

CALL TO ARTISTS

CREATIVE SPARKS PUBLIC ART PROJECT **Frederick, Maryland**

Artists are invited to submit qualifications for vinyl wraps that will transform utility boxes throughout Frederick into vibrant works of public art.

This project offers **two opportunities for artists:**

A. LEAD ARTIST + MENTEE OPPORTUNITY **\$1,200**

A lead artist will be selected to develop a design for a utility box and will be paired with a mentee artist as part of the project.

The lead artist will guide the mentee through the creative process, sharing artistic knowledge and experience. Lead artists and mentees will participate in two project meetings.

Compensation: \$1,200

B. UTILITY BOX ARTIST **\$800**

Artists may also submit a design for a utility box wrap with no mentoring obligation.

Compensation: \$800

ABOUT THE UTILITY BOXES

Utility boxes are approximately:

36" W × 18" D × 48" H

Selected artwork will be professionally reproduced as a vinyl wrap and installed on a utility box in Frederick. Vinyl reproduction is not a cost incurred by the artist.

Artists should consider how their work will translate across the multiple visible surfaces of the box and how it will be experienced by pedestrians, motorists, residents, and visitors.

FREDERICK AS INSPIRATION

Artists are encouraged to consider the identity, history, culture, and evolving character of Frederick when developing their designs.

It is possible that the commissioning entity may incorporate or accommodate wayfinding or identifying labels that help direct the public to nearby civic, cultural, and community destinations.

Artists may choose to create designs that respond directly to one or more of these locations, communities, or districts—or develop artwork that reflects Frederick more broadly or simply develop their own design regardless of theme.

The goal is not simply to decorate the utility boxes, but to create artwork that contributes to Frederick's public realm and helps people recognize and experience the city in new ways.

WHO MAY APPLY

Artists working in a variety of media and styles are encouraged to apply. Experience with public art, graphic design, illustration, painting, photography, digital art, or other visual practices is welcome.

Artists should consider the scale, visibility, durability, and graphic qualities of artwork reproduced as a vinyl wrap.

Artists must be 18 years old or older; reside in Frederick County.

MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The lead artist/mentee opportunity is intended to support artistic exchange and professional development.

COMPENSATION

Lead Artist + Mentoring: \$1,200

Utility Box Artist: \$800



SUBMISSION

Artists should submit:

- Brief description of possible artwork and if applicable, its connection to Frederick
- Artist statement and bio
- 3 Images of relevant work from current portfolio
- Contact information

Due Date: Nov. 9, 2026

Artists selected for the project will receive the utility box (ie traffic signal boxes) template and additional specifications for preparing final artwork.

We encourage artists to think creatively about how art, place, identity, and wayfinding can come together to make Frederick's streetscape more engaging, recognizable, and reflective of the community.