



ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL

# CALL FOR ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

## ASCPUBLIC ART PROGRAM



**Sugaw Creek Park  
943 W. Sugar Creek Road  
Charlotte, NC 28213**

**An ASC Project for Mecklenburg County**

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

**March 23, 2026 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.

### PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

**Tuesday, March 3, 2026 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://128.pl/GwzGA> for meeting login information.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Sugaw Creek Park is a cherished 73-acre Mecklenburg County Park located at 941 W. Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28213. The lush, wooded landscape and proximity to the creek offer a peaceful natural retreat. The park continues to serve as a vital gathering place for families, sports enthusiasts, and those seeking a connection to the region's indigenous roots and natural beauty.

Park amenities include:

- Sugaw Creek Recreation Center
- Multipurpose fields
- Ball fields
- Basketball and tennis courts
- Playgrounds
- Picnic shelters
- Disc golf course
- Ample parking and restrooms

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance recreational opportunities and improve accessibility, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation (MCPR) is collaborating with the City of Charlotte through the RAISE Grant Program. A key component of this partnership includes the development of a 12-foot-wide multi-use path, connecting Sugar Creek to Tryon Street. The City's portion of the path will feature a 22-foot corridor, including an 8-foot planting strip and a 12-foot-wide sidewalk. Mecklenburg County will construct a connection from the city path directly into the park, extending to the front entrance of the recreation center.

In alignment with the county's mission to support active, healthy lifestyles and create inclusive community spaces, several exciting upgrades are planned for Sugaw Creek Park:

- **New Sprayground:** A fun, family-friendly water play area perfect for hot summer days.
- **Pickleball Courts:** New courts to meet growing demand and offer more recreation options for all ages.
- **Trail Improvements:** Potential repairs and expansions to existing paved trails to enhance walkability and connectivity within the park.
- **Wayfinding Signage:** Improved signage for easier navigation and a better overall visitor experience.
- **Facility Enhancements:** Upgrades to parking areas and restroom facilities to better serve park guests.

These improvements are designed to make Sugaw Creek Park an even more vibrant, accessible, and enjoyable space for residents and visitors alike.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Arts & Science Council (ASC) is accepting qualifications from artists/artist teams for a public art opportunity at Sugaw Creek Park, Charlotte, NC. The selected artist/s will work with ASC, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, Mecklenburg County Asset and Facility Management, V3 Southeast, and the local community to create free-standing artwork that responds to the parameters of the site and the themes identified by the project team.

This public artwork is envisioned as both a landmark and a guide, a wayfinding presence that enriches the aesthetic experience of the landscape while supporting the mission of Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation. The artwork should encourage ongoing discovery, offering visitors new points of connection with each return to the park while nurturing a sense of belonging, curiosity, and shared stewardship of the space.

Sited along the pathway near the Sugaw Creek Park Recreation Center, the selected site allows the artwork to naturally intersect with daily movement, gathering, and play, becoming an integrated and enduring part of the park's life.

*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 of Sugaw Creek Park.

A successful artwork should:

1. Visually and conceptually reflect the active use of the park and the historic character of the neighborhood.
2. Orient and guide motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians visiting the Sugaw Creek Park.
3. Inspire and encourage the public to engage in the recreational amenities and natural offerings of the park.
4. Thoughtfully respond to the surrounding environment and landscape.
5. Be designed to ensure public safety, with no sharp edges, tripping hazards, or climbable elements.
6. Be constructed of durable, low-maintenance materials suitable for permanent public display in an outdoor setting

### **PROJECT BUDGET**

**\$160,459.00 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. based 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 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**

February 23, 2026	Request for Qualifications Accepted
March 3, 2026	Virtual Pre-submittal Meeting
March 23, 2026	Artist Application Submission Deadline
April 2026	Artist Selection Panel Reviews Applications and Selects 3-5 Finalists
May 2026	Artist Selection Panel Interviews Finalists and Selects 1 Artist/Team
June 2026	Contract Execution
July 2026	Begin Artwork Design Development
February 2027	Construction Start
June 2027	Construction Complete/Artwork Installation at Substantial Completion

#### **FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFQ**

For further information regarding the RFQ, please contact Randella Davis, Program Director of Public Art, at [Randella.Davis@ArtsAndScience.org](mailto:Randella.Davis@ArtsAndScience.org).

