

# REQUEST FOR ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS

## Public Art for Wake Forest's Historic Downtown District

**BUDGET:** \$37,000

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Thursday, March 1, 2012, at 5:00PM EST (This is **not** a postmark deadline!)

**PROJECT:** Sculptural Seating in Historic Downtown Business District

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

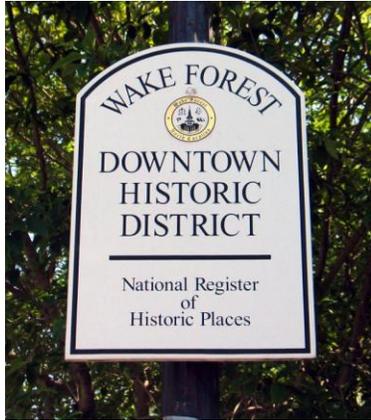
The Town of Wake Forest Public Art Commission (PAC) seeks an artist or artist team to create two or more site-specific artworks that offer compelling, contextually sensitive outdoor seating to visitors to our historic downtown business district. The artworks will be located in two prominent outdoor spaces on the recently redesigned streetscape of historic White Street, the heart of Wake Forest, so the commissioned artist must design and produce sculptural seating for two discrete sites. Because of these public artworks' highly visible locations and importance to the Wake Forest PAC, this project should strive to capture the unique character of Wake Forest and White Street while also providing a practical space for visitors of all ages to sit comfortably and enjoy our beautiful downtown area. The commissioned artist will be expected to collaborate with Town engineers and the design team responsible for implementing the Streetscape II Project, which includes the two sites for artful seating.

### PROJECT CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Founded more than a hundred years ago, the town of Wake Forest is located about 10 miles from Raleigh, North Carolina's capital city. In the past 10 years, Wake Forest's population has nearly tripled and is expected to continue to expand as more people discover the town's beauty and livability. Many new residents say they relocated to Wake Forest because of its quaint, yet vibrant historic downtown. One of the goals of this project is to increase awareness of our historic downtown by enhancing the area through public art that reflects our downtown's sense of place and helps share the story of Wake Forest.

The downtown serves as both shopping district and entertainment venue. Once residents and visitors "find" our downtown, they realize that while strolling along White Street they





can window-shop antique stores, find a unique wedding gift at one of the many boutiques, grab a hot dog or sit down for a cup of tea, do their banking and pick up gardening supplies all within a 6-block area. Wake Forest's downtown business district not only serves as a hub for a large array of destination businesses, but the heart of our town plays host to many gatherings. The fun lasts throughout the year, beginning with Art After Hours on each second Friday night of the month, HerbFest, Meet in the Street, Wake Forest Farmer's Market, Artists' Studio Tours, Christmas Parade, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and College's large array of musical programming, and December's Lighting of Wake Forest.

## WAKE FOREST TOWN HISTORY

In the 1820s the Wake Forest area, known as the Forest of Wake, was settled with large plantations and prosperous farmers, several of whom established and supported private academies for their sons and daughters and boarding students. The Forest was well known as an area of refinement, education and culture, and its reputation was burnished by the new Wake Forest College chartered in 1838.

Up through the Civil War, Wake Forest consisted of the college campus with about 15 homes, the Wake Forest Hotel and James Purefoy's general store next door. Then, finally, in 1874 the college trustees persuaded the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad officials to relocate the depot a mile south in Forestville and paid \$2,000.03 to have it moved next to the campus. That sparked the development of downtown with the three-story building Dr. John B. Powers built for his pharmacy business, department stores, T.E. Holding's pharmacy and grocery stores. The town swelled from 456 people in 1880 to 1,443 in 1910, and a booming cotton-growing industry grew up around it.



Today, Downtown Wake Forest Historic District encompasses the historic commercial core of the Town of Wake Forest in northern Wake County, North Carolina. The approximately six-acre district extends several blocks along White Street and along Raleigh and Gaston Railroad (now CSX). Development began after the establishment of a depot in 1874 to serve the pre-existing village of Wake Forest and Wake Forest College on the other side of the tracks.

Merchants, bankers, cotton brokers and others built commercial buildings and warehouses distinguished by decorative brickwork and storefronts with large display windows, transoms, and recessed entries. Downtown buildings include a mix of Colonial Revival style and Art-Deco influenced treatments.

## **PUBLIC ART BUDGET**

The total budget for the artwork portion of this project, including (but not limited to) selection process expenses, design fee for the commissioned artist, site preparation, permits, fabrication, installation, all necessary transportation and subcontracts, and contingency, is \$37,000. If the selection process includes a proposal stage, which it likely will, finalist artists will receive travel compensation and \$1,000 honoraria for their design proposals, interviews, scale model mock-ups, and site visits. One or more artists from among the finalists will then be contacted to produce two or more seating sculptures for both of two distinct sites on White Street.



