

Call for Artists: Ballenger Creek Trail Sculpture Pedestal Project



CALL SUMMARY

Presented by the Frederick Arts Council in partnership with Frederick County. The Frederick Arts Council seeks artists or artist teams to design and fabricate two sculptural pedestals for permanent installation along the Ballenger Creek Linear Trail in Frederick. The pedestals will serve as foundational platforms for future rotating or permanent public artworks and should function as sculptural elements in their own right. Artists are invited to propose concepts that reflect the natural ecology, movement, history, and community character of the Ballenger Creek corridor through the use of durable natural materials.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Two pedestal structures will be commissioned for placement along the Ballenger Creek Linear Trail. The selected artist(s) will design and fabricate site-responsive works that:

- *Complement the surrounding landscape and trail environment
- *Utilize primarily natural or nature-based materials
- *Are durable, weather-resistant, and safe for public interaction
- *Support future sculptural installations
- *Enhance the visual identity and experience of the trail

The project encourages innovative interpretations of “pedestal” – functional bases that are also compelling standalone public artworks.

Please address any questions to info@frederickartscouncil.org

Application deadline: July 9th, 11:59p

Apply via Slide Room



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The dimensions of each pedestal is 36" tall and 28" by 28" wide

Bottom of pedestal must be secured through method such as anchor bolts to pre-existing concrete pad

Consideration for method to securing rotating sculptures on top of form must be included in design

SELECTION CRITERIA

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- *Artistic quality and originality
- *Experience with public art or outdoor fabrication
- *Feasibility and durability, load-bearing capabilities and capacity
- *Relationship to site and community
- *Appropriate use of natural materials

ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to:

- *Professional artists from Frederick County, MD
- *Fabricators
- *Landscape artists/designers
- *Architect-artist teams
- *Emerging and established public artists

TIMELINE

- Call Opens June 8
- Submission due July 9
- Artist to attend Ribbon Cutting Ceremony within 2 months of installation
- Fabrication: six weeks after selection
- Installation:

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit the following via Slideroom:

1. Artist statement (brief)
2. Concept proposal describing the mural idea
3. Preliminary sketch or digital rendering (to scale if possible)
4. Resume or CV highlighting relevant experience
5. 3-5 examples of past work (murals or comparable projects)
6. Estimated project timeline
7. Budget up to \$10,000

BUDGET

Total budget: \$10,000 (\$5000 per pedestal)

The budget is inclusive of:

- *Artist design fee
- *Fabrication
- *Materials
- *Engineering (to confirm pedestal bearing capacity of up to 200 pounds)
- *Transportation and installation
- *Insurance and incidental expenses

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SITE CONSIDERATIONS

The Ballenger Creek Linear Trail is a public recreational corridor used by walkers, runners, cyclists, and families. Proposed works should:

- *Be ADA-conscious and publicly accessible
- *Avoid sharp or hazardous elements
- *Withstand seasonal weather conditions
- *Require minimal ongoing maintenance
- *Integrate thoughtfully into the landscape

VISION

The Ballenger Creek Linear Trail continues to evolve as both a recreational resource and a cultural corridor. These sculptural pedestals will create enduring landmarks that invite reflection, interaction, and future artistic activation while deepening the connection between art, ecology, and public space.

The FAC vision is a Frederick where public art connects residents and visitors, expresses an authentic and unique sense of place, drives economic prosperity through creativity, and advances a culturally inclusive and empowered future.

The Frederick County “Livable Frederick” master plan places the arts and cultural expression at the heart of its community vision, specifically championing art to foster local pride, boost economic growth, and drive community identity. Livable Frederick includes the goal of Building a Creative Economy: Integrating public art to spark conversations, attract visitors, and drive economic prosperity.

The Livable Frederick Master Plan also supports public art along trails and in public places under Supporting Initiative 1.1.1.2.3, which states, “Support the use and appeal of transit and non-motorized transportation options through art projects, in any media, sited in community places that are open to the public that enhance public spaces and communities.

ELIGIBLE MATERIALS

Preferred materials may include:

- *Stone
- *Timber, reclaimed hardwood, sticks
- *Earth-based or rammed materials
- *Corten steel used in dialogue with natural elements
- *Native or sustainably sourced materials
- *Other durable materials that harmonize with the environment

Artists should prioritize sustainability, longevity, and low maintenance. No use of plastics.