that will be installed in a central and highly-visible location. The area chosen for this project is known locally as ‘Peter’s Circle’ and is a near-constant gathering place for local residents in the heart of the city.

Placemaking is central to the community’s downtown redevelopment strategy, and Charlotte is seeking a representative art installation that captures the spirit of the community, its independence, generosity, and its bright future. A recent public art forum identified several goals, potential themes and important principals that local residents believe are important for this project to be successful. These are included with this RFP.

Charlotte is, and has long been, a creative and artistic community. Music, in particular, is a consistently rewarding cradle-to-grave activity for our residents. However, the visual and creative arts are playing an ever more important role in Charlotte’s quality of life. This new art installation should serve as both an enriching feature for those who live here, and a signal to visitors that art and creativity are important.

Downtown Charlotte is a hub of local commerce, but is also a residential neighborhood and a social and cultural center that many residents of the community visit daily. This new art piece has the potential to help shape Charlotte’s identity for years, possibly decades, to come. It will join murals, concerts, community theater productions and other creative public displays that breathe life into our local culture.

ELIGIBILITY

The RFP is open to all professional artists and/or artist-led teams, based in Michigan. Interested artists will have demonstrated the capacity in innovative placemaking and are welcome to propose work in any media and materials that meet the “ARTWORK CRITERIA” and are durable and suitable for Michigan’s variable climate (including salt and ice melt.)

PROJECT BUDGET

The commission budget is **\$10,000 USD** for the artwork (is inclusive of all artist's fees, travel, design, engineering, insurance, permits, fabrication, and artist labor) and up to **\$5,000 USD** covered by the City of Charlotte for any installation expenses (installation, concrete, labor, shipping, etc.).

PROJECT TIMELINE

Issue Call for Artists RFP: Monday, April 11, 2016

Submittal Deadline: Wednesday, May 4, 2016 11:59 p.m. EST

Artist Selection and Notification: after May 9, 2016

Artist Contracting Process: end of May

Fabrication and Installation: June – September, 2016

Project Completion and Unveiling: by October 31, 2016

ARTWORK CRITERIA

This project, including the selected integrated artwork, will serve as a catalyst for positive economic and social change and enhanced quality of life in the City of Charlotte. The artwork should exemplify strong, imaginative design and content, and should contribute to a visually stimulating environment that lends itself to thought and adds character to the site. Artists are encouraged to consider an element of interactivity in their artwork that can be transformative and family friendly. Something that serves as an example of innovation and discovery.

Artists are asked to consider how the artwork could be prominent at all hours (electrical needs should be considered) and appropriate to its surroundings. At this time, no public fixtures are moveable to accommodate the artwork. Consideration should be given for pedestrian traffic and vision obstruction for vehicle traffic (several thousand cars passing through daily) must also be taken into consideration.

Because this will be a permanent installation, artists should consider weather and climate in designing the piece. Mechanized snow removal around the piece should be considered, in particular.

The artist will work with the City of Charlotte Ad-hoc Arts Committee, City of Charlotte staff members, and any other necessary partners to further conceptualize the project after selection, including determining preparation of the site, i.e. structural, electrical requirements, city codes, etc., and the method in which the work will be installed or integrated.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Representatives from the City of Charlotte Ad-hoc Arts Committee along with other community

partners will serve on the review panel to select the finalist based on the materials submitted.

The selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Artist's professional experience represents a developed and successful body of site specific public art projects of a similar scope as demonstrated by visual documentation.

- Ability to understand sense of place and design in a context sensitive manner as demonstrated by visual documentation.
- Ensure that the artwork is of a permanent nature, does not require excessive maintenance or repair costs and meets public safety issues and Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

ARTIST'S COMMISSIONED WORK AGREEMENT

The selected artist/team will enter into a two-party Agreement between the City of Charlotte and the artist/team to complete a transfer of ownership. The selected artist/team will be required to provide General Liability and other insurance as specified in the Agreement.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications will be accepted through an online system at lansingarts.slideroom.com.

A free applicant account is required to apply. All applications must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. May 4, 2016**. The online system will not accept applications after this time. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

CONTACT

Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director, City of Charlotte (517) 543-8853 or by email at bmyrkle@charlottemi.org

The City of Charlotte Ad-hoc Arts Committee reserves the right to reject any or all applications, to reissue the Call for Entries, or to terminate the selection process or project at any time without prior notice.



