



Create Gwinnett Inc.

Building Gwinnett's Creative Economy

Request for Qualifications: Gwinnett Place Public Art & Placemaking Design Development

September 1, 2026

Create Gwinnett Inc
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Building 300
Duluth, Georgia 30097

Dear Artist:

Create Gwinnett, in partnership with the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District and The Hudgens Center for Art & Learning, is excited to invite artists to submit qualifications for the Gwinnett Place Public Art & Placemaking Design Development.

Gwinnett Place is entering an important period of transformation, creating an opportunity to think creatively about how public art and placemaking can contribute to the identity and experience of the broader district. Through this project, we will bring together three artists representing different creative disciplines to explore the district, collaborate with one another, and develop ideas for high-impact placemaking opportunities.

We are looking for artists who are excited by collaboration, site-responsive creative thinking, and the opportunity to explore what placemaking can look like beyond any single medium. This is a qualifications-based opportunity, so we are not asking artists to develop concepts as part of the application process. We want to see your work, understand your practice, and learn what perspective you could bring to the team.

Thank you for your interest in helping us imagine the possibilities for Gwinnett Place. We look forward to seeing your work!

Chris Cannon
Executive Director
Create Gwinnett

Laura Ballance
Executive Director
Hudgens Center for Art & Learning

Joe Allen
Executive Director
Gwinnett Place CID

Request for Qualifications: Gwinnett Place Public Art & Placemaking Design Development

Create Gwinnett is seeking artists to collaborate on the development of community-informed public art concepts for the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District.

This project focuses on research, planning, community & stakeholder engagement, concept development, and creation of implementation-ready designs. This project will NOT include production and installation.

Create Gwinnett anticipates selecting three artists with complementary creative practices, including artists working in 2D, 3D, interdisciplinary, experiential, and other placemaking-focused media.

The selected artists will work alongside Create Gwinnett, The Hudgens Center for Art & Learning, Gwinnett CID staff, and community members to develop visual concepts that reflect the identity, history, culture, and future vision of the district.

Final designs may be commissioned by the Gwinnett Place CID in the future.

IDEAL QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should demonstrate:

- A strong body of professional artistic work
- Experience creating work appropriate for public, community, commercial, institutional, or other highly visible environments
- Ability to respond creatively to physical sites, community context, and project goals
- Ability to collaborate with other artists and multidisciplinary project teams
- Ability to communicate creative ideas through sketches, renderings, models, or other appropriate visual methods
- Reliability, professionalism, and ability to work within an established project schedule
- Interest in exploring public art and creative placemaking within a diverse and evolving district

Previous public art or placemaking experience is preferred but not required. Artists with strong professional practices and transferable experience are encouraged to apply.

Create Gwinnett is particularly interested in assembling a team that reflects a range of creative disciplines, perspectives, and experiences relevant to the diverse communities of the Gwinnett Place district.

Artists who live, work, maintain a studio, or have demonstrated connections to Gwinnett County are strongly encouraged to apply; however, this opportunity is open to all artists, regardless of location, who are able to participate in the required site visits and project activities.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications will be evaluated based on:

- Quality and strength of previous artistic work
- Relevance of professional experience
- Demonstrated ability to create work appropriate for public or highly visible environments
- Ability to respond to site, context, and project goals
- Demonstrated collaborative approach
- Ability to communicate creative ideas effectively
- Alignment of the artist's practice with the needs of the interdisciplinary project team
- Availability and ability to complete the project within the established schedule

Because the project is intentionally interdisciplinary, final selection will also consider how applicants complement one another as a three-artist team.

Artists must apply individually, but may indicate within their qualifications if they have experience working with another applicant also responding to the RFQ.

SELECTION PROCESS

Create Gwinnett and The Hudgens Center for Art & Learning will review submitted qualifications in coordination with the Gwinnett Place CID.

Following the initial review, selected applicants may be invited to participate in a brief virtual conversation with project representatives.

These conversations are intended to assess:

- Collaborative working style
- Interest in and approach to site-responsive placemaking
- Ability to work within an interdisciplinary team
- Communication style and professionalism
- Availability and project schedule

Final selection will be based on qualifications, project fit, and the overall composition of the multidisciplinary artist team.

COMPENSATION & CONTRACT STRUCTURE

Artist compensation will be a flat fee of \$5,000 per artist. The project scope anticipates approximately 50 hours of work per artist. Estimated hours are provided for planning and transparency purposes only and do not represent an hourly rate.

