

CALL FOR ARTISTS

# Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Hub RTP Outdoor Murals

**Date Issued:**

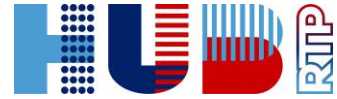
April 1, 2024, at 8:30 AM ET

**Responses Due:**

Phase 1: May 3, 2024, at 5:00 PM ET

Phase 2: July 26, 2024 at 5:00 PM ET

Phase 3: January 3, 2025 at 5:00 PM ET



Submit qualifications to [hub.rtp.org/???](https://hub.rtp.org/???)

## Synopsis and Background

The Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina (RTF) invites artists or artist teams to submit their qualifications for the **Hub RTP Outdoor Murals** project in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Within this RFQ, there are 11 project locations. Based on the submissions, RTF will select up to three finalists per location. These finalists will be awarded a stipend to create a proposal for their intended design, materials, installation timeline and maintenance plan. The stipend awarded will be between \$300-\$1,000, depending on the size of the project.

These 11 locations have been divided into three phases of consideration and implementation. RFQs will be accepted on a rolling basis and the detailed timeline below indicates all deadlines. Artist(s) and artist teams are encouraged to indicate all project locations they are interested in and qualified for on their application. Only one application is necessary.

### About Hub RTP

Hub RTP is Research Triangle Park's new, vibrant downtown. A \$1.5 billion mixed-use project, Hub RTP is an amenity-rich community that will bring 1 million square feet of office and lab space, 1,000 residential units, retail, and 250 hotel rooms at the heart of the Park, transforming RTP into a destination for workers, families, and residents of the greater Triangle region. Hub RTP is scheduled to open its first phase in Q4 2024.

### About the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina

The Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization that manages and stewards Research Triangle Park (RTP). Since its inception in 1959, RTF has been guided by the same core mission: to facilitate collaboration among the Triangle universities, promote cooperation between the universities and industry, and create an economic impact for the residents of North Carolina. RTF is committed to creating a thriving business environment, promoting economic development, and facilitating strategic partnerships that benefit our region and state. Through its commitment to fostering connections, environmental stewardship, innovation and collaboration, the RTF invests in programs that cultivate vibrant communities within the RTP.

### About our Community Art Plan at Hub RTP

As the Research Triangle Park continues to evolve and expand with the developments on the Hub RTP campus, it is vital that arts, culture and diversity play a pivotal role in nurturing a sense of community unity and vibrancy throughout the region. Through strategic placement of diverse art types in key areas, we aim to invite both visitors and residents to explore the rich natural surroundings while engaging with a curated collection of captivating installations. A combination of both permanent and rotating public art programming will infuse Hub RTP with elements of illumination, discovery, cultural significance & a local narrative (RTP-focused tech innovation and development - See Resources), ultimately creating spaces for connection and promoting inclusivity within Hub RTP.

This curated art collection will not only enhance the ambiance of the gathering spaces but will also solidify Hub RTP as the standard for contemporary living in the heart of the Research Triangle. Through art, we aim to connect, inspire, and engage the people who visit, live and work in this innovative region. \*

