



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

**PUBLIC ART PROJECT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**NASHVILLE YOUTH
CAMPUS FOR EMPOWERMENT**

CALL SUMMARY

Metro Arts is issuing an **Open Request for Qualifications** to design, fabricate and install an interior, permanent **Public Artwork Wall Sculpture** for the Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment (NYCE) in Nashville, Tennessee. The new youth campus will replace the existing juvenile court located at 100 Woodland St, Nashville, TN 37213. The new site is located at 1354 Brick Church Pike, 2.5 miles north of the original site, near the intersection of I-24 and Trinity Lane. The total artist budget allocated for the new public art sculpture at the juvenile justice center is **\$400,000.00**.

Once selected, the artist or artist team must facilitate a minimum of four (4) community engagement activities, including at least two (2) in-person events with residents and stakeholders. Community input will inform the artist's proposed design for the public art. We encourage the artists to read and find their connection to Metro Arts commitment to equity and the city's vision for redefining juvenile justice. This will inform artists' community engagement process and the development of their work. After the design is approved, the selected artist will develop drawings, fabricate, and install the permanent public artwork at the Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment (NYCE) prior to its targeted opening in January of 2027.

ABOUT METRO NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Metro Nashville Arts Commission or "Metro Arts" is the office of Arts & Culture for the city of Nashville and Davidson County. **We believe that arts drive a more vibrant and equitable community.** We strive to ensure that all Nashvillians have access to a creative life through community investments, artist and organizational training, public art, and direct programs that involve residents in all forms of arts and culture.

CULTURAL EQUITY COMMITMENT

Metro Arts' Cultural Equity Commitment embodies the values, beliefs, policies and practices that ensure that all people can fulfill their rights of cultural expression and belonging, participation, learning, and livelihood within the arts ecosystem. This includes specific commitment to people who have been historically underrepresented in mainstream arts funding, discourse, leadership and resource allocation; including, but not limited to, people of color, people of all ages, differently abled people, LGBTQ people, women, and the socio-economically disadvantaged. Our full commitment to equity is available [here](#) and deeply influences all aspects of our work.

DEADLINE

All submissions of qualifications must be submitted through the Metro Arts Submittable page by: **Monday, June 23rd, 2025, by 11:59 P.M. (CST). Late submissions will not be accepted, and no additional information may be submitted after the established deadline.**

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Submissions will be accepted from professional artists living in the United States; professional artists as defined by the [Public Art Guidelines](#):

Professional artist*. An artist of least 18 years of age with the following qualifications:

1. at least two years of visual art exhibition history, or
2. at least two years of commissioned visual or public art.

Note: Exhibitions, commissions or public art created during or as part of an artist's undergraduate education shall not count towards these criteria. Architects, landscape architects and other design professionals are not considered professional artists under this definition, unless they meet the criteria.

Artist team*

1. Two or more professional artists working collaboratively on a public art project. Qualifications for each team member must be demonstrated in submitted artist resumes.
2. A collaborative team led by a professional artist. Team may include design professionals or consultants. Qualifications for each team member must be demonstrated in submitted artist resumes.

**Professional artist qualifications must be demonstrated in the submitted artist resume(s). Resumes for key design professionals and consultants may be included.*

Conflict of interest

Employees of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission or the Metro Nashville Government are ineligible to apply. Family and household members of Metro Arts staff are also ineligible. Members of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission or Public Art Committee are ineligible for public art commissions or projects. An artist is precluded from having his/her work considered for a public art commission or project while under contract with the Metro Nashville Arts Commission. Artists may reference section VII of the [Public Art Guidelines](#).

BUDGET

The project budget allocates **\$400,000** for a permanent **public artwork wall sculpture** for the Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment main lobby. This figure represents the total artist's budget and includes artist's fees for community engagement, design development, overhead and operating costs, fabrication costs, all project-related travel, installation costs, insurance, contingency and any other project-related costs the artist may incur.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The chosen artist or team of artists will undertake the design, fabrication, and installation of a permanent public artwork in the form of a wall sculpture for the main lobby of NYCE. This initiative emphasizes the creation of a three-dimensional piece, distinguishing it from traditional two-dimensional artworks. The sculpture will be prominently positioned inside the main entrance of the courthouse campus, facilitating access to its multi-level complex and various spaces. The designated area for the art installation encompasses approximately 1,300 cubic feet of wall space and is strategically positioned to take advantage of natural light, provided by the expansive glass windows. The completed artwork should be crafted from lightweight, durable materials that require minimal maintenance and are not reliant on technology. The selected artist will collaborate closely with the project's design team to ensure alignment of technical specifications, weight limitations, and installation techniques.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The selected artist or artist team will be expected to lead at least four (4) community engagements with residents and stakeholders that have experience related to public services for children and adolescents, foster care, child safety, and the family and juvenile court systems. At a minimum, two (2) of the engagement meetings must be held in-person. Meetings and engagements must be approved by Metro Arts and will be promoted and coordinated by Metro Arts. Artists are encouraged to contribute their own research approaches to help identify assets and needs in the community in collaboration with the Metro Arts public art team.