Create Gwinnett anticipates contracting three artists for this project.

Selected artists will be contracted by Create Gwinnett Inc as independent contractors for the project period and will not be employees of Create Gwinnett, Gwinnett Place CID, or The Hudgens Center for Art & Learning.

Compensation includes all labor associated with the project, including project coordination, site visits, community and stakeholder engagement, concept development, revisions, and final deliverables. The selected artist will be responsible for providing all materials, supplies, software, equipment, transportation, and other resources necessary to complete the work described in this scope.

PROJECT SCOPE

The artist will be responsible for the following:

Research and Site Exploration

- Review of existing district plans, redevelopment initiatives, previous planning efforts, and known opportunity areas for placemaking and public art investment.
- Review potential public art and placemaking locations
- Identify opportunities for storytelling, placemaking, and community identity
- Participate in at least one guided site visit of the study area and an interdisciplinary artist charrette with the project team and other selected artists

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- Collaboratively design community engagement activities with the project team
- Participate in at least one community engagement activity, such as a pop-up or other public-facing engagement opportunity, to gather input on district identity, experiences, priorities, and placemaking opportunities
- Participate in targeted discussions with property owners, businesses, and other stakeholders as needed for specific sites

Concept Development

- Develop **at least three (3) preliminary concepts** informed by:
 - Site observations
 - Previous plans and current redevelopment efforts
 - Community input and relevant stakeholder feedback
 - Project team discussions
- The concepts are intended to explore a variety of artistic disciplines, scales, materials, and placemaking strategies while responding to the unique characteristics of each selected site. Potential project types may include but are not limited to:
 - Murals
 - Sculptural works
 - Creative seating
 - Interactive installations
 - Environmental art
 - Gateway features
 - Lighting elements
 - Landscape-integrated artwork
 - Experiential placemaking features
 - Community gathering spaces

Final Design Package

- Following review and feedback, refine **two (2) selected concepts into a final design package** suitable for future implementation including:
 - Refined renderings
 - Artistic narratives / thematic description
 - Color palette recommendations
 - Recommended location and site-specific recommendations including:



- Suggested materials
- Scale and dimensions
- User experience
- Community impact
- Preliminary implementation considerations
- Maintenance considerations
- At minimum, one round of revisions will be incorporated following submission of the final package.

Additional coordination, revisions, and project documentation within the authorized project scope

Final scope, deliverables, payment schedule, and invoicing requirements will be established in each artist agreement.

Time spent preparing or submitting qualifications in response to this RFQ is not compensated.

Fabrication or installation is not included within this contract. Participation in this planning phase does not guarantee selection for future fabrication or implementation services.

Timeline

Phase	Anticipated Timeline	Artist Involvement
Project Kickoff & Coordination	October 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027	Participate in project meetings as needed
Site Review & Opportunity Identification	October 2026	Review of existing district plans, redevelopment initiatives, previous planning efforts, and known opportunity areas for placemaking and public art investment. Participate in at least one guided site visit of the study area.
Community and Stakeholder Engagement	October / November 2026	Design and participate in community engagement activities and discussions.
Preliminary Concept Development	November 2026	Develop preliminary concepts and location recommendations.
Draft Concept Refinement	December 2026	Refine designs based on project team feedback
Final Concept Package	January 31, 2027	Submit revised final designs and project deliverables.

Contract period will be through January 31, 2027, however the project team and the selected artists will collaboratively determine the final timeline based on availability and scheduling of key activities.



ABOUT GWINNETT PLACE

Located in the geographic heart of Gwinnett County, Gwinnett Place is one of metro Atlanta's most significant business districts and serves as a major commercial, employment, and cultural center. The area is home to a diverse population and is evolving into a more connected, walkable, and vibrant urban district with a strong emphasis on placemaking, redevelopment, and community identity.

Despite representing only about one percent of Gwinnett County's land area, the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District generates an outsized economic impact. The district supports approximately 28,688 workers, more than 2,000 companies, \$2.1 billion in annual payroll, and \$7.5 billion in sales activity. The area produces an estimated \$15.9 billion annual economic impact for the State of Georgia and serves as one of the county's largest concentrations of employment, commerce, dining, and services.

Gwinnett Place is also a destination for dining and culture, featuring more than 220 restaurants and reflecting the international diversity that has become a defining characteristic of the community. This diversity presents unique opportunities for artists, designers, and place makers to create experiences that celebrate local culture while helping shape the district's future identity.

