



Culture For All.

# CALL FOR ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

**ASC PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**



Main Library renderings provided by Clark Nexsen and Snøhetta

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Main Library  
310 North Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
**An Arts & Science Council Project  
for Charlotte Mecklenburg Library**

## **Submission Deadline**

**July 31, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. E.S.T.** Applications must be received via (<https://asc.slideroom.com>), an online application system. There is no fee to submit qualifications.

## **Project Background**

In 2019, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library unveiled the designs for its new 115,000-square-foot New Main Library in Uptown Charlotte.

The New Main Library will be an architecturally-distinctive, state-of-the-art, technologically-advanced knowledge center and public commons that provides the resources of a 21st century library to the communities of Mecklenburg County, and furthers the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's mission to improve lives and build a stronger community by strengthening public engagement, supporting economic opportunity and connecting community resources.

With flexibility and connectivity in mind, the New Main Library is being designed to meet demands for print and digital information, reading materials, public co-working spaces, meeting and event spaces, and other specialized uses. The building is designed to be expansive and inviting, featuring five levels, two terraces, an active lobby, two immersive theaters, and a revamped Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room (home to the library's extensive history and genealogy collection).

Poised to become a major destination in Uptown Charlotte that is welcoming and inviting to everyone, groundbreaking for the New Main Library will occur in mid-2021 and is scheduled for completion in 2024.

## **Project Overview**

The Arts & Science Council is accepting qualifications from artists/artist teams for a public art opportunity at Charlotte Mecklenburg New Main Library in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The selected artist will work with the ASC, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library, Mecklenburg County Asset and Facilities Management, architects Clark Nexsen and Snøhetta and the local community to create an impactful artwork that responds to the parameters of the site, the aesthetics of the architecture, and the themes identified by the project team. The artwork should prioritize the importance of books and literacy while highlighting the library's mission to improve lives and build a stronger community.

The Grand Lobby Wall has been identified as a possible opportunity for artwork placement, and the artist/s will be active in directing the design and preparation of the site.

- **Grand Lobby Wall (Interior, Ground Floor to Upper Floor Lobby):** Opportunity to activate a large, central, entrance facing wall located adjacent to a sloped walkway between the ground and upper lobby. The Grand Lobby Wall measures 14'-3" from ground lobby floor to ceiling, is 55'-8" long, and measures 10' high from the upper lobby floor to the ceiling. The artwork should be visually impactful while working cohesively with the architecture of the New Main Library interior. Special consideration should be given to the artwork's proximity to the immersive theater wall on the upper lobby. Artists are encouraged to consider a variety of approaches including, but not limited to, artist designed wall finishes, lighting, relief sculpture, and sculpture. Artists with experience working in a broad range of materials and processes will be considered for this opportunity.

Direct coordination with the County, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library, and the Clark Nexsen and Snøhetta teams will be required. The artwork must comply with ADA and North Carolina building codes.

*Please review the attached images at the end of this RFQ for a better understanding of the project location and scope before applying.*

## Artwork Goals and Criteria

This opportunity should achieve a cohesive and unique aesthetic experience that is distinguished from, yet sensitive to, the site and the architecture of the New Main Library and the surrounding area.

- Artwork should take inspiration from and potentially reference:
  1. The Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's mission to improve lives and build a stronger community
  2. The core values of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library – Learning, Openness, Respect, Inclusion, and Leadership
  3. The importance of books, reading, and literacy - <https://foundation.cmlibrary.org/news/why-i-invest-charles-bowman/>
  4. the art inside should pay homage to our diverse community and history. We want to hit home libraries are the most democratic and welcoming places in our country, a place where everyone has an opportunity to become the best versions of themselves.
  5. Other components that may need to be considered, or be near, the artwork could include donor recognition, special display shelving (not part of the open collection), and signage, including wayfinding
- Artwork should emphasize equity and be inclusive of Charlotte's diverse communities and shared history.
- Artwork should be sited within the area designated for the opportunity – The Grand Lobby Wall
- Artwork should be constructed of durable materials and permanent in nature

## Project Budget

**\$460,700.00 USD**– to cover all artist fees, design, engineering, testing, fabrication, permitting, and installation. As well as; travel, public meeting presentations, administration, taxes, and insurance relating to the project.

## Artist Eligibility

This call is open to all U.S. professional artists. Artists who have received a commission or purchase for over \$25,000 from the Arts & Science Council cannot be considered for another commission or purchase for 3 years after the date of a signed contract or letter of agreement. ASC staff, County or City staff, Public Art Commission members and their immediate families, are not eligible to apply for this project.

