

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Fire & EMS Station 18 Public Art in Durham, NC

6919 Herndon Road Durham, NC 27713

The City of Durham's Cultural and Public Art Program (referred to as "City") is seeking a Public Historian and a Photographer team (referred to as "Candidates") with experience in projects centered around historical documentation and education to highlight the history of Durham's Fire Department. The Public Historian and Photographer team will capture living history past and present through the documentation of the department's various artifacts and objects of use.



Example Left: [Fire Station #4](#) under construction, 06.21.57. The station was staffed by an entirely African-American crew--the first African-American firefighters in Durham since the volunteer Excelsior Fire Company of the 1900s ([Open Durham](#)).

Example Right: Potential example of archival work to be displayed at Fire & EMS Station 18.

If you are interested in being a part of this project and contributing to the documentation and preservation of Durham's historic Fire Department, please submit requested information and RFQ questions to rebecca.brown@durhamnc.gov with "Public Art RFQ: Fire & EMS Station 18" in the subject line. Candidates who have already registered with the City of Durham's [Pre-Qualified Artists Registry](#) must submit their RFQ applications via email to be considered for the Fire & EMS Station 18 Public Art Project. Please direct RFQ questions to Rebecca Brown at rebecca.brown@durhamnc.gov.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Through Capital Improvement Project funding, the design and construction of Fire & Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Station 18 will take place in a residential area on Herndon Road, approximately three miles down from Southpoint Mall. The design of the building will be similar to the design of Fire and EMS Station 17 with exterior architecture similar to the surrounding residential neighborhood. As part of the City of Durham's Percent-for-Art Ordinance, the Cultural and Public Art Program will hire Candidates to install photography based on historical and archival work on site with guidance from Fire Department and EMS staff.

Recognizing the need to facilitate storytelling and documentation with a focus on Durham's diverse and unique history, the City seeks Candidates to create artworks that contribute to the interest and aesthetic appeal of the Fire Department and develop archival resources for the public to learn about Durham's history. The selected Candidate(s) will work to:

- Beautify the interior spaces of Fire & EMS Station 18 while simultaneously capturing history past and present;
- Create a public history project promoting community storytelling;
 - The photographic artwork and documents must relate to the history of Durham's Fire Departments. For example, art could connect visually to the site of the Fire & EMS Station 18 or interpret historical, environmental, decorative, architectural, scientific, or cultural aspects of the site and/or department.
- Create printed photographs for interior wall hangings that will be framed with the option of fabricating vinyl murals based on preference of Fire & EMS staff. The Public Historian will provide interpretative text to accompany the photographs; and
- Develop content for digital and/or online platforms for broad public access.

Durham Fire Department & Capital Improvement Projects

Fire Department's Mission

The Durham Fire Department endeavors to prevent or minimize the harmful effects of fires, medical emergencies, and other types of dangerous events. The City of Durham is home to approximately 300,000 residents. The Durham Fire Department employs over 400 personnel to protect and serve our residents and visitors that the City hosts daily. Approximately 90% of these personnel serve in on-the-ground, field operations.

Capital Improvement Projects

Located in an established residential neighborhood, the proposed Fire and EMS Station 18 will be a 15,000sf, modern facility based upon the current prototype developed for Fire and EMS Station 17. The new facility will serve as an operational base supporting the relocated Fire and EMS Staff from the current station to increase service to the public while reducing response time from a more central

location. Aspects important to the design team are incorporating the City’s sustainability and energy management goals into the design, continuing LEED achievements established with Station 17, and adapting design features into the existing neighborhood.

For the FY 2020-25 CIP, capital projects are funded through impact fees, enterprise funds, grants, the capital project fund, pay-go funding, and debt financings. More information about the CIP process and funding can be found here: <https://durhamnc.gov/223/Capital-Improvement-Plan-CIP>.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To highlight the history of Durham’s Fire Department, the Cultural and Public Art Program will hire a Public Historian and Photographer team (“Candidates”) for a public art project centered around historical documentation and education. The Candidates will work in collaboration to capture and archive the Fire Station’s objects of historical significance as digital images, large-scale photographs and/or vinyl printed murals along with interpretative text, which will be displayed inside of the Fire & EMS Station 18 and through an online platform. The Candidates will also work with the Fire Department staff to document the everyday objects used in their work and capture the current staff’s commitment to the community.