\* *Community Art Plan created in partnership with Nine dot Arts.*

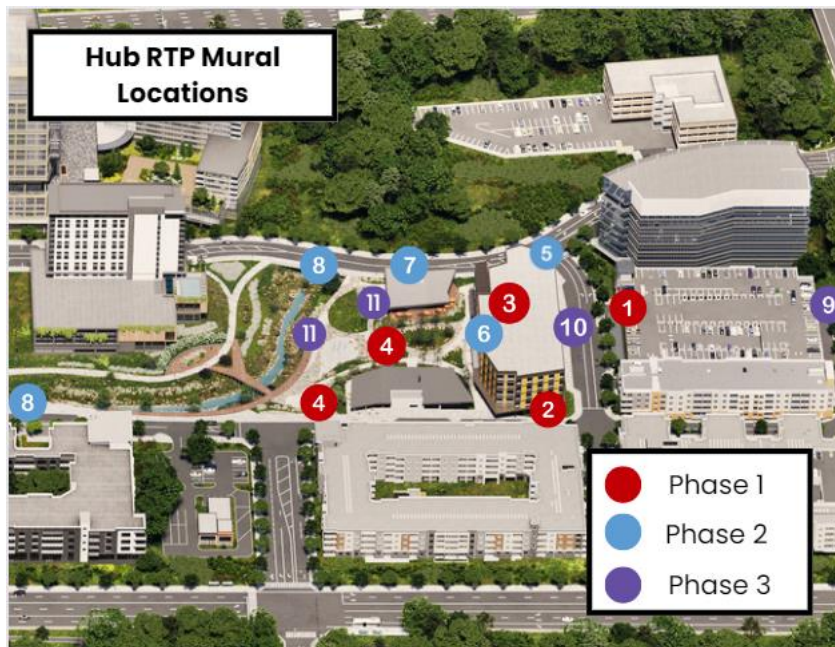
## Project Description and Process

### Project Goals

The artworks commissioned as a result of this RFQ should strive to achieve or engage with one or more of following project goals:

- Cultivate a sense of place and community at Hub RTP.
- Reflect the values and aspirations that underlie the Research Triangle Park, including promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, creativity, and collaboration in the STEM fields and startup cultures.
- Engage and connect artistically with the Hub RTP campus (e.g., through its architecture, natural features, brand alignment, or other elements).
- Create complimentary work to the Hub RTP brand guidelines. Usage of colors and symbols are by no means required or necessarily encouraged, however they should be considered during ideation.
- Reflect the culture(s) of the broader Triangle and North Carolina at large, in line with RTF's mission to all residents of North Carolina.

### Maps of Locations





## Timeline and Phased Installations

The installation of 11 mural projects will be phased on the Hub RTP campus over 2024 and 2025. The schedule below reflects the expected timeline at the launch of this RFQ, but is subject to change. Project timelines vary per location, with some projects being commissioned immediately for Phase 1 (locations marked in **red**).

Once finalists have been selected for each Phase, they will be given a stipend, location specific details, as well as a date to come back out and tour the site in person.

April 1	At 8am: Launch <b>Phase 1</b> RFQ
May 13	At 5pm: <b>Phase 1</b> RFQ closes
May 24	<b>Phase 1</b> finalists notified
June 21	<b>Phase 1</b> finalists' proposal concepts due
July 8	<b>Phase 1</b> jobs awarded, feedback given, installation timeline mapped out (September)
July 26	At 5pm: <b>Phase 2</b> RFQ closes
August 9	<b>Phase 2</b> finalists notified
Sept 6	<b>Phase 2</b> finalists' proposal concepts due
Sept 20	<b>Phase 2</b> jobs awarded, feedback given, installation timeline mapped out (November)
Jan 3 '25	At 5pm: <b>Phase 3</b> RFQ closes
Jan 17	<b>Phase 3</b> finalists notified
Feb 14	<b>Phase 3</b> finalists' proposal concepts due
March 3	<b>Phase 3</b> jobs awarded, feedback given, installation timeline mapped out (March/April)

## Budget

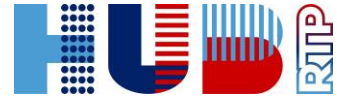
The shortlisted finalists for each of the 11 project locations in RFQ will be asked to submit a budget with their proposal. The budget should be inclusive of artist compensation and materials needed to perform the project. Materials can be defined as, but not limited to, primer, paint, anti-graffiti sealer, anti-slip, brushes, lifts, and other installation materials necessary to complete the mural. Artist(s) will need to provide and coordinate any scaffolding or lifts required for the mural installation, if applicable. RTF can provide access to a 32-foot scissor lift, free of charge, with proof of OSHA compliance certification and proof of insurance.

## Description of Locations

Hub RTP can provide the following at each project location, unless otherwise negotiated:

- Pressure washing the location before installation.
- Secure, onsite overnight storage for supplies.
- Coordination of road and/or sidewalk closures during installation, if applicable.
- A 32-foot scissor lift, with proof of OSHA compliance certification and proof of insurance

DESCRIPTIONS, PHOTOS, SQFT, BUILDING MATERIALS COMING SOON.