- Professional artists who have experience managing, designing and completing public art project commissions **over \$185,000** within the past ten (10) years are eligible.
- Architects interested in applying must have successfully completed at least three (3) public art projects within the last five (5) years to be considered eligible to participate in this opportunity. Eligibility must be demonstrated in the application materials submitted.

## Selection Process

This solicitation process is being undertaken to enable the Public Art Commission to identify the most highly qualified artist(s) for this opportunity. An artist selection panel of local and national arts professionals and community stakeholders appointed by the Public Art Commission will review eligible artists' applications, determine a shortlist of finalists, interview three finalists, and select one artist or team of artists. The selected artist or team of artists will be recommended to the Public Art Commission and the Board of the Arts & Science Council for final approval and to enter into contractual agreement for this project.

## Selection Criteria

The artist will be selected based on the following criteria, as evidenced in application materials and conversations with listed references: artist meets all eligibility requirements, artistic merit in concept and fabrication, experience incorporating artwork into the architectural elements of a construction project, demonstrated ability to collaborate in the early phases of a project with design teams and community stakeholders, demonstrated ability to complete projects on time and within budget.

### Projected Timeline

June 30, 2020	Request for Qualifications open
July 31, 2020	Artist application submission deadline
August 2020	Artist selection panel reviews applications and selects 3 finalists
September 2020	Artist selection panel interviews finalists and selects one artist/team
October 2020	Begin artwork design development
Winter 2022	New Main Library Construction begins (expected timeframe)
Spring 2024	New Main Library Construction complete (expected timeframe)

### To Apply

Applications must be received via SlideRoom (<https://asc.slideroom.com>) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on **July 31, 2020**. There is no application fee to apply or use the SlideRoom online application system. The following materials will be required to be uploaded to SlideRoom:

- **Credentials:** a Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) demonstrating professional history and skills or experience as a professional artist (maximum two (2) pages). For artist teams, each team member must submit an individual resume (two (2) pages maximum each)
- **Statement of Interest:** a brief introductory narrative that also provides insight about your interest in the project (one (1) page maximum)
- **Images:** up to eight (8) images or three (3) digital video or movie files limited to two minutes each – of recent work completed within the past ten (10) years
- **Annotation:** titles, date, budget, client, media, and dimensions of artwork images included in application
- **References:** three (3) professional references who can speak to the artist's ability to meet deadlines, work with the community, and create innovative work as part of a design team. Include name, organization, phone number, and email.

For further information, please contact Todd Stewart, Senior Program Director, Public Art (704) 335-3273 or email [todd.stewart@artsandscience.org](mailto:todd.stewart@artsandscience.org).

### About the Arts and Science Council

Since 1995, the Arts and Science Council has managed the public art programs for the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The Public Art Commission is responsible for the community-based artist selection and design review process for each public artwork. The commission is an appointed board of volunteer citizens from the arts, education and business sectors. In 2003, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners and the Charlotte City Council adopted ordinances that appropriate one percent of eligible capital improvement project funds for public art. The ordinance helps ensure that artworks enhance our public spaces and become an integral part of urban and economic development efforts. See more at: <http://www.artsandscience.org/>

### **Arts & Science Council Nondiscrimination Policy**

The Arts & Science Council (ASC) is committed to serving a diverse range of individuals and organizations through its programs and services and does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or any characteristic protected by law.

### **About the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library is one of America's leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach, and online presence, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. In short, we strive to be essential to our community.

Since our founding in 1903, as an original Carnegie Library, our role as a provider of lifelong education in this community has never been more relevant. As stewards of the community's trust and resources, we work hard every day to provide valuable experiences. Our customers, staff, and supporters inspire us each day to be an *essential* resource for our community. Learn more at <https://www.cmlibrary.org/>

For information on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation Common Spark campaign visit <https://foundation.cmlibrary.org/commonspark/>

### **About Mecklenburg County**

Mecklenburg County, located in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, includes the city of Charlotte, and the towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill, and Pineville. It's home to a diverse population of more than 1 million residents and serves as a hub for many large businesses.

Learn more at <https://www.mecknc.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>

**Architectural Renderings and Plans** (provided by Clark Nexsen and Snøhetta)



 Grand Lobby Wall

ASC Call to Artists – Mecklenburg County – New Main Library  
Deadline to Apply: **July 31, 2020** at 11:59 p.m. EST



---

ASC Call to Artists – Mecklenburg County – New Main Library  
Deadline to Apply: **July 31, 2020** at 11:59 p.m. EST

Level 1 Lobby Floor Plan

