

CALL FOR ARTISTS

West 4th Street Roundabout Sculpture Public Art Project Reno, Nevada

Deadline: September 30, at 11:00 pm PT
Budget: \$200,000

SUMMARY:

The City of Reno is accepting qualifications from artists/artist teams for an exterior public art installation that will be placed in the soon-to-be constructed roundabout on West 4th Street and Summit Ridge Drive. This project aims to create a unique character for a specific area of town and highlight Reno's arts and culture to visitors and local communities. Part of this project includes a community engagement component. Selected artist(s) will be expected to work with City staff to conduct community engagement sessions with users of the roadway and the surrounding neighborhood. The final design of the artwork will be created from input from these sessions.

ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS / ELIGIBILITY:

This is a national call and request for qualifications. This project is open to any artist regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, national origin, age, religion, marital status, political opinion or affiliation, or mental or physical handicap. Artists may apply as a single artist or as a multi-person collaborative group. In the case of a group, please apply under one single application. Artists and teams working in the United States and who have experience implementing projects with a similar budget and scope are encouraged to apply.

- Artists age 18 or older may apply as an individual or a team
- Must be available for on-site visit to Reno
- Eligible applicants must reside in the United States

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The City of Reno is seeking qualifications from artists or artist teams for a large-scale public art project that will be placed in a soon-to-be constructed roundabout on West 4th Street and Summit Ridge Drive. The City of Reno is looking to commission an artist/artist team to design, fabricate, and install a unique, one-of-a-kind, large-scale sculpture or series of three sculptures in the newly created roundabout. The selection committee seeks artists with previous public art experience specifically in large scale sculptures in urban environments for the project and those who have a strong connection to Reno, the regional area, and/or the American West. The \$200,000 commission will cover all costs and services from design through final installation/implementation, including artist fee, fabrication, insurance, transportation, permitting, engineering, travel fees, and installation.

The goals for the project include: creating a unique character for a specific area of town, increasing public awareness of art, engaging with the community to create something that reflects the area, and broadening visitors' perspectives of public spaces within the City. The artist(s) selected should have demonstrated experience working in public locations subject to vandalism and extreme weather.

The selected artist/team will be expected to travel to the site, meet with the community, steer community engagement sessions, and develop concept proposals. The City of Reno will help facilitate engagement sessions however, the selected artist should expect to spend a minimum of one to two full days in Reno for in-person engagement and conduct at least one additional online engagement session. This process will allow the artists to learn more about the community and work with them to create a project that reflects their values and the identity of the neighborhood. In this way, the community will feel a sense of ownership and the artwork will be more meaningful and reflective of a broader perspective.

From the pool of applicants, three finalists will be selected by the West 4th Street Public Art Task Force to be interviewed. Final selection of one artist or team will be made by the West 4th Street Public Art Task Force, Reno Arts and Culture Advisory Board (ACAB), and approved by Reno City Council based on qualifications, references, artistic process, and community engagement ideas.

ABOUT THE LOCATION:

The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County is working on a street project on West 4th Street. The focus of this project is to provide safety improvements to 4th Street between McCarran Boulevard and Keystone Avenue. Improvements include roundabouts at Stoker Avenue and Summit Ridge Drive, lane reductions, a multi-use path, and pavement rehabilitation. It was determined that the soon-to-be constructed roundabout at Summit Ridge Drive would be able to support artwork. The Summit Ridge Drive roundabout will have three footings constructed into it as part of RTC's project that the City can program with public art. These footings can accommodate three smaller sculptures or one monumental piece.

The West 4th Street corridor where the sculpture will be installed has historical significance in the formation of Reno and how people historically traveled to the City. This section of roadway remains an important thoroughfare for residents and visitors today. 4th Street was established in 1868 along the transcontinental railroad track in Reno and later in 1913 was incorporated into the Lincoln Highway, the first transcontinental roadway in the United States. Reno's history is intertwined with its transportation history. From railroad workers, miners, and overland routes and later to tourism, gambling, and divorce era history. Immediately adjacent to 4th Street is the Truckee River, an important natural, cultural, and community resource. West 4th Street is less developed than East 4th Street farther into the heart of the city however, the west portion still has many residential communities, parks, outdoor recreation, and longstanding local businesses.

Early community surveys and the input of the West 4th Street Roundabout Public Art Task Force emphasize that Reno residents want this sculpture to be reflective of the natural area, Reno history or history of the American West, and be designed with deep authentic local connection to the site's past history, present use, and reflective of the interests of the surrounding community.

BUDGET:

Projected budget is not to exceed \$200,000 for the entire project including design, planning, community engagement visits, engineering, permitting, fabrication, installation, and completion of the project. This budget includes all travel costs and insurance. Please note that the three footings for the sculpture will be installed as part of the RTC project and will not be a part of this budget.

SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA:

- ✧ The review committee will select three finalists to interview.
- ✧ The finalists will be invited to give a virtual presentation to the West 4th Street Public Art Task Force to share more about their artistic process and community engagement experience.
- ✧ Each finalist will receive an honorarium of \$500 for the presentation and initial proposal.
- ✧ The Public Art Task Force, with input from stakeholders, and the ACAB will select one artist/artist team for the \$200,000 commission.
- ✧ City Council will have final approval.

Selection of a finalist will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of letter of interest—addressing the specific project and community engagement. Applicants must also demonstrate a strong connection to Reno and/or the regional area.
- Quality of past work samples and relevance of samples to current call (work of similar scope and scale).
- Ability to complete the project based on bio, previous work, and references.
- Demonstration of a strong connection to Reno/ regional area

Selected artists/design team will be expected to work with the community, City staff, and stakeholders to finalize the artwork.

Please note that imagery created solely through AI is not acceptable because it is not protected by copyright. Any use of AI in work samples or designs must be noted in proposal and/or communications with Arts and Culture Department staff.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

To be submitted via [Submittable](https://cityofrenoartscultureandevents.submittable.com/submit).
(<https://cityofrenoartscultureandevents.submittable.com/submit>).

1. *Resume or CV*: Current professional resume or curriculum vitae (CV), detailing professional artistic accomplishments, including an artist bio. Submit information for all team members.
2. *Past Work Samples*: 5-10 images of recent previously completed relevant artwork. Include title, year completed, materials/media, client, location, budget, and description of work.
3. *Letter of Interest*: Address how the applicant's previous experience and current artistic direction will result in a successful public art project for this space. Include detailed information on how you would approach this project, create community informed designs through engagement, and how your process will reflect the regional community. The letter should also demonstrate the artist's or artist team's connection to Reno or the region.

Estimated timeline:

RFQ announced: August 2026

RFQ submission deadline: September 30, 11:00 pm PST

October 2026: Committee reviews and selects three finalists.

November 2026: Finalist Presentations and Interviews

November/December 2026: Finalist artist/team selected for Project

Winter 2026/2027: Artist/team will work with staff and stakeholders to finalize designs for artwork via stakeholder meetings.

March – October 2027: Fabrication and installation.

All questions regarding this request for qualifications are to be directed to Erica Hill, Public Art Coordinator, City of Reno at hille@reno.gov