We anticipate furnishing an initial payment of up to 15% of the total contract upon signing the contract. Depending on the project type, three or more periodic payments will follow over the course of the contract period and upon submission of invoices: one payment upon approval of final design documents; another during fabrication and/or installation phases; and a final payment upon acceptance of the final installed project and submission of a maintenance plan. However, the exact payment schedule is contingent upon the

nature and needs of the specific project and will be determined in the contract between the artist and the Town of Wake Forest.

## **SCOPE OF WORK/PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The artist or artist team is expected to produce and install artworks providing outdoor seating to be located at two designated sites.

The artist or artist team selected will be expected to work with the town engineers and Kimley-Horn, the design team working on Phase II of the Streetscape Project, which is a major renovation of a section of White Street in the downtown area. The section included in Phase II is displayed in Figure AA on the next page.



Phase I Streetscape Project





Site 1 Graphic



Current View

One site (see Site 1 Graphic) is intended to be a gathering spot for pedestrians. This spot will include a raised section of street, which when closed off can be the site used for entertainment events. This spot also includes a wide sidewalk area outside a coffee shop that could be used for outside seating for the shop. Note that the graphic indicates the inclusion of seat walls and planters so that some seating is already planned for the space in the architectural design.

The second site is located in the bump out at the parking lot adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce. The graphic (see Site 2 Graphic) of this site shows the curb bump out, which provides additional sidewalk space for potential sculptural seating. There is a bioretention area adjacent to this space that is a unique feature in the project. Benches are shown in this space as a placeholder.



Site 2 Graphic



Current View

Consideration should be made in design of the artworks to assure ample room for pedestrian traffic, as well as accessibility. Design work should also complement design features already determined in the plans developed by town engineers and Kimley-Horn, the design group

working with the town on the Streetscape II Project. The commissioned artist will be expected to participate in one or more community engagement and design workshops and/or artist presentations for stakeholders, as needed.

## **ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS**

Artists should familiarize themselves with Wake Forest environment, history and culture. Preferred qualifications include experience with public art projects involving a similar budget, scale and scope; experience integrating public art enhancements or design features into pedestrian-friendly walkways and streetscapes; experience installing works of art on concrete; as well as experience working with community stakeholders. Applicant artists must be American citizens or legal residents aged 18 years or older. Interdisciplinary design teams and artist teams and partnerships are encouraged to apply. Currently enrolled students are ineligible. Members of the Wake Forest PAC and their relatives are ineligible.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

All applicants should submit the following materials in one of the two following formats to Vivian Jones, Mayor, Wake Forest Town Hall, 301 South Brooks Street, Wake Forest NC 27587, phone 919 435-9431, email Mayor@wakeforestnc.gov

1. On a PC-compatible CD or DVD clearly labeled with artist's name and contact information; or
2. Via an e-mailed URL link to a folder or compressed zip file containing all required application documents, uploaded by the applicant to a reliable and free online file hosting Web site (e.g. Mediafire.com, FileSavr.com, YouSendIt.com) or to an accessible private site. An artist's Web site URL alone, while useful, does not suffice; all required application materials must be available for download from one URL source. Please do not send an e-mail with attachments; include only a brief note of your intent to apply and the single download link.

We cannot accept slides or hard copies of any documents or artworks, faxed materials or e-mails with attachments. The Wake Forest PAC will not return any submission materials.

## **LETTER OF INTEREST/REFERENCES**

A Word file or PDF not to exceed 750 words (no more than approximately three double-spaced typewritten pages). The letter of interest should briefly explain the artist's or team's

- interest in the project and potential approaches;
- the relationship of the project to the applicant's artistic practice; and
- relevant past experience, specifically experience with public art commissions (and, if applicable, projects in hardscape/cityscape areas).

If the applicant has collaborated with government agencies, arts councils, neighborhood organizations or other relevant organizations and individuals, please describe those working relationships and how they impacted the research and design processes. Describe any experience with fabrication, installation and conservation/maintenance planning for outdoor artwork or design enhancements of similar scale and scope. If you are applying as an artist team, please identify the lead artist and indicate if the individuals and/or organizations that comprise the team have previously collaborated in a similar capacity, and if so, the nature of the association. Please include contact information for three references.

## RESOURCES

Town of Wake Forest History

Town of Wake Forest

<http://www.wakeforestnc.gov>

Wake Forest Arts

<http://www.wakeforestnc.gov/arts.aspx>

Downtown Revitalization Corporation

<http://www.wakeforestdowntown.com/drc/homepage.asp>

Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.wakeforestchamber.org/>

Wake Forest Historical Association

Wake Forest Economic Development

<http://www.wakeforesteconomicdevelopment.com>

### ***Publications:***

Connections, by Carol Pelosi

Wake Forest Gazette

[www.wakeforestgazette.com](http://www.wakeforestgazette.com)

The Wake Forest Weekly

<http://www.wakeweekly.com>

### ***Organizations that support the arts:***

Wake Forest ARTS!

Virginia Tull Music and Arts Series

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary – Music Department

Wake Forest Area Artists

Graham Johnson Cultural Arts Endowment