



## **City of Concord Public Art Commission**

### **Call for Entries**

### **Downtown Concord Mural Project**

The City of Concord Public Art Commission is seeking artist(s) for a new mural, centrally located along the newly upgraded Union Street in Downtown Concord.

#### **GUIDELINES**

The selected art installation will utilize exterior paint provided by the applicant and will remain in place for a minimum of 18 months.

The mural location is a fence that is along the public right-of-way and City property. The City of Concord has the right to modify, replace, remove, and/or restore any project elements located at the project site.

#### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include: individual artists or groups of artists representing neighborhood associations, community organizations, schools, organized groups, businesses, or nonprofits.

Artists should reside in Cabarrus, Stanly, Union, Mecklenburg, Iredell or Rowan County.

A primary contact (hereinafter referred to as the applicant) shall be designated as part of the application package.

The applicant is responsible for submitting the forms identified in the Application Checklist.

#### **Compensation:**

There is no cost to enter, and artists will receive a \$6,000 stipend to complete the project. Materials, paint and supplies will be provided by the selected artist.

**Deadline to apply:** Friday, January 3, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.

To apply, please complete the application available on the City's website at [concordnc.gov/streetscapepublicart](http://concordnc.gov/streetscapepublicart) and email it to Alyssa Nelson, the Streetscape Public Art Curator at [ConcordPublicArt@ConcordNC.gov](mailto:ConcordPublicArt@ConcordNC.gov)

**Important Dates:** *(All dates are subject to change)*

Deadline for digital submission	Friday, January 3, 2025
Announcement of artist selection	February 2025
Mural design process	February – March 2025
Mural Paint Timeframe	March - April 2025

**Design Requirements & Criteria:**

A design concept and plan for execution is required in the mural application. **Completed drawings are not required to apply.** Once the artist is selected, a drawing that meets the below criteria will be required:

The selected design will:

- Fit on the 6' x 40' picket fence
- Reflect the history, culture, and vibrancy of the City of Concord
- Display creativity and diversity
- The work must be original
- Be suitable for public display
- Include no words, logos, commercial speech or advertising
- Use a minimum of three colors

The applicant is advised that the visual images are not intended to create a forum for public expression. Since this project is made possible by the City of Concord, and is located along a City right-of-way, it is a closed public forum. The City reserves the right to control what is depicted with this project.

**Mural location:**

The fence is located at 4 Union Street South in Downtown Concord.





**Application Checklist:**

- Application form
- Attach list and examples of previous work
- Design concept, using template (optional)
- Combine documents into a single PDF.
- Email PDF application file to [ConcordPublicArt@concordnc.gov](mailto:ConcordPublicArt@concordnc.gov)

**To be completed after artwork is selected:**

- A color graphical representation of the proposed painting in a minimum 8.5 x 11" format, PDF, Tiff, or JPG. Larger formats welcomed; 11" x 17" template provided on website. The model shall fit the dimensions 40' long by 6' in height.
- Completed Temporary Infrastructure Agreement.

## **About Concord, North Carolina**

The City of Concord is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest city in the state of North Carolina and the 7<sup>th</sup> fastest growing city in the country. Located in the piedmont region of North Carolina in Cabarrus County, Concord has a population of 113,371. Concord is the largest city in Cabarrus County and is the County seat.

As the city's population has grown over the last decade, so too has the community's interest in public art. A new Master Plan for Public Art was adopted by City Council in March 2022. One of the top-priority projects identified in that Plan, was the Downtown Streetscape sculpture exhibition.

The City Council also adopted a new Strategic Plan in May 2024. Included in the Strategic Plan is a goal to create unique destinations and places, so that Concord will be a regional destination known for its distinctive parks and attractions, strong neighborhoods, and vibrant downtown. This is supported by the work of the Public Art Commission to add meaningful art to Concord's neighborhoods that reflect the unique character, identity, and beauty of the community.

## **The Naming of Concord and Union Street**

Concord's history dates back more than 200 years. In the late 1700's, the German and Scotch-Irish settlements in the area disagreed over exactly where the County seat of the newly formed Cabarrus County should be located. Eventually, a compromise was reached, and the new city was founded in 1796 on a 26-acre site purchased by John Means and Leonard Barbrick. To reflect the spirit in which the issue was settled, the city was named Concord, meaning "harmony," and the main thoroughfare through downtown was named "Union Street."

As one participant in the Public Art Master Plan process put it, "The origin of the name of Concord reflects ... the desire to live in harmony despite differing language, religion and traditions. Art should reflect the diversity of our community and should be seen/displayed throughout the community."

## **Union Street Streetscape Project**

The new Union Street streetscape will add to the vibrancy of Downtown Concord and create new opportunities for outdoor dining, community events, and places for friends, families and neighbors to connect. The new streetscape design includes more generous sidewalks, areas for planting and street furniture, and areas for informal gathering. The design provides four (4) sites where sculpture installations will be located.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Who owns the Mural project?

**A:** Paintings in the public right-of-way become City property. The City has the absolute right to change, modify, destroy, remove, relocate, move, replace, transport or restore the artwork located within the City right-of-way in whole or in part, at the City's sole discretion. The maintenance and repair of the painting will be at the discretion of the City of Concord, the Public Art Commission (PAC), and the adjacent property owners.

**Q:** Is using a professional artist(s)/designer(s) required?

**A:** Yes. It is recommended to have a primary designated organizer who can ensure a high-quality finished product. Completed work examples are required in the application.

**Q:** Who may make repairs or touch ups to the mural?

**A:** The artist would be the first person asked to make any touch ups to the mural. Should the artist decline, the PAC may find an alternative artist to make repairs as needed.