## Artists Requirements and Submission

### Artist Responsibilities

1. The selected artist(s) or artist team(s) shall be responsible for the design and installation of one or more murals on the Hub RTP site within the agreed upon timeline.
2. The final description of services, budget and/or items to be provided by RTF is subject to negotiations with the selected artist(s) or artist team(s) and final approval by RTF.
3. The selected artist(s), with RTF approval, can choose their preferred paint/stain materials, provided that the proposed materials are safe and reliable for use based on the location they are selected to complete. RTF's preference is for durable materials that will extend the life of the mural for 2-3 years or longer. RTF may also require the selected paint/stain to be mixed with a non-slip additive to avoid surfaces becoming slippery once installation is complete, if applicable. Proposed materials should fit within the overall compensation budget per location.
4. Artist(s) or artist team(s) must be local to North Carolina. RTF will not pay travel fees.
5. Work shall be scheduled and conducted in a professional, cooperative manner.
6. Selected artist(s) or artist team(s), with the assistance of RTF, shall ensure that they and their employees have any required licenses and/or permits to perform the work and have adequate liability insurance (\$250,000).

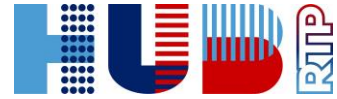
### Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Major criteria to be considered in the evaluation may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the items referred to above and those set forth below.

1. **Artistic excellence:** The artist's work reflects artistic excellence, innovation, and originality as evidenced by quality of craftsmanship and mastery of skills and techniques; demonstrates professional approaches to processes and presentation; and/or communicates a unique vision or perspective.
2. **Professional experience:** The artist's professional experience is adequate to meet the demands of the project, including a proven ability to meet project budgets, deadlines, and to perform work in a timely and professional manner. Public art experience is required.
3. **Experience working on projects of similar scale:** The artist's previous work specifically demonstrates the successful completion of projects that include partnering with stakeholders for the purpose of creating public art of this size/scale.

Following review of applications, the selection committee will shortlist up to three artists or artist teams and ask them to develop design proposals for each of the project locations. The stipends awarded to finalists will vary by location, ranging between \$300-\$1,000.

This RFQ does not oblige the Research Triangle Foundation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response. Furthermore, the RFQ does not oblige RTF to accept or contract for any expressed or implied services. RTF reserves the right to reject all submittals. RTF is committed to a program of equal employment opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, nationality, or disability.



## Submission Requirements & Eligibility

This project is open to all artists or artist teams, age 18 and over, who are local to North Carolina. Artist(s) and teams are responsible for their own lodging and transportation throughout the duration of the project. Artist(s) should have significant experience with public art and murals.

Responses to this RFQ must include the following elements:

1. **Artist Statement of Interest:** Please include a statement of interest in the project of up to two pages that addresses:
  - o Your vision for the project and interest in specific locations, if applicable.
  - o How your vision incorporates one or more of the goals articulated in this RFQ
  - o A *general* description of the materials you would use for the project
  - o Any other information you feel is relevant to understanding your qualifications and vision for the project
  - o Please include a statement agreeing to provide proof of a current, general liability insurance policy for at least \$250,000.
  - o Please include if you have an OSHA certificate of compliance to operate a scissor lift.
2. **Available Projects:** Select all projects you and your team are interested in. *Note: These projects are broken into 3 implementation phases.*
3. **Resume:** A current resume (or current resumes for teams), including contact information, of up to two pages per resume. Please include links to artist websites on resumes, if available.
4. **Artwork samples:** Submit at least three images of previous applicable work, from at least 3 unique projects with an image list including date, location, collaborators, size, and medium.
5. **References:** Contact information for two professional references (teachers, employers, co-workers, artistic collaborators, etc.) you have worked with in the last five years. Please indicate the specific projects and photos, if applicable.

Qualifications should be submitted via form at [hub.rtp.org/???](http://hub.rtp.org/???).

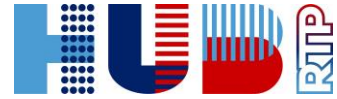
## Resources

### Brand Guidelines

TBD

### Existing Art on Campus

Public art is a well-established part of successful destinations, developments, downtowns, and neighborhoods throughout the United States and internationally. Public art adds vibrancy to public spaces and incorporates local culture and history into the fabric of regional destinations. As RTP leads RTP into its seventh decade, incorporating key elements such as public art to create vibrant public spaces and amenities will anchor RTP as a premiere innovation district and become a component of RTP's overall strategy to adapt to the changing workplaces of the future and to the growth patterns of the Triangle region.



