OKLAHOMA Arts



Oklahoma Art in Public Places
Project: Interstate 44 and N Martin Luther King Ave Underpass (OKC)

Installation Artwork

Deadline: January 10, 2027, 11:59 p.m. (CST)

Overview and Project Description

Artists and artist teams are invited to submit qualifications for the design and installation of artwork for an Oklahoma Art in Public Places project at Interstate 44 and N Martin Luther King Avenue in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC), in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), is seeking an artist or a collaborative artist team to create a meaningful artwork for the underpass. Selected artwork will be vetted in close consultation with ODOT for strict adherence to public safety standards and impact on structural integrity of the bridge over the underpass.

With an eye towards longevity, the artwork selected by the committee will have an expected lifespan exceeding fifteen years with minimal maintenance required. Artwork can be 2D or 3D but should not consist [solely] of murals painted directly onto the concrete underpasses.

Theme and Intent

The selected artwork will reflect the history, connections, and cultural landscape of the communities surrounding the underpass. As a gateway to Oklahoma City's Adventure District, the site offers an opportunity for the artwork to incorporate themes inspired by the district and its neighboring communities. The project will include meaningful community engagement to help inform and shape the artistic content. With Oklahoma City hosting several events for the 2028 Summer Olympics, the artwork is anticipated to be installed prior to the events, serving as a distinctive landmark and point of interest for both the community and visitors. The Olympics can play a role inspiring the artwork but cannot infringe on official Olympics trademarks or copyright content.

Educational Resources

Oklahoma City Black Neighborhood Oral History Collection

Nadine Stripling Smith on Carverdale

Kermy Hurte on Northeast OKC

Maurice Spears on Northeast OKC

Project Funds

The artist or artist teams will receive $350,000 to create the artwork. All costs associated with the public art project including, but not limited to, artist design fee, structural engineering, eligible materials, fabrication, insurance, transportation, installation, building or site modification, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected expenses, and any other costs related to the project are covered by the budget. All costs associated with the public art project are covered by this budget, and no additional funds will be available.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to artists and artist teams with prior experience in working on public art project budgets exceeding $200,000.

Application Requirements

Artists will complete an application form and provide support materials specified below. Please be sure to allow adequate time to submit your application as technical difficulties can occur. Applications that are mailed, emailed, faxed, or hand delivered will not be considered.

Proposals will not be accepted after the deadline January 10, 2027, 11:59 p.m. (CST)

Application materials include:

1. Resume/CV
    - If applying as a team, please include the team/studio resume. If a team/studio resume is not available, please combine the individual resumes of each team member into one document.
2. Five images of relevant previous work per member of team with a maximum of fifteen images. (10 images for 2 artists; 15 images maximum for 3 or more artists.)
    - Files can be up to 2MB. Images should be at least 72 dpi.
    - Please number images 1-5, etc., in the file name using this system,

#LastName,FirstName.jpg

3. Image descriptions

    - Please include title, medium, dimensions, and year for each artwork. You may also include a brief statement about each work (2 sentence maximum).

    - Number your descriptions, corresponding to the file names.

Selection Process

RFQ applications will be reviewed by the Director of Art in Public Places and the Art in Public Places team to ensure each artist application qualifies to be considered for the project. Review is based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Appropriateness of artwork to the goals of the project, as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Professional experience is adequate to meet the demands of the project, including working in a large scale.
- Availability to participate in the design, approval, and implementation of the project as required.

The list of qualified artists will be presented to the Public Art Selection Committee, consisting of one representative of the partnering agency, one artist, one arts professional, one art educator, two to five community representatives, and the Director of Art in Public Places. The selection committee will identify up to five finalists who will be invited to develop conceptual site-specific proposals after attending a mandatory orientation session with the project team and key stakeholders.

Each finalist will be paid an honorarium of $2,000 for the development and presentation of a conceptual design proposal. More information will be provided to artists who are selected as finalists. Artists residing greater than 60 miles from Oklahoma City are eligible to receive up to $2,000 stipend for participation in onsite meetings.

Tentative Timeline*

Application opens	November 2026
Application deadline	January 10, 2027, 11:59 p.m. (CST)
Notification of selected finalists	January 29
Mandatory finalist orientation session, in person	February 24

Finalist proposal development period	January 29-April 11
Finalist proposals due	April 11, 11:59 p.m. (CDT)
Finalist Presentations, virtual	April 13
Anticipated Notification of selected artists	May 7
Installation of artwork	by December 2027

Rights and Licensing

Commissioned artist shall grant a noncommercial license for promotional use of the artwork images and will sign a licensing fee agreement for commercial use of artwork images. Copyright remains with the artist unless otherwise negotiated.

