

CALL TO ARTISTS

Request for Qualifications for Public Art at the Joint Use Operations and Maintenance Facility Federal Way, Washington Art Budget: \$175,000 RFQ Submission Deadline: August 1, 2025

The City of Federal Way is seeking qualifications from artists interested in creating a public-facing, site responsive public art installation. The site will be the newly constructed Joint Use Operations and Maintenance Facility ("O & M Facility"), located along the east side of 28th Avenue S, between S 312th Street and S 308th Lane.

The City is seeking artists with public art experience or artist-led interdisciplinary teams with public art experience. Preference will be given to artists residing within Washington State.

The Art Budget will cover all services inclusive of design development, artist fee, travel, community meetings, fabrication, transportation, installation, coordination with staff, etc.

From this RFQ, three finalists will be invited and paid a stipend to submit concept proposals.

All finalists will attend a site visit and meet with City staff before proposal development. Finalists will present proposals to the O&M Facility Public Art's Advisory Committee. Final selection will be made by the City Council after recommendation by the O&M Facility Public Art's Advisory Committee.

The Site:

A Brief History of Federal Way

Federal Way began in the late 1800s as a logging settlement. By the 1920s, Federal Highway 99 was complete, linking the community to the economic centers of Seattle and Tacoma, and suggesting a name for the young community. The name Federal Way was first used in 1929 when five existing schools consolidated operations into School District #210 and planned construction of Federal Way High School next to Highway 99.

By the end of the 1950s, the community featured a number of housing areas and a 10-block commercial district with a shopping center and family-orientated theme park. During the 1960s, residential development continued, providing homes to Boeing engineers and Weyerhaeuser executives. Retail growth followed, including the construction of SeaTac Mall (now The Commons at 320th) in the mid-1970s.

Federal Way citizens organized to form what was then Washington's sixth largest city, incorporating in February of 1990. In November 2010 Federal Way citizens decided to change from a council-manager form of government to a mayor-council form.

Site Description

The City's existing operations facility is housed in what was originally constructed as a fire station for the Federal Way Volunteer Fire Department, which was disbanded when the South King Fire Department, a professional fire department, was formed.

The facility was subsequently acquired by the City and used first as a City Hall and later as a Parks and Recreation facility.

Lastly, the facility was converted to an operations facility for our Public Works and Parks maintenance staffs.

To complete the new facility, the City has leveraged the property within the existing facility and acquired multiple parcels to the north for a total project area of 13.54 acres. The facility contains an Operations (office) building, a Maintenance building, multiple storage buildings and structures, a fueling facility, a refuse facility, and street frontage improvements along both the north and west project boundaries.

Between 28th Ave South and the facility the project contains a cast in place concrete wall is included along the length of the frontage to provide separation and security to the site. The wall contains several horizontal deflections with areas where the wall approaches the sidewalk, which provides opportunities for an envisioned art project to be mounted to the wall surface.

This facility will house the City's operations staff. This includes Public Works Operations Division which contains Street Maintenance, Streets Landscaping, Surface Water Management Maintenance, Surface Water Inspection, and Fleet Operations. The facility also houses the City's Parks Maintenance Division which contains Parks Maintenance, Parks Landscaping, and Facilities Management. The facility will also contain fueling capabilities for Citywide use and limited space for the Police Department.

Project Details:

The City is seeking submissions for an outdoor art project to be installed onto the face or free-standing in front of the cast in place concrete wall at the new Joint Use Operations and Maintenance Facility. This is a high-profile opportunity for an imaginative and innovative artist or artist team to create a site-specific, signature artwork in a prominent location.

Project goals and considerations:

- Speak to the natural beauty and location of the site
- Serves as a signature piece of artwork
- Fits well within the context of the site (in terms of scale, design, and theme)
- Use the artwork to showcase the operations that are housed and performed within the facility
- Considers existing architectural design within the site and how to complement the design of the project
- Materials and finish artwork shall be of the highest quality and should be designed and fabricated for durability as well as for relatively low maintenance

Applications, Supplemental Materials, and Images:

Applications will be accepted online only through the CaFÈ website at www.callforentry.org.

