

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Public Art Opportunity in Fairfax, VA

Deadline for Submission September 30, 2025

Applications can be submitted at <https://artsfairfax.submittable.com>

Summary

Fairfax County, in partnership with [ArtsFairfax](#), is looking for talented artists to design artwork for the windscreens at the planned [Bus Rapid Transit \(BRT\)](#) ("The One") stations along a 7.4-mile stretch of Richmond Highway in southeast Fairfax County. The project – titled **Community Charm** – will incorporate elements of the surrounding neighborhoods into the station design based on themes developed with each community.

Submissions will be subject to a panel review before selected artists are invited to create a concept design for one or more of the planned BRT stations. Each final design will adorn a large windscreen that runs the length of each station, an area approximately 60' by 8' (480 square feet) in size. The size and scale of the windscreen offers a unique opportunity for artists to work with a large area for visual impact.

Background

ArtsFairfax has partnered with Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development to facilitate the public art commissions for their Community Charm II initiative, an effort to integrate original public art on each of the stations of a planned BRT system for Richmond Highway. Incorporating artwork into the stations will encourage a sense of local character, pride, and overall enjoyment of the BRT system.

[See Community Charm Backgrounder](#)

Scope of Work

The request for qualification is for the submission of three (3) existing artworks that demonstrate artistic style and ability. On the application, artists will be encouraged to select which of the following categories they prefer to work in; each BRT station will focus on specific themes in the following four categories:

Community & Identity

In this category, the project team seeks an artist who can celebrate a neighborhood's multicultural population and local identity.

Historic Significance

In this category, the project team seeks an artist who can illustrate the relevance and impact of local historic buildings and institutions, historical development patterns, and cultural history, some of regional and national importance.

Natural Resources

In this category, the project team seeks an artist who can capture the local flora, fauna, parks, and other natural resources of the neighborhood.

Local Government and County Services

In this category, the project team seeks an artist who can capture the relevance and impact of local government institutions and services to the surrounding community

Selected artists should expect to participate in up to three meetings for community review and input.

Selection Process and Criteria

The selection committee will include representatives from Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development and Department of Transportation, as well as Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, ArtsFairfax, and representatives of the Richmond Highway community (seven members total).

The selection committee will select up to three (3) artists to create concept proposals for each station. An individual artist may be recommended for more than one station.

Finalists will receive a stipend (see Project Budget) and additional background information on their assigned station(s). The selection committee, in consultation with the county's BRT Executive Committee, will narrow it down to two (2) designs per station. These concepts will move forward for community input in a final community engagement process to be led by the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT). That process is expected to take three to four months. At the conclusion of the FCDOT public engagement process, one artist will be chosen for each BRT station. The selected artist will work closely with the County to finalize the design and render the art for transference or application to the station windscreen.

Windscreen Specifications

The overall windscreen dimensions, as outlined below in blue, are approximately 60' wide and 8' tall, and comprised of thirteen individual panels that are 4' wide. There are three irregularly shaped panels on one end of each station that will have different dimensions than the other 4'x8' panels to accommodate the 52'8" width at the top and the 61'11.5" width at the bottom.

Additionally, there are triangular metal columns that will be in front of the windscreens and will have an impact on the visibility of certain portions of the windscreens. Artwork will be visible on one side only of the windscreen, the side where commuters will sit. For greater detail on the windscreen specifications, see Attachment I.



Project Budget

Artists selected to create a concept design will receive a \$500 artist concept design fee. This fee is inclusive of the following:

- Receipt of the concept design
- Availability for up to three community meetings (which can be virtual) to explain their artistic vision and solicit community feedback
- Up to two (2) minor revisions based on feedback

Upon conclusion of the selection committee review and FCDOT public engagement process, artists selected for the installation of their work on a station will receive an additional \$1,000 per installation. They must provide the final artwork in digital format for transference or application to the future BRT station windscreen.

Eligibility

Professional artists, muralists, and graphic design professionals are invited to apply. Public art experience with comparable projects is recommended. Open to all artists and design professionals residing in the United States. Preference will be given to local and regional artists.

How to Submit Qualifications

Applications must be submitted to <https://artsfairfax.submittable.com> by September 30, 2025 at 7:00 PM EST.

The following materials will be required:

- Three (3) images of existing artwork that demonstrates artistic style and ability.
- Each image must be numbered and include a title, date of completion/installation, media, dimensions (height x width x depth), location, and a brief description of these works.

Anticipated Schedule

Task	Date
Deadline for submissions	September 30, 2025
Selection Committee recommends up to three (3) artists per station to create concept art	December 2025
Selected artists (two designs per station) engage with local community through a FCDOT led process to finalize their proposed designs	February 2026
Final Artists are selected, and designs are rendered for large-scale application to stations	May 2026