#### **TO APPLY**

Applications must be received via SlideRoom (<https://asc.slideroom.com>) by **March 23, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.** Eastern Standard Time. 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). Videos of Interest must be uploaded in the Image Section.
- 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 their form site or by emailing [support@slideroom.com](mailto:support@slideroom.com). Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 6 PM EDT. There a 24–48-hour response time for submissions.

## **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/>

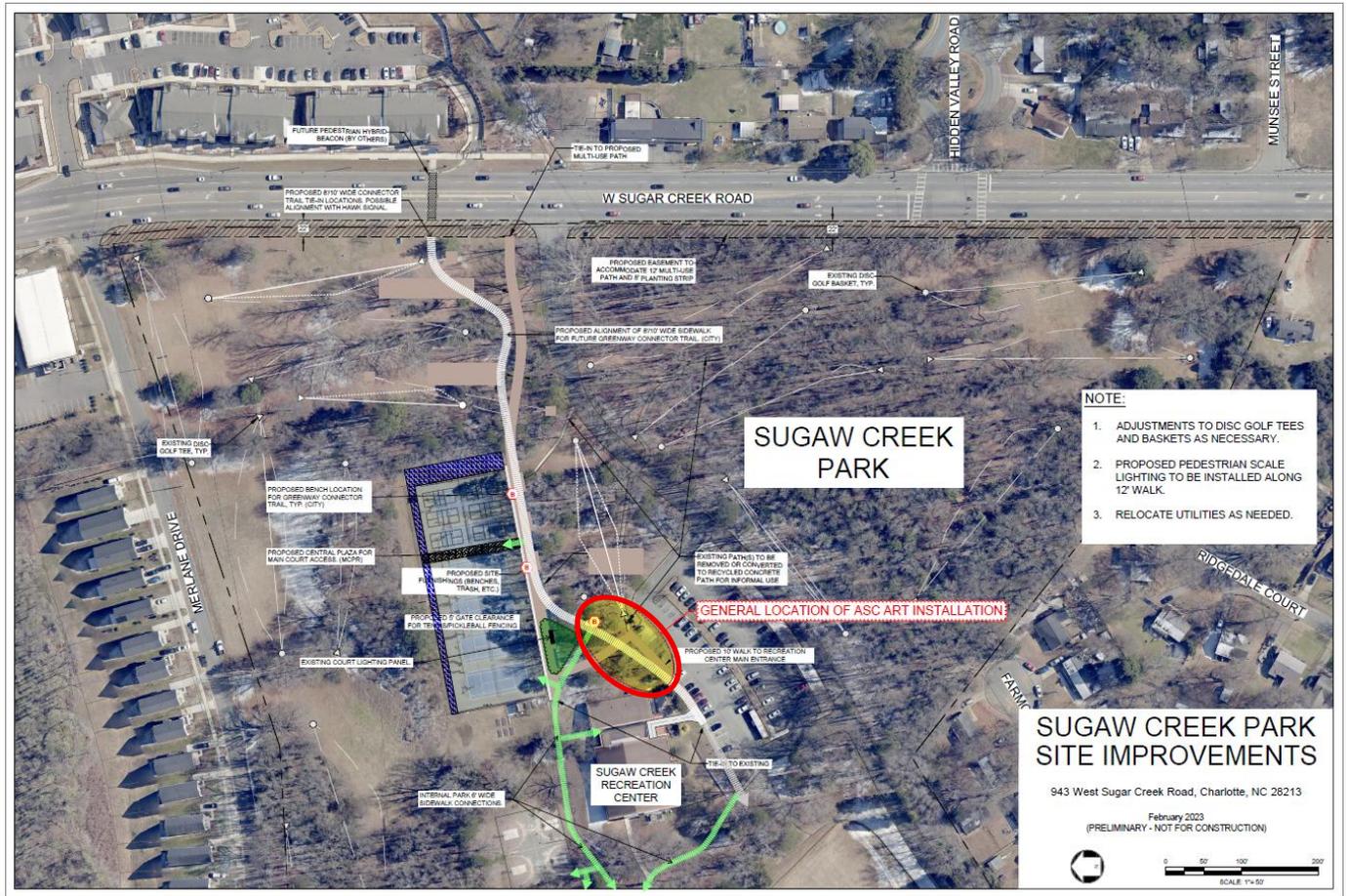
## **ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL'S NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

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/>

Improvements Site Plans provided by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation



\*GENERAL LOCATION OF ART CIRCLED IN RED AND HIGHLIGHTED



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