



ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL
A supporting organization of
Foundation For The Carolinas

CALL FOR ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

ASC PUBLIC ART PROGRAM



Visitors walking towards historic structures at Latta Place, provided by The Design Minds, Inc.

Latta Place
5225 Sample Rd
Huntersville, NC 28078
An Arts & Science Council Project
for Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

January 13, 2025, 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.

VIRTUAL PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETING

December 16, 2024, 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 at <https://artsandscience.givevirtuous.org/Event/19f862ee-f0cf-4131-95d1-b1fd98028ccd>.

LATTA PLACE

Latta Place occupies about 16 acres within Huntersville’s Latta Nature Preserve. Before its closure in 2021, it was a circa-1800 living history museum and farm which gave visitors a glimpse into 19th century life in the Carolina backcountry. Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation plans to expand that history to include the Indigenous that lived here before colonization. Through history, the land was lived on by Indigenous peoples, more than 65 enslaved men, women and children, and the colonial landowners. Latta Place is a historic and cultural resource site within the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation system. Latta Place will be a key site in Mecklenburg County to identify and address the legacies of slavery and serve as a place for healing and retrospection.

A new visitor center will house exhibit space, restrooms, a gift store, staff offices, and programming space. Visitors will have opportunities to take self-guided or docent-led tours of the grounds and historic buildings. Outdoor waysides with tactile and digital components (accessed via visitors’ cellphones) enhance interpretive experience. New trails will make the historic and recreated structures physically accessible to all visitors. Reflection areas allow visitors time to reflect and decompress after experiencing what could be traumatic and triggering stories and perspectives. Outdoor gathering areas will allow school groups and others to utilize the site for field trips, special events, reunions, and more.

The site’s revised mission and goals align with those of Mecklenburg County, stakeholders, and local community members. The vision is for Latta Place to reflect Truth, Transparency, Compassion, Transformation, and Unity, dedicated to providing the following:

- A transformational and engaging experience featuring holistic storytelling filled with truth and empathy.
- An educational experience, giving voice to a multitude of historical perspectives.
- A bridge between the past and present through historical interpretation.
- An essential resource to the residents of the greater Charlotte/Mecklenburg community and beyond.
- A visit that inspires self-examination and application of knowledge.
- A hub for the promotion of historical research and peer-reviewed scholarship.
- A welcome to all visitors with the intent of fostering dignity, while respecting the natural environment in which Latta Place is located.

The vision is for the experience to be more than a one-visit experience, with programming that encourages return visitation. Latta Place should be a site where visitors are free to experience a wide range of emotions not just sorrow or anger, but also dignity, pride, and hope. In addition, it will provide educational opportunities that are historically accurate, inclusive, and provide multiple perspectives on historic events.

Learn more at:

Latta Place: <https://latta.mecknc.gov/>

Latta Public Info Webpage: <https://publicinput.com/historiclatta>

PUBLIC ART PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Arts & Science Council is accepting qualifications from U.S. based artists/artist teams for a public art opportunity for the Mecklenburg County Latta Place, Huntersville, NC 28078. This RFQ represents an opportunity for an artist, or team of artists, to create a artwork to honor the experiences of enslaved people and their families.

The selected artist will have the opportunity to create an integrated artwork, freestanding sculpture, or series of sculptures that can provide visitors with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the powerful, emotional connections and perspectives reflective of the enslaved people’s experience. This highly visible artwork will **potentially be sited in a gathering space near the new visitor’s center**. The selected artist should be sensitive to the complex dynamics of this tribute that will also serve as inspiration for equality and social justice for future generations. The artwork should align with the mission and vision of Latta Place and be appropriate for all ages.

Finalists will have the opportunity to meet with stakeholders from Mecklenburg County, community representatives, Park and Recreation staff, and the project design consultants to learn more about the site and scope for the project. Each finalist will be tasked with creating a conceptual proposal for the artwork, and the commissioned artist will be selected based on their proposal and qualifications.

The commissioned artist or artist team will collaborate with a design team consisting of Arts & Science Council staff and Mecklenburg County staff, and community representatives. The location and scope of the artwork will be determined by the project design team in concert with input from the selected artist or artist team.

ARTWORK GOALS AND CRITERIA

This opportunity should achieve a cohesive and unique aesthetic experience that is distinguished from, yet sensitive to, the historic Latta Place site and architecture.

- Artwork should align with the mission and vision of Latta Place and be appropriate for all ages.
- Artwork should commemorate the voices and history of those enslaved at Latta Place and engage direct descendants and descendant communities.
- Artwork should be site specific.
- Artwork should be integrated into the designated site and landscape.
- Artwork should be designed to accommodate people of all ages and abilities.
- Artwork should be constructed from durable materials capable of withstanding the elements and park visitors use for a duration of 20+ years.

BUDGET

\$121,957.00 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. Finalists will be awarded a **\$2,000** honorarium to develop artwork proposals and cover travel expenses.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to professional artists residing in the United States. 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 \$50,000** 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.

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

This solicitation process is being undertaken to enable the Public Art Commission (PAC) to identify the most highly qualified artist(s) for this opportunity. A panel of local and national arts professionals and community stakeholders appointed by the Public Art Commission will review eligible artists' applications and determine a shortlist of finalists. Each finalist will be required to develop a conceptual proposal for the artwork. Finalists will be paid a \$2,000.00 USD honorarium to develop their artwork proposals and cover travel expenses. The selection panel will interview each finalist and select 1 artist or team of artists based on their proposal and qualifications. The selected artist or team of artists will be recommended to the Public Art Commission (PAC) to enter into an agreement for this project.

ARTIST 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.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

December 9, 2024	Request for Qualifications Accepted
December 16, 2024	Virtual Pre-submittal Meeting
January 13, 2025	Application Submission Deadline
January 2025	Artist Selection Panel 1 (Finalists Selected)
February 2025	Finalist's Site Visit, Design Team, and Community Meetings
April 2025	Artist Selection Panel 2 (Finalist Concept Presentations *virtual)
May 2025	Contract Execution
June 2025	Continue Artwork Design Development
Spring 2027	Estimated Artwork Installation

TO APPLY

Applications must be received via SlideRoom (<https://asc.slideroom.com>) by 11:59 p.m. EDT on **January 13, 2025**. 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). Video of Interest is limited to two minutes and should be uploaded along with media/images.
- **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 Davis, Program Director, Public Art (704) 335-3262 or email Randella.Davis@ArtsAndScience.org.

ABOUT THE ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL

ASC has joined forces with Foundation For The Carolinas to strengthen our commitment to creating a sustainable and inclusive cultural ecosystem for Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Our mission is to foster an inclusive, sustainable, culturally rich and engaged community where arts, science, and history play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life for all. 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 artwork enhances our public spaces and become an integral part of urban and economic development efforts. See more at: <http://www.artsandscience.org/>

To learn more about the Foundation for the Carolinas please visit: <https://www.ffc.org/>

ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL’S NON-DISCRIMINATION 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 MECKLENBURG COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION

The Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation Department is home to 210 parks and facilities located on more than 21,000+ acres of parkland throughout Mecklenburg County. Parks in Mecklenburg County come in all shapes and sizes ranging from small neighborhood parks to large district parks. Many parks have open space amidst shade trees and unique facilities. In addition, they manage numerous nature centers and natural heritage sites and are responsible for the protection and conservation of nature preserves. The aquatics division offers indoor and outdoor swimming, adult/youth programs, swim lessons, special events, fitness classes and water exercise for all ages.

Learn more at <https://parkandrec.mecknc.gov/>