REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

ASC PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Site Map provided by the City of Charlotte

City of Charlotte Northeast Corridor Infrastructure Program (NECI)
J.W. Clay Boulevard Streetscape: N. Tryon Street to W.T. Harris Boulevard,
Charlotte, NC 28262
An Arts & Science Council Project
for the City of Charlotte

Virtual Pre-submittal Meeting
Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. EDT. This is an opportunity for potential applicants to learn more about the ASC Public Art program, and ask questions regarding the project site, public art scope and submission process. RSVP to Randella.Foster@ArtsAndScience.org for meeting login information.

Submission Deadline
Monday, November 29, 2021 by 11:59 p.m. EDT. Applications must be received via (https://asc.slideroom.com), an online application system. There is no fee to submit qualifications.
**Project Background**

The Northeast Corridor Infrastructure (NECI) Program is a collection of projects selected to improve pedestrian, bicyclist and motorist access to the LYNX Blue Line. This investment will help implement station area plans along the Blue Line Extension as well as provide broader connections to other community investments like the Cross Charlotte Trail and Mecklenburg County greenway system. These investments also contribute to the safe and functional access to key academic, cultural, and creative class destinations along the northeast corridor, like UNCC, NoDa (North Davidson Street Area) and the envisioned Applied Innovation Corridor (AIC) area just outside uptown.

The J.W. Clay Boulevard project proposes to add sidewalks and bike lanes by widening parts of J.W. Clay Boulevard. Sidewalks are currently in place in some stretches of this street; however, they will be upgraded to wider 8-foot sidewalks to meet transit guidelines. The roadway and median width will be adjusted to allow for the addition of bike lanes.

The conceptual cross-section includes four travel lanes with four left-turn lanes at intersections, a 12-foot cycle track, a 10-foot multiuse path, curb & gutter, 8-foot sidewalk & planting strip and street trees. The project will include connectivity to the Barton Creek Greenway interface with J.W. Clay Boulevard.

Barton Creek Greenway will provide a direct link between J.W. Clay Boulevard and Mallard Creek Greenway, allowing residential areas between these destinations access to nine miles of existing greenway trail. An overland connector sidewalk along J.W. Clay Boulevard will connect Barton Creek Greenway to the North Tryon light rail station.

The NECI team combined this project with another project underway at the intersection of W.T. Harris Boulevard, J.W. Clay Boulevard and McCullough Drive that will provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing at the intersection. The project will, among other things, tie the J.W. Clay Boulevard Streetscape project into the McCullough Drive Streetscape project.

The goals of this comprehensive approach include:

- To enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to Barton Creek Greenway, Shoppes at University Place, UNC Charlotte and University Research Park across I-85 (via the I-85 North Bridge project) and McCullough Drive.
- To improve pedestrian and bike crossings and enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists at intersections throughout the project corridor.
- To make improvements for all modes of transportation – pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle, and transit.
- To promote economic development by providing infrastructure to support and encourage transit supportive development.

Learn more at [https://charlottenc.gov/Projects/Pages/JWClay.aspx](https://charlottenc.gov/Projects/Pages/JWClay.aspx).
Project Overview
The Arts & Science Council is accepting qualifications from artists/artist teams for a public art opportunity for the City of Charlotte’s J.W. Clay Boulevard Streetscape, Northeast Corridor Infrastructure Program (NECI), Charlotte, North Carolina.

This RFQ represents an opportunity for an artist or team of artists to create artwork that will provide visual interest and wayfinding for residents and visitors. The artwork should inspire all users of the University City corridor: pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and automobiles.

University City is an area mostly within the city limits of Charlotte, surrounding the University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus, with an estimated population of more than 160,000. It is neighbored by the town of Harrisburg to the east and the city of Concord to the northeast. Attractions along University City’s outskirts include Charlotte Motor Speedway and Concord Mills Mall. In 2019, the LYNX Blue Line was extended from Uptown Charlotte to University City. As of 2020, the corridor following the Blue Line extension has 338,000 square feet of office space, 200 hotel rooms, 3,200 apartments, and expanding entertainment amenities. The area is managed and overseen by the University City Partners, one of the three Municipal Service Districts in Charlotte.