To date, RTF has undertaken several public art projects. These existing projects reflect RTF's ambition to establish Hub RTP and its components as a regional destination for innovation, vibrancy, start-up culture, and collaboration.

### **Frontier Buildings – Interior Art by Linda Bailey**

Artist Linda Bailey has been providing rotating artworks in Frontier buildings 600, 700, and 800 since 2019. These artworks are provided free of charge to RTF and are available for direct sale from the artist. These artworks add pops of color and interest to lobby areas and hallways throughout Frontier's buildings through this partnership.

### **Research Triangle Park Headquarters (RTP HQ) – Rotating Exhibitions curated by Durham Art Guild**

Durham Art Guild (DAG) operates public visual arts galleries that feature the work of regional artists, and provide valuable resources, connections and encouragement through a variety of opportunities for all members and non-member artists as well as arts enthusiasts. The Guild is also committed to providing arts education and community outreach services to cultivate and enrich the awareness and appreciation of the significance of art by featuring diverse exhibitions and innovative programming aimed at elevating and connecting the regional cultural arts community.

Between 20–30 pieces of art rotate every six months at the RTP HQ through the DAG Art@Work Program. To date, this program has featured artists Jill Hunt, Ruth Smith, BC Crabtree, Steevie Jane Parks, and Robyn Scott.

### **Boxyard RTP– Mural by Gabriel Eng-Goetz**

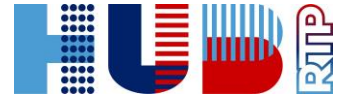
*Rebirth*, by Gabe Eng-Goetz, is the first mural installed on the Hub RTP campus, located on the concrete masonry unit (CMU) at Boxyard RTP.

Purpose: This mural was commissioned to breathe life into the CMU at Boxyard RTP. The architectural concept of our site is gritty, playful, vibrant, and community centered. We wanted a mainstay piece that embodied these qualities and served as destination within Boxyard. In terms of the artist, we targeted NC artist over the age of 21. For the final selection, we conducted internal “blind tastings” of the works to create an equitable process.

Concept: In Gabe's own words: “This piece embodies the diverse entrepreneurial spirit of RTP and Boxyard. An explosion of color attracts patrons to experience a visual feast of ancient symbols and current themes. Stylized brains float amongst a rising phoenix and dragon, both symbols of harmony and good fortune, surrounded by lotus flowers showing growth and symbiosis with nature. The Triangle has become a diverse, hard-working community over the years opening its arms to the immigrant community. As a Chinese American artist myself, this piece is a testament to the American dream that so many people from around the world have come to North Carolina seeking to find.”

### **Frontier RTP– Roadway Murals by Monique Luck**

*Seeds of Growth*, by Monique Luck, is a series of six roadway murals along Park Offices Drive through the Hub RTP campus.



Purpose: These roadway murals were commissioned to add vibrancy to Frontier RTP, setting apart the entrepreneurial energy found here versus your average suburban office park. Roadway murals at intersection locations have also been shown to improve safety for non-motorized roadway users. With the addition of sidewalks along Park Offices Drive in 2022, the further addition of roadway murals not only advances the campus's public art, but also improves safety for users who walk or bike at Frontier RTP. North Carolina artists age 21+ were eligible to respond to the artist RFQ. An artist selection was made based on qualifications.

Concept: In Monique's own words: "Colors flow brightly in energizing and whimsical shapes incorporating a seeds of growth theme. The artwork is inspired from the idea of seeds of local flora germinating and growing expanding. The concept reflects the innovative, nurturing, and inspiring location that allows start-ups and creative ideas to germinate and grow and thrive freely in the Research Triangle Park. The artwork captures the forward momentum and continued growth of the collaborative business environment now and into the future with endless possibilities."

### RTP Innovations

TBD

### Web resources

Websites: [Frontier RTP](#), [Boxyard RTP](#), [HUB RTP Art in RTP](#), and [Research Triangle Park](#)

IG Profiles: [Frontier RTP](#), [Boxyard RTP](#), [HUB RTP](#), [the RTP](#), [RTP DEI Collective](#)

[@TheRTP Youtube](#)

[Art Playlist](#)