



**ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL**

A supporting organization of  
Foundation For The Carolinas

# **CALL FOR ARTISTS**

## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

### **ASC PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**



*CFD Firehouse No. 44- Exterior Rendering, Architectural Rendering provided by the City of Charlotte and ADW Architects*

**City of Charlotte CFD Firehouse No. 44**  
**Dixie River Rd. Charlotte, NC, 28278**

**An Arts & Science Council Project**  
**for the City of Charlotte**

### **VIRTUAL PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETING**

**May 19, 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.

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ASC Call to Artists—City of Charlotte CFD Firehouse No. 44  
Deadline to Apply: June 5, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT

RSVP to [City of Charlotte CFD Firehouse No. 44 Pre-submittal Meeting Virtual Via Zoom](#) for meeting login information.

## **SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

**June 10, 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.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The Charlotte Fire Department has a long and proud history of serving everyone who lives and works in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. The Charlotte Fire Department delivers fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue including urban search and rescue teams, hazardous materials mitigation, fire prevention, domestic preparedness, fire/EMS safety education, and fire investigation programs. To aid in fulfilling its commitment to effectively and efficiently serve the residents of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, a new Firehouse facility is being built for Firehouse No. 44.

Located at 7800 Dixie River Road. Firehouse 44 will be an integral asset to support Charlotte Fire Department's efficient response to emergencies in the community; providing a location within the newly developed River District community and expanding their response area in this newly incorporated region of Charlotte.

Learn more about the project here: <https://www.charlottenc.gov/Growth-and-Development/Projects/Firehouses>

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Arts & Science Council is accepting qualifications from U.S. based artists/artist teams for a public art opportunity for the City of Charlotte's, Charlotte Fire Department, Firehouse #44 located at 7800 Dixie River Rd., Charlotte, NC. This RFQ represents an opportunity for an artist, or team of artists, to create a highly visible, wall-based artwork sited on the two-story wall adjacent to the training staircase. The selected artist will work with the ASC, staff from the City of Charlotte's General Services Department, ADW Architects, CFD representatives, and local communities to create artwork that is complementary to the architecture and design of the building. The impactful artwork should also reference the history, commitment, and service of the Charlotte Fire Department. In addition, the artwork should relate to the neighborhood identity of the [River District](#) community and reference the [Catawba River](#).

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

## **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 Charlotte Firehouse No. 44 and the surrounding area.

- Artwork should be wall based including, but not limited to mounted 2D paintings, shallow relief sculpture, or a combination of those two approaches.
- Artwork should not be directly painted onto the FH#44 brick facade.
- Artwork should conform to the dimensions, weight capacity, and surface provided by the site.
- Artwork should primarily engage pedestrians with views by vehicular traffic considered.
- Artwork should address the relationship between CFD and the residents they serve.

- Artwork should address the history of the property the firehouse will be built on; additionally, the artist should consider the importance of the community to the site.
- The artwork will be required to withstand a 20-year period with minimum or no maintenance.
- Final design will be subject to approval by the Public Art Commission, owner, and project team.

**PROJECT BUDGET**

**Total Project Budget | \$115,133.00 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 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.

- 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**

May 8, 2026	RFQ Applications Accepted
May 19, 2026	Virtual Pre-submittal Meeting
June 10, 2026	Application Deadline
July 2026	Artist Selection Panel Meeting to Select Finalists
August 2026	Artist Selection Panel Meeting to Select Commissioned Artist

September 2026	Artist's Contract Execution
Fall 2026	Artist's Design Development Begins
Spring 2026	Artist's Fabrication Begins
August 2027	Artwork Installation (Contingent on Construction Schedule)

## TO APPLY

Applications must be received via SlideRoom (<https://asc.slideroom.com>) by 11:59 p.m. EDT on June 5, 2026. 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. Videos of interest must be uploaded in this section.
- **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](mailto:support@slideroom.com). Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 6 PM EDT.

For further information, please contact Justin Hicks, Program Officer, Public Art (704) 335-3059 or email [Justin.Hicks@artsandscience.org](mailto:Justin.Hicks@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.ftc.org/>

#### **ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL 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 THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Charlotte Fire Department has a long and proud history of serving everyone who lives and works in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. The Charlotte Fire Department delivers fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue including urban search and rescue teams, hazardous materials mitigation, fire prevention, domestic preparedness, fire/EMS safety education, and fire investigation programs. From 43 firehouses, including two firehouses at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, the CFD provides protection to a population of over 892,000 residing in 320 square miles of Mecklenburg County. The Charlotte Fire Department is one of just a few in the country to hold both International Accreditation and a Class 1 Rating from the Insurance Services Office.

Learn more at: <https://charlottenc.gov/Fire/Pages/default.aspx>.

#### **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, MLS team Charlotte FC - Charlotte Football Club, 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/>.

#### **ARTWORK LOCATION** (Renderings provided by ADW Architects)



[\(A\) indicates artwork site options](#)