Artistic approaches to this opportunity could focus on, but are not limited to, free-standing sculpture, sculptural gateways, sequential installations, and wayfinding elements. The artwork should enrich the experience for residents and visitors, highlighting this vibrant place to live and work.

The commissioned artist or artist team will be collaborating with a design team consisting of City of Charlotte staff, Arts & Science Council staff, and DRMP, Inc. design consultants. The location and scope of artwork will be determined by the project design team in concert with input from the selected artist or artist team.

The following sites have been identified as possible opportunities for artwork placement:

1. Artwork sited on J.W. Clay Blvd, marking the Barton Creek Greenway trailhead near Walden Court Apartments.
2. Barton Creek Greenway gateway artwork sited on both sides of J.W. Clay Blvd; in the planting strip between the cycle track and sidewalk, and across the street at the Barton Creek Greenway trailhead.
3. A sequential series of installations along J.W. Clay Blvd, sited in the planting strips between N. Tryon St. and W.T. Harris Blvd.

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 surrounding area.

- The artwork should be informed by the historical and cultural context of the University City area
- The artwork should contribute to the overall streetscape project to create a unified and striking visual experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and vehicular traffic
- The artworks must adhere to all safety standards required by the Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Artwork should be constructed of durable materials and permanent in nature
Project Budget
$132,818.00 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 professional artists residing in North Carolina and South Carolina. 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 $40,000 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 3-5 finalists, and select 1 artist or team of artists. The selected artist or team of artists will be recommended to the Public Art Commission 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
October 13, 2021 Request for Qualifications accepted
October 28, 2021 Virtual Pre-submittal meeting
November 29, 2021 Artist application submission deadline
December 2021 Artist selection panel reviews applications and selects 3-5 finalists
January 2022 Artist selection panel interviews finalists and selects 1 artist/team
March 2022 Begin artwork design development
Summer 2022 J.W. Clay Boulevard Streetscape Construction begins (expected timeframe)
Winter 2024 J.W. Clay Boulevard Streetscape Construction complete (expected timeframe)

To Apply
Applications must be received via SlideRoom (https://asc.slideroom.com) by 11:59 p.m. EDT on November 29, 2021. 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/Curriculum Vitae (CV) or a Biography 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 or Video 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 help with SlideRoom application-related questions, contact customer service via our formsite or by emailing support@slideroom.com. Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 6 PM EDT.

For further information, please contact Randella Foster, Project Manager, Public Art (704) 335-3278 or email Randella.Foster@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 City of Charlotte**

Charlotte is one of the 25 largest cities in the U.S. and the largest city in North Carolina. Nicknamed the Queen City, Charlotte and its resident county are named in honor of Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the queen consort of British King George III during the time of the city's founding. Nearly 800,000 live and work in the Charlotte community and the City provides services to much of this population. The City’s focus areas are Housing and Neighborhood Development, Community Safety, Transportation, Economic Development and the Environment. Charlotte consistently ranks as one of the top growing cities and is the home to more than 10 Fortune 1000 companies, including household names such as Bank of America and Lowe’s. Charlotte is also home to the Carolina Panthers of the NFL, the Charlotte Hornets of the NBA, the NASCAR Hall of Fame and the U.S. National Whitewater Center. Other amenities that make Charlotte a great place to live and work include numerous higher learning organizations, cultural centers, and health care facilities. Learn more at https://charlottenc.gov/.

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J.W. Clay Boulevard Streetscape Map provided by the City of Charlotte

1. Artwork sited on J.W. Clay Blvd, marking the greenway trailhead near Walden Court Apartments.

2. Gateway artwork sited on both sides of J.W. Clay Blvd, in the planting strip between the cycle track and sidewalk, and across the street at the trailhead.

3. A sequential series of installations along J.W. Clay Blvd, sited in the planting strips between N. Tryon St. and W.T. Harris Blvd.
J.W. Clay Boulevard, Current Site Conditions at Planned Barton Creek Greenway Trailhead Area

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