As one of the Fire Stations currently displays objects of historical importance, the public art project will strengthen the public’s ability to access the collection by hosting the content through an online platform, in addition to celebrating and acknowledging the complex history of the Fire Department. These archival images have potential for long-term development as well, including the utilization of the images in Fire and EMS stations across Durham and having the collection housed on the City of Durham’s online platforms or Durham County’s Library archival systems.



Source: Gift of CIGNA Museum and Art Collection. National Museum of American History.
https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1334829.



Example: National Museum of American History. Hurst Power Rescue Tool (Jaws of Life). In the 1960s, George Hurst designed a 350-pound hydraulic spreader tool to help remove race car drivers from wrecks. He hired Mike Brick to market the device nationwide. Brick downsized it to 65 pounds and pitched the Hurst Power Rescue Tool to fire departments in the early 1970s as a way to free accident victims from cars. The tool was an instant success because it was faster, safer, more powerful, and easier to use than power saws, pry bars, and blow torches. It acquired the nickname “The Jaws of Life” because of a line in a promotional film. The Carlsbad, New Mexico fire department bought this tool in 1977 and used it until 2012. https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1431924.

I. SITE DESCRIPTION

The work will be framed and installed in the Fire Station on the walls of interior common areas and administrative spaces to enliven the space, with the option of fabricating vinyl murals based on the preference of Fire & EMS staff. These photographs and educational materials will also be developed by the Candidates and made available digitally for online platforms.

Fire and EMS Station 18 Location

6919 Herndon Road Durham, NC 27713

II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The City of Durham has a multi-departmental team currently researching and testing virtual platforms that include SMS capabilities, geo-tagging, and surveys. Departments are piloting practicing social distancing while assisting residents and using hybrid methods for soliciting feedback.

The City of Durham and the selected Candidate will plan and facilitate community engagement activities to encourage public input and participation in the archival project. The selected Candidates will be expected to host, facilitate, and participate in community and staff engagement activities before finalizing their designs to gather feedback from residents living in the respective City Council Ward where the Fire & EMS Station will be located.

Community Engagement (post-COVID):

The Public Historian and Photographer will capture living history as a part of the community engagement efforts, which may include written documentation by Fire & EMS staff and Durham residents who have experiences with the Fire Department.

III. ELIGIBILITY

This RFQ is open to all residents of North Carolina, but preference will be given to residents of the County of Durham with connections to the Durham community and/or who are intimately connected to the history of the area. The City encourages people from diverse backgrounds to apply. The Public Historian and Photographer shall submit a RFQ as a team. Candidates must be public historians, historians, archivists, artists, designers, or fabricators or partnered with public historians, historians, archivists, artists, designers, or fabricators, eligible to work in the United States, and age 18 and older. Candidates are eligible regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, gender identification, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical ability.

IV. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Public Historian and Photographer shall submit a RFQ as a team. Submissions must be received by **Friday, May 14, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST** via email to Rebecca Brown (rebecca.brown@durhamnc.gov) with the subject line "Public Art RFQ: Fire & EMS Station 18" and shall include the following:

- A. Statement of interest: narrative outlining the Candidates' qualifications and interest in this project, including prior work within the community and/or interest in community engagement. (Preference for file formatting: PDF, Word, .docx)
- B. Work samples: visual representations of past artwork that demonstrate the Candidates' qualifications for this project. In order to be considered for this project, the Candidate team must submit at least five (5) images and/or documents of at least five (5) previously completed projects, with the option to submit up to ten (10) images and/or documents of no more than ten (10) previously completed projects. Each sample should have an accompanying summary of the title, location, cost, materials/media, and date associated with that image and/or documentation project. (Preference for file formatting: PDF, Word, .docx)
- C. References: each Candidate team should provide at least four (4) current references (non-familial) or recommendation letters with contact information for each reference, who can speak to the Candidates' work ethic, skills and strengths. (Preference for file formatting: PDF, Word, .docx)

V. SELECTION PROCESS

- A. The Review Committee will include staff from the City and may at the City's discretion include representatives from the City of Durham's General Services Department, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, and others.
- B. The Review Committee will review submissions for completeness and may reject incomplete or non-responsive submissions.