PROJECT GOALS

- Create a site-specific, permanent artwork of an appropriate scale serving as a significant feature of the site in the form of a three-dimensional wall-mounted artwork.
- Design artwork crafted from lightweight, durable materials that require minimal maintenance and are not reliant on technology.
- Connect with individuals and families who may have experienced trauma leading to involvement in areas such as child welfare, foster care, parental custody and adolescent justice services.
- Provide a significant visual presence through a thoughtfully conceived design that represents the insights gathered from community engagement initiatives.
- Engage the various organizations that champion and provide support for individuals navigating the juvenile justice system.
- Reflect Nashville and Davidson County Juvenile Court's vision, values and mission as outlined on their [website](#).
- Reflect Metro Arts' commitment, as outlined in the [Public Art Community Investment Plan](#), to shared civic spaces that are open to everyone and dedicated to the community's vision, identity and purposes.
- Reflect Metro Arts' commitment to Cultural Equity as outlined at www.metroartsnashville.gov/equity.

METRO PUBLIC ART GOALS

- Create opportunities for deeper cultural and civic participation.
- Drive the support and development of vibrant, creative neighborhoods.
- Strengthen the public art ecosystem in Nashville.
- Prioritize projects in areas that are underserved with public art.
- Commission public art at Metro facilities; strengthen their role as welcoming and functional places for gathering.



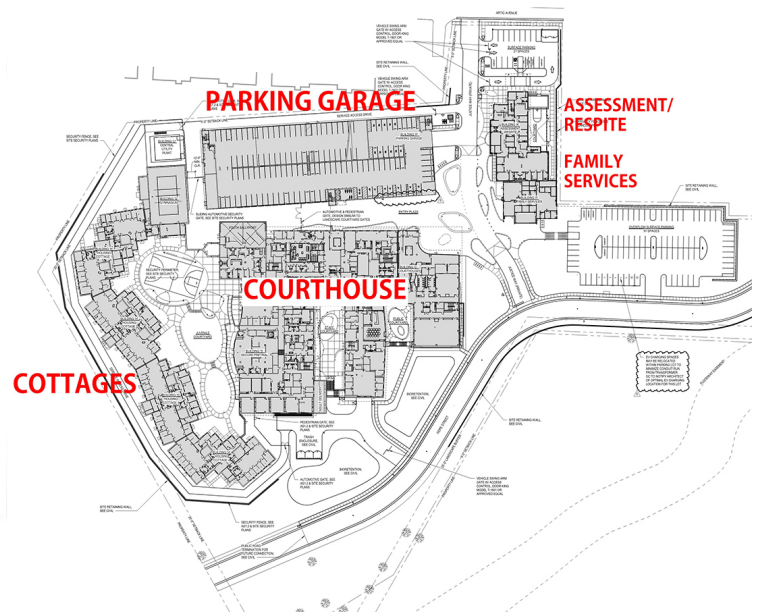
CAMPUS PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment (NYCE) is poised to make a transformative impact when it opens its doors in early 2027. Spanning 14 acres, this facility is designed to uplift the residents of Nashville-Davidson County who are seeking support through essential public services for children and adolescents, foster care, child safety, and the family and juvenile court systems. Located at 1354 Brick Church Pike, just 2.5 miles north of

the existing juvenile court on Woodland St, the NYCE site is conveniently situated near the intersection of I-24 and Trinity Lane. More than just a juvenile court, the NYCE facility is a beacon of hope, featuring a thoughtfully designed environment that focuses on empowering youth and families. Additionally, the campus will collaborate with local non-profits to provide trauma-informed services and restorative classes, fostering engagement and support for both youth and their families. This initiative is the vision of Juvenile Court Judge, Sheila Calloway, a dedicated community leader who has passionately advocated for this project for years.

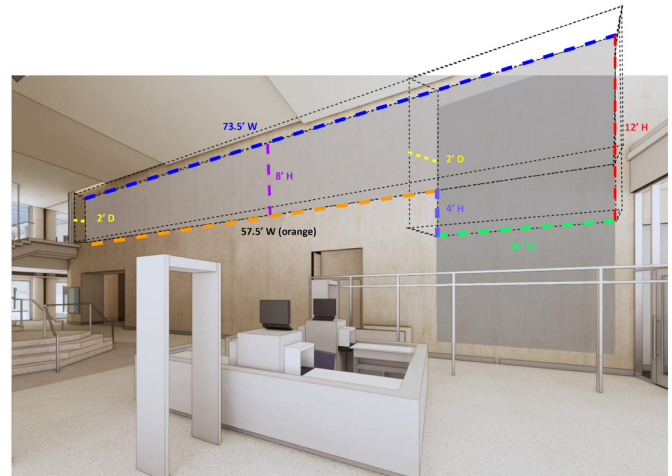
The Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment is not just a court building; it embodies a mission to empower and provide vital resources that will guide youth and families toward a brighter future. By creating a nurturing environment, the NYCE aims to inspire resilience and advancement, helping individuals navigate their paths with confidence and purpose.

The Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment has six principal areas: Courthouse, Assessment and family services building, cottages/housing, sports facility, green space and parking structure. At the center of the campus is the five-story courthouse building serving as the main entrance. The building will not only host hearings, and trials, but it will offer a wide range of community services centered around education, alongside safe exchange facilities, trauma therapy, educational classes for at-risk youth, green spaces for connection and healing, meeting rooms, sports facilities, and even a trade school equipped with a music studio, barber shop, and cafeteria.



ARTWORK LOCATION

The artwork will be installed in the main entrance lobby of the courthouse building. The selected area for the installation is the upper right wall of the lobby, approximately 8 feet above the ground floor. This space, covering roughly 1,300 cubic feet, has been strategically chosen to optimize the use of natural light, aided by the large glass windows at either end of the lobby.



SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel for this project will have between five and eleven members including at least one visual artist, and may also include a design professional, a project architect/landscape architect, community representatives, and one member representing the site sponsor. The chairperson of the selection panel will be the Public Art Committee chair or designee, serving as an ex-officio, non-voting panel member. The Metro Purchasing Agent will assign a Contract Specialist to the project who will serve as a non-voting advisory member of the selection panel and is charged with the responsibility of monitoring the Procurement process. Award notifications are subject to approval by the Arts Commission.

SEMI-FINALISTS

The artist semi-finalists will be contacted and invited to join the selection panel for an interview. The selection panel will score the semi-finalist artists, and the highest scoring artist will be shared with the Public Art Committee and Arts Commission. Award notifications will be made after Arts Commission approval.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- artist's work samples provide evidence of understanding of craft
- artist's work samples provide evidence of creative and inventive use of chosen medium;
- artist's ability to engage with, connect to, and understand the community for which public artwork is intended;
- a deep understanding of public art planning, design, construction, and community engagement processes;
- evidence of the ability to be accountable to project partners, schedules, and budgets;
- evidence of successful collaborative work on large-scale public projects;
- evidence of commitment to the Davidson County Juvenile Court's vision, values and mission as outlined on their [website](#);
- evidence of commitment to cultural equity in artistic practice and processes.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The following projected timetable should be used as a working guide for planning purposes. Metro reserves the right to adjust this timetable as required during the course of this Open Request for Qualifications process.

Schedule	Date
Request for Qualifications Opens	Monday, May 12, 2025
Submissions Deadline	Monday, June 23, 2025
Artist Selection Process	Summer-Fall 2025
Artist Finalist Approval and Award	Fall 2025
Contract Negotiations/Vendor Registration	Winter 2025
Community Engagement	Early Spring 2026
Design Development	Spring 2026
Fabrication	Summer-Winter 2026
Installation	December 2026

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & CHECKLIST

The following information must be submitted in order to be considered: All Submissions must be submitted via [Submittable](#) and are due **Monday, June 23, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. (CST)**.

In order to be considered, artists are required to submit the following materials:

- 1. Artwork Images:** Six (6) digital images representative of your artwork. Only one image per file; no composite images, no videos. File types accepted: JPG, PNG, GIF, PDF. Artists are required to include basic specifications of each image (title, media, dimensions, year, budget, location and client).
- 2. Current Artist Résumé:** Artist resume is not to exceed four single-sided pages or 2MB. Resume must demonstrate artistic practice as defined by the Artist Eligibility guidelines above. For artist teams, submit a resume for each team member.
- 3. Completed Submittable Application Form** (including the short answer questions found in submittable application).
- 4. References:** Three creative references (Please reach out to individuals who can discuss your work and artistic experience in advance and secure their permission to be contacted.)

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Full submission instructions are available at [Submittable](#). **Please read through carefully before submitting.** Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed. No submissions or supplementary information will be accepted beyond

the specified deadline. Artist or artist team may submit only one entry. Artists associated with a team cannot submit individual submission. Technical questions about the online submission process (i.e. image upload, Submittable account set-up, etc.) should be directed to <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>

METRO PUBLIC ART

The Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission (Metro Arts) is a department of the Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County created in 1978 for the purpose of promoting, preserving and expanding the cultural and artistic interests of the general public. Metro Arts public art program was established in June 2000, with the passage of a public art ordinance. The ordinance dedicates one percent (1%) of the net proceeds of general obligation bonds issued for construction projects to fund public art. Metro Arts established [guidelines](#), and named a Public Art Committee (PAC) as a standing committee to oversee the public art program.

RESOURCES FOR QUESTIONS

Direct all non-technical questions related to this **Open Request for Qualifications** call to: atilio.murga@nashville.gov with “NYCE Lobby Public Art Project” in the subject line or call (615) 862-6733.

Questions will be taken through Friday, June 20th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. noon (CST). The deadline to apply through Submittable is Monday, June 23rd, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. (CST). Late submissions will not be accepted, and no additional information may be submitted after the established deadline.