



ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL

CALL FOR ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

ASC PUBLIC ART PROGRAM



Sugar Creek Library rendering provided by Perkins&Will

Sugar Creek Library
Stitt Rd
Charlotte, NC 28213
An Arts & Science Council Project
for Mecklenburg County

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

June 1, 2026, 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)

May 12, 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://bit.ly/40HVqLP> for meeting login information.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Sugar Creek Library, located at 4045 North Tryon St., currently operates in a shared facility with the CMPD North Tryon Division. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library system is moving forward with plans for a new, significantly larger standalone Sugar Creek Library. This modern facility—part of Mecklenburg County’s 2022 capital improvement program—will be built on the Ella B. Scarborough Community Resource Center campus to better support the expanding West Sugar Creek corridor. The new library will span approximately 20,000 square feet, more than double the size of the existing 9,300 square foot branch. This upgraded location is designed to meet the evolving needs of the surrounding neighborhood and strengthen access to essential community resources.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Arts & Science Council (ASC) is seeking qualifications from professional artists and artist teams for a new public art commission at the Sugar Creek Library. This project offers an exciting opportunity to create an integrated, wall-based artwork that reflects the identity, diversity, and aspirations of the Sugar Creek community. The proposed art site’s approximate dimensions are 9’ 8” high and 37’ 4” wide.

In a neighborhood as diverse as Sugar Creek, unity is not about becoming the same. It is about weaving differences into a shared foundation of respect, care, and connection. The final artwork should embody this truth: that every voice matters, and the strength of the community lies in how people hold together, not how they blend in.

To ensure the artwork resonates deeply with the people it represents, the selected artist(s) will participate in community engagement sessions. These sessions will help shape a design that reflects local stories, values, and perspectives—resulting in a work that feels rooted, meaningful, and enduring for generations.

The selected artist(s) will collaborate with ASC, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Mecklenburg County Asset and Facility Management, architects Perkins&Will, and residents to design and fabricate a permanent artwork that is seamlessly integrated into the library’s architecture.

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

- Artwork should assist in creating an inviting, uplifting atmosphere appropriate for all ages.
- Artwork should celebrate individuality while illustrating the strength and beauty that emerge when distinct voices, stories, and cultures come together with intention and respect.
- Artwork should reflect and strengthen the identity of the Sugar Creek Library by incorporating insights gathered through community engagement.
- Artwork should contribute to the library’s overall character by expressing the unique spirit, diversity, and cultural richness of the surrounding community.
- Artwork should be constructed of durable, permanent materials suitable for long-term public display, with a design that remains relevant, resilient, and engaging over time.
- Artwork should not protrude from the recessed art wall site more than 1”.
- Artwork should adhere to ADA accessibility guidelines.

PROJECT BUDGET

\$168,596.00 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

The Arts & Science Council is accepting qualifications from U.S. Based artist/artist teams for a public art opportunity for the Mecklenburg County Sugar Creek Library, Charlotte, NC 28213. 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.

ARTIST 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.

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 PROJECT SCHEDULE

May 1, 2026	Request for Qualifications accepted
May 12, 2026	Virtual pre-submittal meeting
June 1, 2026	Application deadline
June 2026	Artist selection panel reviews applications and selects 3-5 finalists
August 2026	Finalist interviews and commissioned artist selection
September 2026	Contract execution
October 2026	Continue artwork design development
Fall/Winter 2027	Construction complete/artwork installation

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFQ

For further information regarding the RFQ, please contact Randella Davis, Program Director of Public Art, ASC at randella.davis@artsandscience.org.

TO APPLY

Applications must be received via SlideRoom (<https://asc.slideroom.com>) by **June 1, 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. Please note responses can take 24-48 hours. Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 6 PM EDT. Support emails are typically answered within 24–48 hours.

ABOUT THE ARTS & 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 artwork enhances our public spaces and become an integral part of urban and economic development efforts.

Learn more at: <http://www.artsandscience.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

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>

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, 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.