Once selected, the artist or artist team will work with the Oklahoma Arts Council, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and other project stakeholders to coordinate the project and installation schedule.

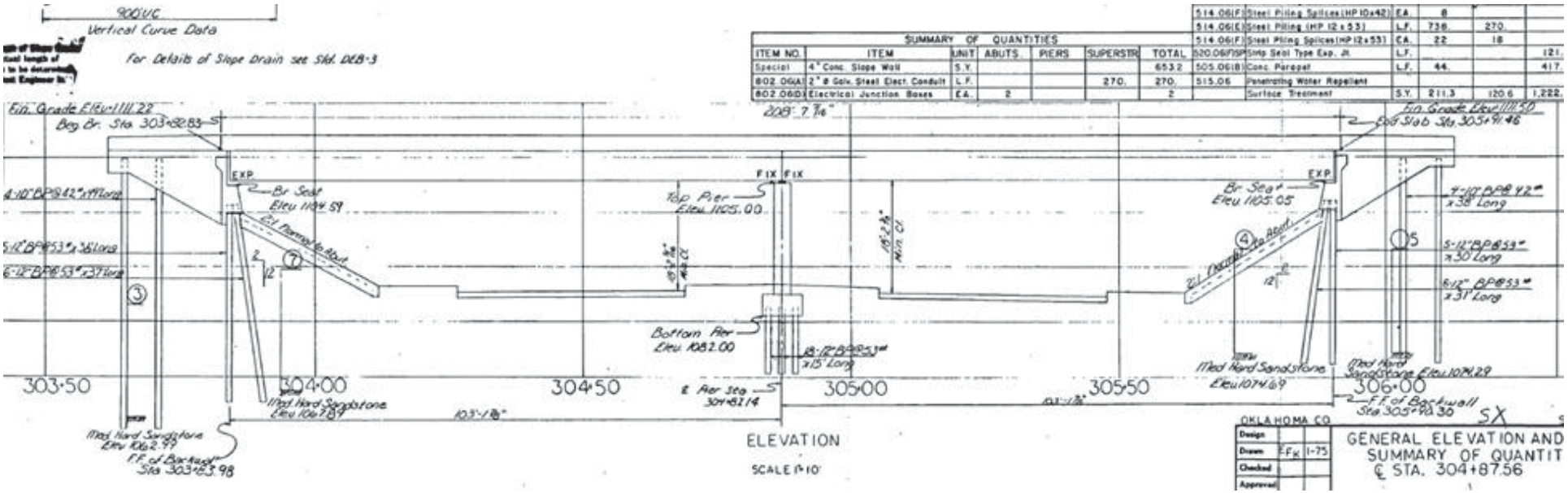
Questions/Follow up

Please direct questions or requests for additional information to Erin Latham, PhD, Director of Art in Public Places, at erin.latham@arts.ok.gov or (405) 574-2402.




16 FT. 2 IN


SOUTH
TO
40
N Martin Luther King Ave



ELEVATION

SCALE 1"=10'

SUMMARY OF QUANTITIES											
ITEM NO.	ITEM	UNIT	ABUTS.	PIERS	SUPERSTR.	TOTAL	520.06(F)SP	Strip Seal Type Exp. Jt.	L.F.			121.
Special	4" Conc. Slope Wall	S.Y.			653.2	653.2	505.06(B)	Conc. Parapet	L.F.	44.		417.
802.06(A)	2" ø Galv. Steel Elect. Conduit	L.F.			270.	270.	515.06	Penetrating Water Repellent				
802.06(D)	Electrical Junction Boxes	EA.	2			2		Surface Treatment	S.Y.	211.3	120.6	1,222.
514.06(F)	Steel Piling Splices (HP 10x42)	EA.	8									
514.06(E)	Steel Piling (HP 12 x 53)	L.F.	736	270								
514.06(F)	Steel Piling Splices (HP 12x53)	EA.	22	18								

OKLAHOMA CO.

Design		
Drawn	F.F.K.	I-75
Checked		
Approved		

GENERAL ELEVATION AND SUMMARY OF QUANTIT
℄ STA. 304+87.56