REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS NO. 787-15
ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Courthouse 2.0: Reimagining the Civic (working title)

COURTHOUSE 2.0: REIMAGING THE CIVIC

Arlington County, Virginia, is seeking qualifications from artists or artist teams interested in creating temporary public art projects and/or activations that would be commissioned as part of Courthouse 2.0: Reimagining the Civic—an ongoing, multi-year initiative aimed at imagining Courthouse Square as an engaging, creative space where Arlington explores its civic future.

DEADLINE: JUNE 19TH AT 11:59pm

QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH WWW.ARLINGTON.SLIDEROOM.COM
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION NO. 787-15

QUALIFICATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED AT WWW.ARLINGTON.SLIDEROOM.COM UNTIL 11:59 P.M. EST ON THE 19th DAY OF JUNE, 2015 FOR:

TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY
COURTHOUSE 2.0: REIMAGING THE CIVIC (working title) – COURTHOUSE SQUARE

OVERVIEW

Arlington County, Virginia, is seeking qualifications from artists or artist teams interested in creating temporary public art projects and/or activations that would be commissioned as part of Courthouse 2.0: Reimagining the Civic —an ongoing, multi-year initiative aimed at imagining Courthouse Square as an engaging, creative space where Arlington explores its civic future.

Reimagining the Civic will serve as a platform for a multitude of creative activities. The programming will encompass a variety of projects including, but not limited, to temporary/semi-temporary public art, performances, lectures, exhibitions and pop-up activations. Arlington Cultural Affairs is organizing this initiative in collaboration with the County’s Urban Design and Research group (UD+R).

Arlington Public Art will be seeking a minimum of four artists or teams who will be commissioned to create projects in the first year of Reimagining the Civic, starting in fall, 2015. Reimagining the Civic is a working project title. We anticipate re-issuing this call in the future to recruit artists for subsequent years.

ABOUT

Arlington County has embarked on a long-range community planning effort, Envision Courthouse!, whose purpose is to re-imagine the County’s civic center and create a great public destination. The County’s vision is to create a state-of-the-art government center and a signature public space as a critical component to encourage the development of the area, which historically has been the seat of County government and is now anchored by the Courthouse Metrorail station.

While planning for Envision Courthouse! will conclude this year, major public and private investment — including a signature public space — are still years away. In the meantime, Arlington Public Art is organizing Courthouse 2.0: Reimagining the Civic as a near-term public art initiative aimed at stirring public conversation about the future of Courthouse Square by exploring the interaction between civic space and civic life in the 21st Century.

UD+R, which is leading the Envision Courthouse! process, is a County agency whose role is to provide a platform for an ongoing discussion about the urban planning, development and design that ensures Arlington remain an attractive, functional and sustainable community for generations to come.
Arlington Public Art has been commissioning public art for thirty years. Most of its efforts have been focused on commissioning artworks that are incorporated into County facilities and infrastructure, and in overseeing developers’ public art commissions that result from the County’s site plan process. Courthouse 2.0: Reimagining the Civic — a curated, cohesive, place-based, time-based public art initiative — is a new endeavor for the program.

GOALS

- Activate the Courthouse Square area with vibrant cultural programming and creative interventions.
- Use the area as an en plein air laboratory and incubator for public art projects.
- Reinforce the area as Arlington’s civic center.
- Connect people to the Envision Courthouse! recommendations.
- Explore the relationship between civic life and public space.
- Lay the groundwork for the emergence of Courthouse Square as a great public destination.
- Forefront the contributions artists can make to civic dialogue, visioning and investment in public space.

PROJECT EXPECTATIONS

Audience/Engagement
Audience engagement will be priority for all projects. Arlington Public Art is especially interested in projects that involve direct participation by the audience on-site, and in projects that produce a record / documentation of that participation that can be presented during and after the project. The approach to public participation should be related to the artist’s thinking about the nature of civic engagement and civic space in Arlington County.

