

News Release

For Immediate Release: June 30, 2020

Durham Seeks Public Art Submissions for New Bus Shelters

July 20th Submission Deadline; Artist Information Sessions Set for July 7th & 10th

DURHAM, N.C. – If you're a local or regional artist, your work could soon be featured on nine new solar-powered bus shelters located throughout Durham.

Local and regional artists are now invited to [apply](#) for a new public art project funded by the City of Durham's Participatory Budgeting Project (PB Durham). Thanks to this PB Durham funding, the City's Cultural and Public Art Program is now inviting professional artists or artist teams to submit qualifications to create public art that will enrich new solar-powered bus shelters installed throughout the community.

To improve the ridership experience of Durham's transit system as well as contribute to renewable energy generation, the City wants to commission 2-D artwork for the new shelters, which will also feature solar panel installations at select shelters to power lights and USB charging stations.

Artists or artist teams selected for this project will be compensated \$9,000 to create and fabricate artworks that contribute to the interest and aesthetic appeal of the bus shelters and the individual riders' experience. Artwork with designs promoting community healing and equality are encouraged. The selected artist(s) will also host, facilitate, and participate in community engagement activities before finalizing their designs to gather feedback from residents living in the respective City Council wards where the bus shelters will be located.

This request for qualifications (RFQ) is now open to all artists in North Carolina, but preference will be given to artists living in Durham County. Candidates must either identify as, or partner with, a professional artist, designer or fabricator, eligible to work in the United States, and be age 18 and older. The City encourages people from diverse backgrounds to apply. Candidates are eligible regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, gender identification, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical ability.

All applications must be submitted in digital format and include a statement of interest, annotated samples of previous work relevant to the project, personal resume(s), and references. The deadline for submissions is Monday, July 20, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Full submission guidelines, project details, and the digital submission process are available on the [RFQ Public Art for Bus Shelters webpage](#).

To help artists prepare their submittals, two information sessions about the RFQ and public art process will be hosted by the City's Cultural and Public Art Program on Tuesday, July 7 from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., and Friday, July 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the phone numbers provided on the [RFQ Public Art for Bus Shelters webpage](#) or by using the free Zoom software.

For questions or additional assistance, artists may also contact Cultural and Public Art Program Manager Rebecca Brown with the City's General Services Department at (912) 398-8075 or by [email](#).

About the City of Durham Public Art Committee

The [Public Art Committee](#) serves as an advisory body to the Durham City Council and the City Manager, and its functions include assisting the City's General Services Department on matters relating to public art; implementation of the Public Art Policy; and reviewing proposals for public art projects brought to it by the City administration; and making recommendations to the Durham [Cultural Advisory Board](#) regarding project approvals. To further help artists connect with opportunities, the City has also launched a [Durham Calls for Artists](#) page on its website, which lists a number of upcoming opportunities for artists in and around Durham. Artists and other stakeholders who would like to be notified of current and future art-related opportunities and news can now sign up for alerts through the [Cultural and Public Arts Calls for Art mailing list](#). For more information about the City's Cultural and Public Arts Program, visit the City's [cultural and public arts page](#). Artists and residents interested in more information about the Cultural and Public Arts program may also contact Division Manager Stacey Poston with the City's General Services Department at (919) 560-4197, ext. 21254 or by [email](#).

About the City of Durham General Services Department

The [General Services Department](#) builds and maintains City properties to make Durham a great place for people to live, work, and play. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department's core functions include the acquisition and sale of properties, design and management of new construction and renovation projects, building maintenance, landscaping and urban forestry services, cemeteries management, sustainability and energy management, and supporting the nonprofit [Keep Durham Beautiful](#).

About Participatory Budgeting

Participatory Budgeting, also known as [PB Durham](#), was a democratic process that allowed residents to directly decide how to spend \$2.4 million dollars for one-time projects in each of the three City Council wards. Since its initial launch in November 2018, PB Durham engaged over 10,000 residents and students in its first-year process. Over 500 ideas were initially submitted during the idea collection phase in fall 2018, with the second phase of proposal development taking place from January through April 2019. During the second phase, over 100 students and residents from the community reviewed, vetted, analyzed, and developed over 40 project proposals using data, community research, and support from technical experts. The voting phase throughout May 2019 sought resident input on which of the top 40 projects should move to the final implementation phase. The PB Steering Committee certified the election results on June 17, 2019 at their monthly committee meeting. Visit the [PB Durham website](#) to review the results for the Cycle 1 Election in addition to voting guidelines adopted by the Steering Committee.

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