- C. The Review Committee will evaluate applications based on criteria that may include, but is not limited to the following:
 - i. Aesthetic excellence of past projects.
 - ii. Experience, success, and/or interest in community engagement in the process of creating public artwork.
 - iii. Proven track record of using the materials and methods appropriate for this project.
 - iv. Demonstrated ability to manage projects with similar budgets on time and on budget.
- D. The Review Committee may invite up to five (5) Finalists to interview with the committee.
- E. Finalists may be required to visit site location and interview in-person or online with the Review Committee (in compliance with all local, state, and federal guidelines regarding COVID-19).
- F. After the interviews, the Review Committee will recommend the Candidates to the City, who will make the final determination as to which Candidates are selected.
- G. The City and selected Candidates will enter into a written contract detailing mutual responsibilities and the full scope of work, including a project budget.

VI. SCOPE OF WORK

The services and obligations that will be required from the Candidate during the contract period include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Participating in an engagement process to solicit community input in one or more sessions, prior to submission of design concept(s).
- Collaborating with Fire Department staff to capture and archive the Fire Department's objects of historical significance.
- Collaborate with mentee(s) (18 or older), who will collaboratively be selected by the City and the Candidates.
- Collaborating with the City on the final design.
- Will oversee the fabrication and installation of the public art piece(s).
- Develop content for digital and/or online platforms.
- Submission of a reasonable maintenance plan to ensure proper conservation of the pieces.
- Completing project within agreed upon timeframe.

VII. PROPOSED TIMELINE

- **April 21, 2021:** RFQ promotion/informing
- **May 14, 2021:** RFQ Deadline
- **July 23, 2021:** City to notify Candidates of decision
- **August 2, 2021:** City and Candidates to enter into contract
- **August 23, 2021:** Design Development and Stakeholders engagement
- **November 15, 2021:** Final Designs shared with the Stakeholders
- **December 3, 2021:** Candidates submit Final Designs to City for final approval
(December 15, 2021: Public Art Committee’s meeting. Recommendation of approval.)
- **January – March 2022:** Develop & provide digital content
- **April/May 2022:** Fabrications & Installation
- **May/June 2022:** Digital Content shared with community

VIII. BUDGET

The Public Historian and photographer team will have a total public art project budget of \$47,000. The City will pay the Public Historian and Photographer team \$25,000 to complete the public art project, including artist-design, community engagement, fabrication, and documentation of the artwork on site, with an additional \$18,000 for digital content, community engagement activities, and printing, framing and installation. A maximum budget of \$4,000 will be allocated for a youth mentee(s) component (18 or older), that will collaboratively be selected by the City and the Candidates.

IX. Discretion of the City

A. The City of Durham reserves the right to reject any or all RFQs.

B. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this document or in any addendums to this document, unless the contrary provision refers specifically to this provision, the City reserves the right (i) to negotiate changes of any nature with any candidate with respect to any term, condition, or provision in this document and/or in any RFQ application, whether or not something is stated to be mandatory and whether or not it is said that a RFQ application will be rejected if certain information or documentation is not submitted with it, and (ii) to enter into an agreement for some or all of the work with one or more persons, firms, or corporations that do not submit SOQs. For example, all deadlines are for the administrative convenience or needs of the City and may be waived by the City in its discretion. This subparagraph B applies to the entire RFQ.

C. Where the City asks or tells candidates to do stated things, such as that a proposal and/or RFQ application should follow a stated format or that the candidate should do stated things in seeking the contract, the City may reject a proposal and/or RFQ application because it does not comply

with those requests, so the candidate is adding to its risk of rejection by non-compliance. Still, the City may, in its discretion, waive non-compliance. This subsection (C) does not limit subsections (A) and (B).

D. Of course, once a contract is signed, the parties to the contract may enforce the contract according to its terms as allowed by applicable law.