



Request for Qualifications

Z Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art Project in New Bern, NC

Due: September 3, 2022

Tryon Palace and Craven Arts Council & Gallery are seeking a qualified artist for the Z. Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art Project. This artist will lead the design of a new public art project honoring the contributions of free and enslaved Black craftspeople in New Bern between 1770 and 1835.

Project Background:

In spring 2022 a committee of local organizations headed by Tryon Palace applied for the Z Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art Project. The committee's proposed project focuses on the contributions, struggles, and victories of free and enslaved Black craftspeople in New Bern from the American Revolution to the Civil War.

The history of the free Black craftsmen and artisans who developed business, community, and political relationships across racial lines is usually omitted from discussions of the period. This project provides an opportunity to address the shortcomings of how and what local African American history is told. The goal is to provide a deep overall interpretation of this period in New Bern's history through the lens of these African Americans, sharing their perspective and reflecting a more complete story of our integrated history and the social constructs of race. The aim is to open doors to conversations that tell New Bern's stories of diversity, inclusion, and equality but, perhaps even more importantly, to celebrate resilience, fortitude, and strength despite individual, societal, and systemic subjugation.

Upon being accepted as a semi-finalist, the committee began moving forward with plans for community engagement, historical research, and artist recruitment. For this phase of the project the committee wishes to hire a qualified artist to engage with the community and review selected historic documentation to design a piece of artwork highlighting and commemorating the contributions of these craftspeople to New Bern's unique cultural and physical landscape. This design will be submitted as part of the application process for Phase II of the Z Smith Reynolds Public Art Project. If the project is funded, the artist will be further contracted to complete Phase II, with suitable compensation.

Role:

The selected artist will serve as lead designer for the Z. Smith Reynolds Inclusive Art project. As part of the project, the artist will be expected to listen and/or read at least 20 community engagement sessions recorded by the project committee and attend at least 5 community engagement sessions. Some community engagement sessions may be done virtually provided the artist makes arrangements with the committee. The artist will also be provided a copy of *Crafting Lives* by Catherine Bishir.

There will be a Community Forum on October 12, 2022, that the artist will be required to attend. The artist will use these sources as inspiration in creating 3 or more designs for the project to be reviewed by the committee and finalize one selected design into a full rendering for submission to the project.

The selected artist will also be contracted to construct the artwork if the project is selected by Z Smith Reynolds to move forward. The second phase of this project will involve the creation of detailed drawings of the piece, fabrication, and installation of the work. This second phase will involve a new contract and appropriate compensation of the work, ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000, dependent on several factors, including: medium of the proposed work; scale of the proposed work; artist's involvement in the actual fabrication of the work; grant award amount; and other contributing factors.

The artist may subcontract part(s) of this project to other artists with the preapproval of the committee. Subcontracting may be used in Part I or Part II of the project. However, the community engagement portion of the project may not be subcontracted out, as it is important to the committee that the artist himself/herself be part of the discussions.

Terms and Compensation:

The artist portion of Phase I of the project will take place between September 15th and early January. The artist will be paid a stipend of \$2000 for Phase I of the project. This fee is intended to be all inclusive for labor, travel, production costs, etc.

The Artist will be responsible for:

- Attending 5 community engagement meetings in person, including the October 12th Community Celebration.
- Reviewing recorded community engagement sessions by committee members with local leaders.
- Creating at least 3 sketches of proposed designs to be reviewed by the committee and community members for selection of final design.
- Finalizing one selected design into a professional rendering for submission with the project application in early January.

Eligibility:

Artists working in all media are encouraged to apply. All applicants must be 18 years or older. Preference will be given to artists who meet the following criteria:

- Artists residing in North Carolina.
- Artists who live or have a connection to New Bern and Craven County.
- African American artists.
- Artists with public art experience and/or community engagement experience.

The committee welcomes applications from artists who do not traditionally work in sculpture to apply to this call. As stated above, the committee will work with the selected artist during Phase II of the project to determine compensation, responsibilities, and contractors for fabrication, installation, site preparation, and other components of the project. Emerging and mid-career artists are also encouraged to apply for this call.

Deadline and Notification:

The deadline for submission is 11:59pm, September 3rd, at www.cravenarts.org. Notifications will be issued no later than 5pm September 15th.

Application Checklist:

1. A Letter of Interest stating the artist's reasons for interest in the project and outlining any relevant experience he or she may bring to the project.
2. Artist Resume or C.V.
3. 10 digital images of the artist's work. Image files must be in jpeg format, and labeled with the following format: LastName_FirstName_Title.
4. Image inventory corresponding to digital images indicating title, medium, dimensions, and year completed. Artist may also include 1-3 sentences about each piece.
5. If the artist intended to utilize a subcontractor for Phase I (renderings, models, etc.), the artist must include a proposed budget and the name(s) of proposed subcontractors.

All artists wishing to apply should do so through an online form on Craven Arts Council's website: www.cravenarts.org/zsrapp. Information and the full prospectus is also available on their website at www.cravenarts.org/zsrinfo.

About the Organizations

Tryon Palace, located in New Bern, North Carolina, was built as a restoration in 1959 to the specifications of the architectural drawings of John Hawks, architect of the original Governor's Palace, built by Royal Governor William Tryon between 1767 and 1770. During and after the Revolutionary War, the Governor's Palace played a crucial role in founding the new state of North Carolina as home to its elected governors and the site of the state legislature's first meetings. Furnished with rare 18th-century English and American antiques and decorative arts, the Palace is a testament to New Bern's

important place in early American history. The 28-acre historic site also features historic houses interpreting significant New Bern's history periods that began with Palatine and Swiss settlers in 1710.

Craven Arts Council & Gallery serves as a cultural resource to Craven and the surrounding counties, providing arts programming, grants, exhibitions, concerts, and more. This includes more than twenty annual exhibitions at Bank of the Arts in downtown New Bern, the Grassroots and Artist Support Grant program, our Arts & Gardening program, and partnerships with other local organizations to provide programming. A Designated County Partner of the North Carolina Arts Council, Craven Arts strives “to create an environment where the arts thrive, bring joy, and enrich the cultural experience in our community.”

Questions:

Please check out our Frequently Asked Questions at <https://www.cravenarts.org/zsrinfo.html> at the bottom of the page. Please contact Jonathan Burger, Craven Arts Council & Gallery at director@cravenarts.org with further questions regarding this RFQ.