

# **CALL FOR ARTISTS**

## **City Hall**

### **Outdoor Sculptures**

### **Public Art Project**

### **Reno, Nevada**

Deadline: September 30, at 11:00 pm PDT  
Budget: \$90,000

#### **SUMMARY:**

The City of Reno is accepting proposals from artists/artist teams for an exterior public art installation outside City Hall's public entrance on North Virginia Street and E 1<sup>st</sup> Street in downtown Reno. This project aims to create a more welcoming and vibrant exterior of City Hall, highlighting Reno's arts and culture to visitors of downtown and local communities. City Hall faces directly onto City Plaza where multiple events are held each year and in which numerous art pieces are installed, including the iconic BELIEVE sculpture by artists Laura Kimpton and Jeff Schomberg.

#### **ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS / ELIGIBILITY:**

This project is open to any artist regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, national origin, age, religion, marital status, political opinion or affiliation, or mental or physical handicap. Artists may apply as a single artist or as a multi-person collaborative group. In the case of a group, please apply under one single application. Artists and teams living and working in the United States and who have experience implementing projects with a similar budget and scope are encouraged to apply.

- Artists age 18 or older may apply as an individual or a team
- Must be available for on-site visit to Reno

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The City of Reno is seeking artists for an exterior public art installation outside City Hall. The selection committee is looking for proposals of sculptures to install at multiple locations. These sculptures can already be in existence or be proposals for new sculptures.

The selection committee is looking for a unique, one-of-a-kind, public art installation that is appropriate for placement outside of City Hall and for the diverse Reno community. The placement lends itself to mid-scale outdoor sculptures that takes into account Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Since the installations will be in pedestrian right-of-way, important considerations include that sculptures are not climbable, blocking visual fields, or made of materials that can shatter (e.g., glass, mosaics, etc.). Powder coated steel or other durable, low-maintenance materials are preferred. It is not required that the theme of the artwork be directly connected to

government functions and imagery or to Reno history. Bright colors that stand out in the urban environment are desired, but not required.

There are multiple locations, requiring a total of three to four sculptures. The first location is two spaces on the south side of City Hall, along E 1<sup>st</sup> Street and across from City Plaza. There are two existing pads for sculptures to be mounted on. There are trees between the pads and street that may partially obscure the sculptures from certain vantage points. The sculptures will also be visible through windows on the first floor, so should take into account being viewed from all sides.

Pad A: 12.5" x 72", maximum art size 25" deep x 84" wide x 6' tall, 300 lbs

Pad B: 26" x 72", maximum art size 38" deep x 84" wide x 6' tall, 300 lbs

The second location is adjacent to the public entrance of City Hall on North Virginia Street. The City will provide pads for this space. The artwork should go behind and/or between the flag poles to the north of the entrance to City Hall.

Pad C: 6' x 23' (minus areas marked in red below). Maximum art size 5' x 23' x 6' tall, 300 lbs. (This can be split into two sculptures).

Lighting will be provided by the City for all sculptures (if infrastructure is available). See below for site images.

The goals for the project include: creating a welcoming and vibrant character for City Hall, increasing public awareness of art, and broadening visitors' perspectives of public spaces within the City. The artist(s) selected should have demonstrated experience working in public locations subject to vandalism and extreme weather.

The City of Reno seeks artists with prior public art experience, specifically mid-scale sculptural work. The commission will cover all services from design through final installation/implementation, including artist fee, fabrication, insurance, transportation, travel fees, equipment, and installation. Final selection of one artist or team will be made by the Public Art Committee, Reno Arts and Culture Commission, and stakeholders and approved by Reno City Council based on qualifications and proposal.

Selected artists/artist teams/design team will be expected to work with the community, City staff, and stakeholders to design the final artwork.

#### **LOCATION:**

[City Hall on Google Maps](#)

[South Location, street view](#)

[Flag Pole Location, street view](#)

#### **ABOUT THE LOCATION:**

Reno City Hall is located right in the heart of Downtown Reno, across from City Plaza. According to Reno Historical, “At 16 stories, the building was the tallest in Reno when it opened in 1963. The building is an expression of the International Style, as evidenced by its visible steel frame, flat roof, smooth expanses of glass, and overall lack of ornament.” [Read more about the history of the building here.](#)

The building was built for First National Bank of Nevada, which later became First Interstate Bank. The City of Reno has been operating city government out of the building since 2004.

Located on the first floor of City Hall, near the windows that will offer a view the southern sculptures, is the Metro Gallery that exhibits unique works of art from local and regional artists.

### **BUDGET:**

Projected budget is not to exceed \$90,000 for the entire project. This budget is inclusive of all costs associated with the design, planning, engineering, fabrication, installation, and completion of the project. This budget includes all travel costs and insurance.

### **SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA:**

- ✎ The review committee will select three finalists to interview.
- ✎ The finalists will be invited to give a virtual presentation to the Public Art Committee to share more about their proposed artwork and artistic process.
- ✎ Each finalist will receive an honorarium of \$500 for the presentation and initial proposal.
- ✎ The Review Committee, with input from stakeholders, and the RACC will select one artist/artist team for the \$90,000 commission.
- ✎ City Council will have final approval.

Selection of a finalist will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of letter of interest—addressing the specific project and how the artwork proposed relates to the opportunity.
- Quality of proposed artwork including appropriateness of materials and concept/subject matter for this specific space and opportunity.
- Quality of past work samples and relevance of samples to current call (work of similar scope and scale).
- Ability to complete the project based on bio, previous work, and references.

Selected artists/design team will be expected to work with the community, City staff, and stakeholders to finalize the artwork.

### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

To be submitted via [Submittable](https://cityofrenoartscultureandevents.submittable.com/submit).  
(<https://cityofrenoartscultureandevents.submittable.com/submit>).

1. *Resume or CV*: Current professional resume or curriculum vitae (CV), detailing professional artistic accomplishments, including an artist bio. Submit information for all team members.
2. *Proposal*: Short written description of proposed artwork and sketch/schematic of proposed artwork. This is only expected to be a preliminary conceptual approach to the project and not the final design.
3. *Past Work Samples*: 5 images of recent previously completed relevant artwork. Include title, year completed, materials/media, client, location, budget, and description of work.
4. *Letter of Interest*: Address how the applicant's previous experience and current artistic direction will result in a successful public art project for this space. Include detailed information on how you would approach this project and how it will reflect the regional community.

**Estimated timeline:**

RFQ announced: July 19

RFQ submission deadline: September 30, 11:00 pm PST

October 2024: Committee reviews and selects three finalists.

November 2024: Finalist Presentations and Interviews

November 2024: Finalist artist/team selected for Project

December 2024: Artist/team will work with staff and stakeholders to finalize designs for artwork via stakeholder meetings.

January – May 2025: Fabrication and installation.

All questions regarding this request for qualifications are to be directed to Megan Berner, Arts & Culture Manager, City of Reno at [bernerm@reno.gov](mailto:bernerm@reno.gov) or 775-326-6333.