

CALL TO ARTISTS: RECYCLED SCUPLTURE IN THE CITY OF FAIRFAX

City of Fairfax, VA

Submittal Deadline: 4 p.m. Monday, July 1, 2024

Award: \$ 4,500

Overview

The City of Fairfax Environment and Sustainability Division and the City of Fairfax Office of Cultural Arts seek proposals for a sculpture made out of recycled materials for the City. The goal of the sculpture is to raise awareness and inspire action towards waste reduction, recycling, and reducing pollution and litter in the community.

The City of Fairfax is dedicated to preserving the resources of our built and natural environment and to ensure our community has clean air and water, safe and healthy neighborhoods, a resilient economy, and access to housing and transportation choices.

In January of 2023, the City of Fairfax enacted a 5-cent tax on disposable plastic bags provided at point of sale to consumers at grocery stores, convenience stores, and drugstores. This tax aims to curb the overwhelming usage of single-use plastic bags. It is estimated that between one to five trillion plastic bags are used across the globe each year, with the average American family consuming 1,500 plastic bags a year. Many plastic bags end up as litter on streets and eventually degrade into the soil or are carried into local waterways, eventually flowing into rivers, bays and oceans. Broken down microplastics from plastic bags can never be taken out of the environment. Opting to use reusable grocery bags can drastically reduce the amount of plastic bags littered in the environment.

Revenues generated from the disposable plastic bag tax are restricted for specific uses via state code, which include (1) environmental cleanup, (2) providing education programs designed to reduce environmental waste, (3) mitigating pollution and litter, or (4) providing reusable bags to recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Women, Infants, and Children Program benefits.

The City is looking for a creative sculpture made out of recycled materials that can travel around the city, providing a visual display to teach the importance of waste reduction, recycling, and reducing pollution and litter in the community. Some examples of issues to inspire the sculpture should include:

- **Environmental Cleanup:** Highlight the importance of keeping our environment clean and the impact of collective efforts in cleaning up polluted areas.
- **Reduction of environmental waste:** Emphasize the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling, encouraging sustainable habits within the community.
- **Pollution and litter mitigation:** Address the issue of pollution and litter in our environment. The sculpture could serve as a visual reminder of the importance of proper waste disposal and the consequences of pollution.

Deadline

The deadline for all submissions in response to this call is 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2024

Eligibility

This call is open to all artists age 18 and above with preference given to those residing in Northern Virginia.

Submitted designs must be original artwork.

Artists are required to be a licensed business and be insured.

Juried Selection Process

Members of the City of Fairfax Public Art Committee and staff from Fairfax City will review the proposals. The selected design will be chosen and the artist notified by electronic mail by close of business on July 15, 2024.

Selection Criteria

The panel will use the following criteria:

- Artistic merit and graphic strength of the proposed design;
- Contribution to aesthetic and cultural atmosphere of the City;
- Appropriateness of subject and concept for a public space;
- Completeness of the submission as outlined in this announcement.

Artwork will be deemed inappropriate which portrays: content which violates copyright or other known legal ownership interest; profanity, obscenity, indecency, violence, pornography; discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality; defamation or personal attacks.

Artwork Location

The final home of this sculpture is to be determined. It will spend a year at various sites in the city, including but not limited to, City Hall, Sherwood Center, Daniel's Run Elementary and Providence Elementary.

Payment

The selected artist/artist team will be awarded \$4,500 for the design concept/supplies needed to execute the project. The City is willing to help collect recycled supplies that the artist might need. i.e., collect soda cans.

The City of Fairfax will own the copyrights and enjoy the unlimited, licensed use of the selected designs for program purposes. The City will not profit from the use of the art.

Submission Requirements

Please email all application materials to Megan DuBois megan.dubois@fairfaxva.gov . Please contact Megan with any questions.

Respondents should submit the following materials by 4 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2024

1. Artist/Team Name, Point of Contact, Business Name, Mailing Address, Telephone Number, Email Address, and Website.

2. Statement of Interest briefly addressing the concept, design, and how you approached the project.
3. One-page resume or curriculum vitae.

Submission Guidelines and Design Considerations:

1. Submitted designs must showcase original artwork.
2. The art may be a new original piece or an existing work of the artist and may not be on display in other public art programs (not including gallery exhibitions.)
3. Designs that incorporate commercial advertisement will not be considered.
4. Must be educational, designed to reduce environmental waste, mitigating pollution and litter.
5. Would like the mural to be accessible and equitable in design and concept. For example, if featuring text, also include multiple languages and/or braille. If including people, feature a display of the diversity in the City.

Timeline/Disclaimer

Announcement of Call to Artists/RFP Response: June 3, 2024

Response from Artists Due: July 1, 2024

Selection Committee Reviews Proposals: Early July

Selected Artist Contacted: July 15

Installation: August/September 2024

The City of Fairfax reserves the right to delay or reschedule, cancel or reissue this Call for Artists for any reason it deems necessary.

The City of Fairfax does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability or status as a U.S. veteran and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Inspiration Photos



Veronika Richterová, SEVEN ROSES, 2019, photo Michal Cihlář



Plastic Bag Monster