Submitted applications will be judged on a competitive basis from which up to three finalists may be selected to submit proposals for the project.

Eligibility:

- This RFQ is open to all professional artists or artist teams over the age of 18 who currently reside in the United States
- Artist(s) cannot be a member of the Federal Way City Council, a City Commission, or an employee of the City of Federal Way

The Artist Selection Process:

- The City will issue a Call for Artists through CaFÈ
- Artists submit applications in the form of images of previous work, biographical information, and Artist Statement through CaFÈ
- The O&M Facility Public Art's Advisory Committee will select up to 3 finalists based on received submissions
- Finalists participate in an onsite visit with City Staff
- Finalists develop and submit proposals, Project Statement, including images and/or maquette, project budget breakdown, and timeline for review by the committee, general public, and City Council
- Finalists present proposals to the advisory committee
- Each artist who has completed a presentation to the advisory committee receives a \$2,000 stipend for their proposal

Project Budget:

The budget is for all costs of the completed installation of the art project. This is inclusive of design, fabrication, engineering and installation.

Artist(s) finalists will receive a \$2,000 stipend for design, travel, and presentation to the advisory committee. A walking tour for finalists with city staff to view the site will be required prior to submitting final proposals.

Timeline:

July 11, 2025	Posting of Call to Artists
August 1, 2025	Request for Qualifications due
August 2025	Notification of finalists sent
September 2025	Finalists site visit
Sept. 2025 – Nov. 2025	Proposal development by finalists
November 2025	Finalists present proposals to committee
December 2025	Finalists chosen
Jan. 2026 – April 2026	Artwork Development and Implementation
Spring/Summer 2026	Artwork Installation

O&M Facility Public Art's Advisory Committee:

The O&M Facility Public Art's Advisory Committee will be comprised of representatives of the Federal Way Arts Commission, City staff from Public Works Department, and City staff from the Parks Department.

The committee will jointly select the three (3) finalists from the received applications.

The artists will present their final designs to the committee who will score each submittal. The combined scoring will be presented to the City Council as an overall recommendation from the committee for final selection of the artist.

Selection Criteria:

The committee will use the following criteria in the selection process:

- Submittal of all required application materials as outlined in this RFQ
- Originality: creativity and uniqueness, demonstrated in previous projects
- Quality and craftsmanship, exhibited by past work
- Appropriateness: artwork media, scale relative to the site, and integration of the project into the overall site, and cultural sensitivity
- Art theme: connected to the operations that are housed within the facility
- Maintainability: structural soundness, durability, resistance to vandalism, weathering, excessive maintenance, repair costs
- Appropriateness for placement in an urban pedestrian location, including ability for artwork to withstand public interaction
- Engagement: Connection to the community and ability for the Art to foster community engagement
- Feasibility: artist's proven track record/ability to complete the work on time and within the budget
- Preference for a Washington State based artist

Terms:

- The City of Federal Way accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage of artist submission materials
- The City of Federal Way accepts no responsibility for costs incurred by the artist in responding to this Request for Qualifications
- Artists and artist collaborations selected for this project will be required to meet contract terms, scopes and timelines, as well as lump sum budgets. It is further understood that all budgets include travel costs. No additional and /or contingency funds will be available
- Respondents to this Request for Qualifications agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this RFQ
- Upon completion of the installation the artwork becomes City property. The City will provide its best effort to maintain it in good repair, consistent with the original vision and intent of the Artist.

The City, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252,42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Publications:

Federal Way Mirror	July 11, 2025 and July 18, 2025
Daily Journal of Commerce	July 11, 2025 and July 18, 2025

For additional information, please contact:

For questions or additional information, please contact pw-admin@federalwaywa.gov

Applications must be uploaded to CaFÈ by Friday, August 1, 2025 at 10:59 PM PST.

https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=15757

Late applications will not be considered.