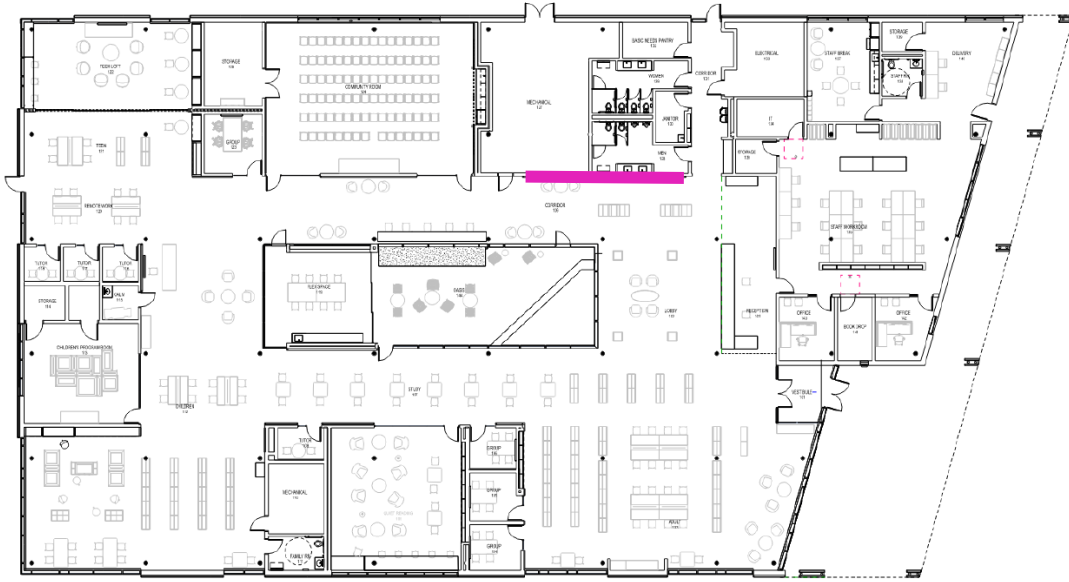
Since our founding in 1903, as an original Carnegie Library, our role as a provider of lifelong education in this community has never been more relevant. As stewards of the community's trust and resources, we work hard every day to provide valuable experiences. Our customers, staff and supporters inspire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

Learn more at <https://www.cmlibrary.org/>

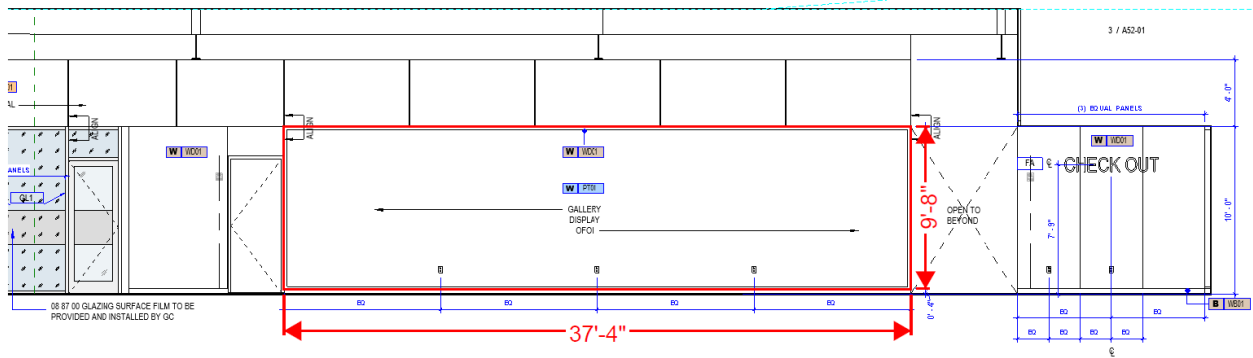
Architectural Renderings and Plans (provided by Perkins&Will)



Interior Design – Floor Plan
Art Site



Art Site Wall Elevation



NORTH INT. ELEVATION - CORRIDOR 126

1/8" = 1'-0"