

NEW HANOVER COUNTY
PARKS & GARDENS- AIRLIE GARDENS
OUTDOOR SUMMER ART EXHIBIT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION

Call for public artist or team of artists for a sculpture exhibit at Airlie Gardens.

Summary:

Airlie Gardens, located at 300 Airlie Road in Wilmington, N.C., invites experienced artists or teams of artists qualified to produce or provide a collection of 10-14 large outdoor sculptures to be exhibited throughout the garden from June 30th-September 30th 2018.

Qualifications must be submitted no later than **October 17, 2017, by 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.**
There is no fee to submit an application.

NOTE: Sculpture exhibit will need to be completed and begin installation no later than June 25th 2018. Artist must be flexible, and willing to work with Garden Staff on the timing of the installation in order to meet the project's deadlines.

Airlie Art Exhibit Overview

Airlie Gardens, a premiere garden of the coastal South, features 67-acres of walking paths, formal gardens, seasonal blooms, mighty live oaks, historic structures, and contemporary sculpture. As a member of the North Carolina Birding Trail, its diverse ecosystems provide unique habitats for a variety of colorful wildlife.

Our mission is to ensure and help preserve Airlie Gardens as an outstanding, historic public garden with cultural and environmental programs developed to serve New Hanover County residents and other visitors.

In 2013, Airlie Gardens hosted its first Summer Art Exhibit, *Ribbit the Exhibit* by Andy Cobb. Airlie has continued this tradition of inviting local artists to display a collection of sculptures throughout the grounds each summer.

Airlie Gardens is accepting artist(s) applications for the 2018 Summer Art Exhibit, June 30th – Sept. 30th. We are looking for a collection of 10-14 large sculptures to strategically place throughout the grounds for visiting guests to enjoy as part of their garden experience. Our hope for this exhibit is that the collection appeals to all age groups and families. This exhibit is outdoor only. An artist's collection would be selected based on creativity, craftsmanship, use of

materials, the ability to appeal to all age groups, outdoor sustainability and durability. Preference would be given to collections that possess a creative use of color, include pieces larger than 2+ feet in scale, are relevant to nature and suitable for a marine environment and all forms of weather.

Eligibility: Open to artists who live in South Eastern United States. North Carolina artists are particularly encouraged to submit an application. Age requirement 18+.

Project Budget: \$20,000

Inclusive of all artist's fees and associated expenses for design, fabrication, insurance, transportation and installation.

Site and Art Requirements

- Outdoor Sustainable Art only (must be able to remain outdoors in all conditions for 3 - months' time).
- A collection of 10-14 sculptures (quantity may vary slightly based on size)
- 3-D Art
- Pieces should be self-supporting, including having their own bases, stakes, anchors, supports, and Artist must notify Airlie staff in advance of any pieces that may require additional installation processes (ex. suspended from trees, special mounting for placement) these must be approved in advance.
- Final exhibit pieces are to be approved by Airlie staff prior to installation. Airlie has the right to refuse any pieces determined unsuitable for public display.
- Artists will have the option of making their pieces available for sale; pieces will not be available for buyers to collect until after the exhibition has ceased on Oct. 4th 2018.
- Airlie Gardens will retain 10% of profits from any piece sold during exhibition
- If pieces are selected for display, artists will be required to send images of work or works similar that are 300dpi for print material and marketing purposes.
- Artist must be available for delivery and installation of piece in person, 5-7 days prior to the exhibit opening date and remain readily available to speak with media for in-person or phone interviews.
- Artists are encouraged, but not required, to provide small pieces of work to sell in the Airlie Gardens Gift Shop during the exhibit period. Pieces should not exceed a wholesale cost of \$20-\$100. Gift Shop buyer retains the right to select items based on shop relevance. Larger pieces will be considered for consignment, in which Airlie would retain 25%, if items sold.

Entry Requirements

Submissions are preferred via email. Hard copies are also accepted but must be postmarked by October 13th 2017. Submissions should be emailed to rpearce@nhcgov.com, and mailed to: Airlie Gardens, Attn: Rebecca Pearce, 300 Airlie Road Wilmington, NC 28403. A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of submission.

Artists wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

- 1) Statement of interest
 - a. A one-page statement outlining your interest in the project, your experience working on similar projects, and how your existing work complements this project. This can also include sketches and images. Please directly address your experience working with other organizations/businesses and with project teams.
- 2) Professional resume
- 3) Three relevant professional references
 - a. Contact information for three references – name, title and affiliation, phone number and email address. Please provide references who can speak to your ability to create a conceptual sculpture.
- 4) Between 2 to 6 images, or examples, of recent work. These images should showcase your design aesthetic, and demonstrate your skills in designing, building, and installing large outdoor work. Do not include concepts that did not come to fruition.

Selection Criteria and Process

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose body of work best meets the requirements and evaluation criteria contained in this Project Outline.

The Selection Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria: artistic merit and technical expertise; a proven successful, innovative and effective approach art projects of similar scope; ability to successfully execute a public art project; and expressed interest in creating artwork within this community setting.

The Selection Panel will review all applications and select finalists based on the evaluation criteria. Interviews will be conducted with the finalists before a final decision is made. A specific proposal for the exhibit is not expected at the time of the interview.

Project timeline

RFQ application deadline:	October 17, 2017
Finalists Notified:	October 25, 2017
Finalists interviewed:	October 30 – November 1, 2017
Project Awarded:	Week of November 10, 2017
Project Installation:	June 25-29, 2018

Submission and Deadline:

All RFQ materials must be received no later than October 17, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. Eastern

Standard Time. Applicants are encouraged to submit in advance so that any unforeseen problems or questions regarding materials can be addressed. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered. If you do not receive email notice that your application was received, please call (910)798-7700.

The County reserves the right to reject any and all qualification statements received in response to this solicitation.

Additional Information

For more information, please contact: Rebecca Pearce, rpearce@nhcgov.com, Airlie Gardens
300 Airlie Road, Wilmington, NC 28403.