

## Call to Artists/Artist Design Teams

### Request for Qualifications

### Heritage Trail Public Art - Traffic Signal Cabinets and Utility Boxes

**Artist Stipend: \$3,000 per Artist/Artist Group**

**Deadline to Submit Materials: 5:00 PM (EST) Friday, January 31, 2020**

### Project Description

Launched in 2019 by Erie Arts & Culture, with preliminary funding from the Erie Community Foundation, New Horizons empowers residents, merchants, community organizers, artists, and culture-bearers to actively be involved in shaping the social character and built environment in their neighborhoods. The initiative, in the first three years, invests in the City of Erie's urban core. This includes neighborhoods located within the zip codes of 16501, 16502, 16503, and 16507.

As part of New Horizons, Erie Arts & Culture is accepting qualifications from visual artists, including graphic designers, residing in Erie County for a public art opportunity. Finished artwork for this project will be incorporated into vinyl wraps covering traffic signal cabinets and utility boxes throughout the urban core. Artwork should be aesthetically compelling while also communicating aspects of Erie's identity, both past and present.

We are seeking artists with strong portfolios who are flexible and available to collaborate with project stakeholders on design and able to present their artwork in a print-ready digital format. The artists selected will create and submit a design proposal based on community and stakeholder input. Once awarded a contract, artists will be expected to lead the production of the artwork from concept to delivery. The production and installation of vinyl wraps is not part of the artist's scope of work.

### Project Budget

Each artist awarded a contract will be paid a \$3,000 design fee. 50% will be paid at the signing of the contract. 25% will be paid upon the approval of the preliminary design. The remaining 25% will be paid upon the submission of the final design.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of Erie County.
- Applicants do not need a formal education in the arts, but must demonstrate a commitment to their artistic discipline and process.

## **Project Goals and Scope**

The goal of this project is to beautify existing traffic signal cabinets and utility boxes, which are often targets of graffiti and vandalism. This project will also provide the Erie community and visitors to the area with greater access to visual art. The finished design should communicate aspects of Erie's identity, both past and present and encourage pedestrian travel of Erie's urban core.

Each artist awarded a contract will be responsible for providing designs for eight boxes.

The vinyl wraps have an estimated lifespan of 5-years but may be removed at any time depending on their condition and at the discretion of Erie Arts & Culture and the City of Erie.

A total of three contracts will be awarded for this opportunity, covering 24 boxes in total.

## **Description of Location**

Erie Arts & Culture will work with the City of Erie and the Erie Neighborhood Growth Partnership to select the traffic signal cabinets and utility boxes for this project. Locations will be determined based on neighborhood organization's strategic plans, the City of Erie's comprehensive plan, and will support the City of Erie's active transportation plan.

Boxes will be located within the following geographic parameters.

- 18th Street north to the Bayview pathway
- Cascade Street east to Reed Street

## **Application Requirements**

- Artist (or team) biography
- C.V. emphasizing relevant experience, whether in graphic design, public art, or working with public agencies or private clients. If applying as a team, please include resumes for all team members.
- Artist statement that emphasizes the nature of your work and your artistic process.
- Letter of Interest
  - Why are you interested in proposing artwork for this project?
  - What are some previous projects that you completed, if any, that are relatable to this project in size, scope, and budget?
  - What is your methodology for community engagement?
- Examples of past work (up to 10 images)
- Artist website and/or social media
- Additional explanatory text about specific artworks may be added, although this is not required.

## **Application Submission Instructions**

All materials should be submitted by Friday, January 31, 2020 by 5:00 PM EST.

Materials can be emailed to Chanel Cook, Director of Programs and Community Relationships, at [chanel@erieartsandculture.org](mailto:chanel@erieartsandculture.org). If an applicant desires to send hard copies they can do so using the following mailing address:

Erie Arts & Culture  
% Chanel Cook  
RE: Neighborhood Residencies  
23 West 10th Street  
Suite 2  
Erie, PA 16501

## **Selection Process and Criteria**

Submissions will be evaluated by the staff of Erie Arts & Culture, staff of the City of Erie, and members of the Erie Neighborhood Growth Partnership. Selections will be based upon the overall quality and merit of the artists' past works.

## **Timeline**

**December 30, 2019:** Distribute RFQ

**January 31, 2020 (5:00 PM EST):** RFQ submission deadline

**February 14, 2020:** Artist selected, notified, and sent a copy of contract

**February 21, 2020:** Contract signed

**February 24-March 20, 2020:** Public input gathered

**May 25, 2020:** Final artwork due

**June 2020:** Installation of vinyl wraps

## **Commitment to Equity**

Erie Arts & Culture is committed to championing policies and practices of equity that empower a just, inclusive, and equitable region. We recognize that many existing systems of power grant privilege and access unequally, and that equity is crucial to the long-term viability of both the arts and culture sector and communities-at-large.

## **About Erie Arts & Culture**

Founded in 1960 as the Arts Council of Erie, Erie Arts & Culture is the Local Arts Agency (LAA) for Northwest Pennsylvania and partner of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA). Our role is to promote, support, and develop arts and culture at the regional level; ensuring broad opportunities for residents and tourists throughout communities in Erie, Crawford, Venango, Warren, Mercer, and Lawrence counties to engage with the sector educationally, socially, and economically. Our presence ensures that all communities - regardless of their geographic location or economic status - are systematically and equitably served.

In support of our mission, Erie Arts & Culture:

- Provides tools, resources, and financial support to individuals and organizations that specifically utilize arts and culture as a platform to engage the broader community.

- Grows the capacity of our sector to ensure extraordinary arts and cultural experiences.
- Creates an environment in which artists and creative industries, representing a wide variety of disciplines, can thrive.
- Funds opportunities for lifelong learning through arts and culture experiences in classrooms, institutions, and public spaces.
- Consults on how arts and culture can be a component in any development or redevelopment project.

**Example**

**Artist:** Karen Kurycki (cmykaren.com)

**Location:** Jacksonville, Florida

**Installation:** 2019

**Concept:** Celebrating Jacksonville’s contributions to the music industry







