



# Request for Qualifications

## Artist Opportunities

The Cleveland Public Library (CPL) seeks emerging and established visual artists for its Prequalified Artist Registry. The Artist Registry will serve as a source for CPL to contract with artists to purchase existing artworks, commission new works, or partner with on commercial and other projects.

Artists who are identified through this process are eligible to be contracted with by CPL to design, fabricate, and/or install projects at Main Library or any one of its 27 locations throughout Cleveland, Ohio, or related to any of its mobile and/or community-based projects, such as CPL BookBoxes, Art Boxes, BookBikes, or mobile technology spaces. A project-specific contract will be developed for any artist who is commissioned to do artwork with CPL.

There is no limit to the number of artists who can be prequalified through this process. Selected artists will remain eligible for work consideration with CPL for three years after they have been accepted, through June 30, 2029, and may reapply to the registry in the future. Cleveland Public Library intends to reissue this RFQ annually. (Note: Artists accepted onto the Prequalified Artist Registry in 2026, do NOT need to reapply, and will remain active on the registry until June 30, 2029.)

Virtual information sessions will be offered for prospective artists. See **TIMELINE** for dates and to sign up.

## About Cleveland Public Library

### ***Our Mission***

We are the “People’s University,” the center of learning for a diverse and inclusive community.

### ***Our Vision for Cleveland & its Library***

A city in which opportunity is within reach.  
A library that empowers its people.

Learn more about CPL by visiting [www.cpl.org](http://www.cpl.org).

## Eligibility

Applications are open to artists, artist teams, and collectives working in a variety of artistic mediums including, but not limited to, sculpture, painting, fiber, ceramics, photography, digital arts, printmaking, video, illustration, collage, and mixed media. All artists 18 years of age and older are eligible to apply. Cleveland-based artists are strongly encouraged to apply. BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, neurodivergent, people with disabilities, and people with varying abilities are encouraged to apply.

## Selection Criteria

Artists at all stages of their careers, from emerging to established, will be considered. The registry is open to artists from all backgrounds, from self-taught to professionally trained. Submitted applications will be evaluated for inclusion in the registry based on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- Conceptual strength
- Technical skills
- Experience or interest engaging the public through the arts



## Selection Criteria *(continued)*

- Relationship with the community served by CPL
- Experience or interest in collaborating with public organizations, members of the community, or on public art projects
- Appreciation for CPL's mission, vision and values

## Review Body

A demographically diverse selection panel comprised of CPL staff will convene to screen all eligible applications and recommend a roster of qualified artists for CPL to consider for future projects. There is no limit to the number of artists who can be listed in this registry.

## Timeline

- **June 11, 2026** Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued
- **June 24, 2026** Virtual informational session for prospective artists, 6:00-7:00pm  
<https://cpl.libcal.com/event/17000396>
- **June 26, 2026** Virtual informational session for prospective artists, 12:00-1:00pm  
<https://cpl.libcal.com/event/17000455>

Use the links to register for one (1) of the virtual information sessions.

- **July 22, 2026** Applications due/ RFQ closes
- **September 4, 2026** Artists notified of decisions

**All artists accepted through this RFQ process will be eligible for projects with Cleveland Public Library through June 30, 2029.**



## Application Information

To be considered, please complete the two-step application process: 1) Complete the application form using the link below; 2) Submit the following supporting documents in a single pdf to **sharon.fallon@cpl.org**:

1. Current resume including experience, education, and contact information.
2. Letter of interest that expresses the artist's interest in working with CPL, relationship to Cleveland, and past experiences working with people in community, professional, and/or educational settings (no more than 500 words).
3. No more than 12 images of completed projects. If the artist has fewer than 12 completed projects, the letter of interest is a good place to describe other relevant experiences or ideas.
4. List of submitted projects: title, date, location, materials, dimensions, budget, and commissioning entity (if applicable).
5. Artist statement describing the artist's overall vision for their work and if/how they relate to larger cultural forces, issues, movements, or types of artwork, (no more than 300 words).
6. Three (3) professional references (or personal references if emerging artist).

**Please name your file,** FirstName.LastName.RFQ.pdf

**Applications will be accepted through July 20, 2026. You must complete both steps of the application to be considered, and all supporting documents must be sent as a single pdf. Please begin your application by completing the form found at,**

**2026 Artist Registry RFQ**



The People's University



## Terms and Conditions

- Prequalification does not guarantee that an artist will be commissioned for a project, nor does this process prevent CPL from procuring artists through other avenues.
- CPL may request additional information, samples, or interviews in order to determine an artist's qualifications or suitability for a particular project.
- CPL reserves the right to determine the weight given to the above-described selection criteria in selecting artists for the registry.
- CPL assumes no liability for costs incurred in the preparation, presentation, or submission of applications.
- Artists accepted onto the Prequalified Artist Registry in 2026, do NOT need to reapply, and will remain active on the registry until June 30, 2029.
- CPL reserves the right to review and accept the artists onto the registry outside of the annual RFQ period.

## Questions

All questions regarding the Prequalified Artist Registry Request for Qualifications are to be submitted in writing to [sharon.fallon@cpl.org](mailto:sharon.fallon@cpl.org).