Today, Gwinnett Place is entering a new chapter of investment and transformation through ongoing public and private redevelopment initiatives. Community leaders envision the area as an internationally diverse, livable urban center where public spaces, art, culture, and economic development work together to create a memorable sense of place. This project offers artists an opportunity to help imagine how creative placemaking can contribute to that vision and support the district's continued evolution. For more information, please visit www.GwinnettPlaceCID.com.

QUALIFICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested artists should submit the following:

Basic Information

- Name
- City / State
- Email
- Phone Number
- Website and/or social media, if applicable

Artist Discipline

Identify the category or categories that most closely aligns with your artistic practice:

- 2D Artist
- 3D Artist
- Interdisciplinary Artist
- Experiential Artist
- Other (Artists whose work crosses multiple disciplines may identify additional areas of practice)

Statement of Interest

Provide a brief statement of no more than 500 words describing:

- Your artistic practice
- Your interest in participating in this project
- How your experience or creative approach would contribute to a collaborative, interdisciplinary placemaking process
 - Note that artists must apply individually, but may indicate within their qualifications if they have experience working with another applicant also responding to this RFQ.

Relevant Experience

Provide a brief statement of no more than 500 words describing previous professional experience relevant to this opportunity. This may include public art, placemaking, site-specific artwork, community-based projects, commercial or institutional commissions, exhibitions, fabrication, environmental design, or other related creative work.

Work Samples

Provide up to 5 examples of completed work that best demonstrate your qualifications for this opportunity.

For each work sample, please include:

- Project or artwork title
- Location, if applicable
- Year
- Medium / materials
- Brief description
- Your role if the project involved collaborators

Work samples may be provided as images within the submission or through clearly identified portfolio links.

Resume or CV

Provide a current artist resume or CV.

DO NOT SUBMIT PROJECT CONCEPTS

This is a Request for Qualifications. Artists are being selected based on previous work, professional experience, artistic practice, and overall fit for the project.

Applicants should not develop or submit site-specific artwork or placemaking concepts for the Gwinnett Place District as part of this RFQ.

Selected artists will be compensated to develop concepts after contracting and participation in the project's site exploration and collaborative charrette process.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Submission Deadline: September 21, 2026; NOON (12:00PM)

Submit a single PDF document with all required information detailed above by email with the subject line *Gwinnett Place Artist RFQ – [Artist Name]* to chris@creategwinnett.org

ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT

Create Gwinnett encourages applications from artists of all backgrounds and lived experiences and is committed to accessibility and inclusion. If you require assistance, accommodations, or an alternative format to submit your qualifications, please contact chris@creategwinnett.org for support in participating in this RFQ process.

QUESTIONS

We welcome questions about this project and the request for qualifications. Submit all questions by September 16, 2026 to:

Chris Cannon
Executive Director, Create Gwinnett
chris@creategwinnett.org

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Create Gwinnett does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law. Selection of artists will be based solely on qualifications, experience, and alignment with the goals of the Gwinnett Place Public Art & Placemaking Design Development Project.

Create Gwinnett is committed to fostering an inclusive, accessible, and equitable process and encourages applications from artists of all backgrounds and lived experiences.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Independent Contractor Status

- Artist will serve as an independent contractor and is not an employee of Create Gwinnett.
- Artist is responsible for all applicable taxes, insurance, and business expenses.

Materials & Equipment

- Artist is responsible for providing all materials, supplies, software, tools, equipment, transportation, and other resources necessary to complete the work.

Ownership and Use of Work

- Ownership, usage rights, attribution, and rights associated with future implementation of concepts and final designs will be established in the artist agreement. Artist will receive credit for their work whenever practical.

Insurance

- Selected artists may be required to maintain appropriate insurance based on project activities and site requirements. Final insurance requirements will be established in the artist agreement.

Reservation of Rights

- Create Gwinnett reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to modify, suspend, or cancel this Request for Qualifications at any time; to request additional information or clarification from applicants; to reject any or all submissions; and to select one or more artists whose qualifications best align with the goals and needs of the project.
- Create Gwinnett may negotiate final scope of work, schedule, and compensation with selected artists prior to contract execution.
- Issuance of this RFQ does not constitute a commitment by Create Gwinnett to award a contract, to award a contract to any particular applicant, or to pay any costs incurred in preparing a submission.
- Create Gwinnett reserves the right to select artists representing different disciplines or to adjust the composition of the artist team if doing so best supports the goals of the project.
- Submission of qualifications indicates acceptance of these terms.