Timeframe and Scheduling of Projects
Arlington Public Art expects projects to begin in the fall of 2015. The specific schedule will be determined once projects are selected, and will be dependent on the nature of the projects and mix of other events and activities that are occurring as part of the Envision Courthouse! implementation process. Courthouse 2.0: Reimagining the Civic will include a minimum of four activations a year.

Arlington Public Art will develop a master schedule for the selected projects, once the artists are identified and their projects are approved. The goals are to have a fairly regular, visible and active presence of public art and other cultural programming in the Courthouse area and to take advantage of times of day and times of the week that are busiest. Therefore, projects generally should take place during the business day, especially around midday, late afternoon or early evening. Projects could connect with scheduled activities, such as the Saturday morning Courthouse Farmers Market or monthly County Board meetings, or they could be related to milestone or threshold events related to the Envision Courthouse! project.
Locations/Sites
Projects should be sited in locations that are visible, accessible and well-trafficked, such as the east end of Courthouse Plaza. It is preferable that projects are located in one of the existing public spaces around the future Courthouse Square or inside the lobby of Courthouse Plaza (2100 Clarendon Blvd), as indicated on map. Artists can propose other sites for projects if they desire. Arlington Public Art will make best efforts to secure permissions for using the spaces that artist’s request, and to supply basic needs such as power, water and WiFi.

MARKETING
Arlington Public Art and UD+R will organize marketing and public relations outreach, tying into the communications channels each has developed for their programs, as well as broader general and art-specific media.

ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS
This call is open to emerging and established artists working in any media. Artists need not be based in Arlington or the Washington, D.C., area, but must be able to make enough commitment to being in Arlington to understand the site, organize and install a project, and be present for public events related to their project. In addition to soliciting artists through this call, Arlington Public Art staff may invite or directly select some artists for consideration.

FEE
Arlington Public Art has structured the fee into three tiers: projects costing up to $1,000; up to $5,000 and up to $10,000. Project budgets are all inclusive. The fee will be determined based on the scope and materials of the final project.

HOW TO SUBMIT QUALIFICATIONS:
Qualifications must be submitted through SlideRoom, an online system for applying to requests for qualifications. There is no charge to artists to use SlideRoom. If you are a first-time user, please allow adequate time to learn the system. Qualifications will not be accepted after the deadline. To submit your qualifications for consideration for this project, go to https://arlington.slideroom.com. Sign up for a free SlideRoom account and then navigate to Public Art and search for RFQ 787-15.

A COMPLETE SUBMISSION MUST INCLUDE ALL THE INFORMATION AND MATERIALS DESCRIBED BELOW. ALL MATERIALS CAN ONLY BE SUBMITTED THROUGH SLIDEROOM.

1. Statement of Interest. Describe on one page (5000 characters, including spaces, maximum) your interest in the project and preliminary ideas for how you would approach this project. Submitting a
specific proposal is not required at this time. Within your statement, we would like you to address the following questions:

- What inspires you about this project, and how does it intersect with your artistic practice?
- What do civic life and civic space mean to you?
- How has your past work addressed civic exchange, community and/or public space?
- What is your experience with / interest in audience engagement, as we are envisioning it?
- If you are from outside the region, how would you maintain the presence necessary for your project to succeed?
- What directions would you like to explore, if selected?

2. Résumé. Maximum of three pages outlining your professional accomplishments. If submitting as a team, please include résumés for each team member, with each résumé being no longer than three pages.

3. Images of Past Work. Artists/teams must submit ten images of past work. Please do not include label information in the JPEG image. One image per JPEG is preferred. If you must use multiple images to convey a project’s complexity, please include no more than three views per JPEG composite.

4. Three Professional References, including name, affiliated organization (if appropriate), email address, phone number, and relationship to each reference.

**ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE**

Deadline for submission of qualifications  
**JUNE 19**th, **2015 11:59PM**

Interviews with selected artist(s)/Notification of non-selection  
**JULY 2015**

Award of Contract  
**AUGUST 2015**

Proposals finalized by selected artist/team  
**SEPTEMBER 2015**

Projects installed at Courthouse  
FALL 2015 and continuing through FALL 2016

**QUESTIONS**

Questions about this request for qualifications can be submitted to publicart@arlingtonva.us.