

OVERVIEW

Summary

The City of Cleveland, Ohio, through its Public Art Program, is requesting qualifications from Northeast Ohio-based artists, designers, or teams thereof who may be interested in producing a public artwork to accompany the renovation of Neff Park, located at 961 E. 193rd St., in the Collinwood neighborhood.

Rather than submit pre-conceived proposals, respondents will be chosen for further consideration based on their qualifications and previous works. The selected artists, designers, or teams thereof will work with city staff, neighborhood residents, and other stakeholders to develop innovative, original art that will be relevant to the neighborhood.

Background

The Cleveland Public Art Program requires that certain major capital projects undertaken by the City of Cleveland set aside 1.5% of their construction budgets for use toward a public artwork component. The program requires the artwork to be in proximity to the improvements that generated the funding for the artwork. The program is administered by the City of Cleveland in tandem with an advisory committee known as the Public Art Committee comprised of a (1) visual artist, (2) administrator of an arts organization, (3) recognized expert in the field of public art, (4) City of Cleveland resident active in community affairs, (5) staff member of a City of Cleveland department that engages in projects subject to the Public Art Program, who also serves as the Public Art Committee Chair, (6) professional architect or landscape architect, (7) member of Cleveland City Council or its staff, and (8) up to two community representatives in the respective ward of the proposed public art.

Contact Information

Tarra Petras

Public Art Project Coordinator
City Hall - City Planning Commission
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Department:

Mayor's Office of Capital Projects

Department Head:

James DeRosa
Director

Timeline

Release Project Date: Friday, November 14, 2025

Proposal Submission Deadline: Monday, December 19, 2025 by 5:00 PM EST

GUIDELINES

Eligibility

This Call for Artists/RFQ is open to any artist, designer, or teams thereof that is aged 18 or older that live or work in Northeast Ohio, and able to execute a contract with the City of Cleveland, including, but not limited to, providing the required information to become a vendor with the City of Cleveland and completing a non-competitive statement. Artists based in the Waterloo Arts District are especially encouraged to apply. Any contracted artist will be required to carry Commercial Liability Insurance for the term of their contract.

Timeline

Friday, November 14, 2025

- This RFQ is released.

Monday, December 19, 2025 by 5:00 PM EST

- Deadline to respond to this RFQ.

December 2025/January 2026

- Applications will be reviewed by the Cleveland Public Art Committee.
- Approximately three (3) respondents will be invited to interview with the Cleveland Public Art Committee.

January/February 2026

- The Cleveland Public Art Committee will select one respondent for the project.
- City of Cleveland to begin the process to get the selected artist(s), designer(s), or team thereof under contract.

Spring/Summer/Fall 2026

- The contracted artist will work to complete the project.

*This timeline is subject to change.

How to Respond to this RFQ

Respondents to this RFQ must create a FREE account with OpenGov Procurement by signing up at <https://procurement.opengov.com/signup>. If you already have an account, you will log into your account to begin the process. Once you have completed account registration, browse back to this page, click on "Submit Response", and follow the instructions. **Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.**

Questions about this RFQ and/or Project(s)

For procedural questions, please e-mail Michael Reder mreder@clevelandohio.gov and Tarra Petras at tpetras@clevelandohio.gov. For substantive questions about the project, please use the Question & Answer function in this RFQ for the awareness of others.

RFQ SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (QUESTIONNAIRE)

Letter of Qualifications and Interest*

Please submit a (1) one-page letter that details:

- (1) your qualifications to complete a public artwork project in Neff Park,
- (2) why you're interested in it,
- (3) any vision or anticipated approach you may have for the project,

- (4) your typical or envisioned public involvement process for the project(s), and
- (5) any ties you may have to Neff Park, its local community, or the Greater Cleveland area.

*Response required

CV or Résumé*

Please submit your current CV or résumé.

*Response required

Samples of Work*

In a single document, please submit up to a **MAXIMUM** of 10 images depicting completed work. Multiple images of the same work will count as individual images. **Exceeding the maximum allowed number of images may disqualify your submission.** Include the following information for each work: location, commissioning agency, materials, your role in producing the work, and budget.

*Response required

SCOPE OF WORK

Project Information

Location and Context

Neff Park is located at 961 E. 193rd St., which is within Ward 8 and the Collinwood neighborhood, represented by City Council Member Michael D. Polensek. According to The Center for Community Solutions and Cleveland State University's Northern Ohio Data and Information Service 2024 data, the Collinwood-Nottingham neighborhood has a population of 9860, of which, approximately 89 % identified as Black or African American. The mean household income is \$36,944. A location map of the park is provided in the Attachments section. A complete renovation of the park began in 2024 and is expected to be completed, and re-opened to the public in Fall 2025. Below is the conceptual site plan for Neff Park and a few construction photographs for reference. The renovations will result in a new recreational field, a new playground, a new walking loop path with seating, new tree plantings, new pickle ball courts, an improved diamond field and associated amenities, and an improved parking lot. The existing outdoor swimming pool and enclosed pool area are not part of this project.

Programmed elements in the park/neighborhood are heavily used by the Collinwood Muni Football Team (the Collinwood Cobras), Little League baseball, Muni flag football, and cheerleading.

Public Artwork Theme and Focus Area

The Cleveland Public Art Committee, in authorizing the release of this RFQ, did not identify a theme or focus area for any public artwork. Moreover, any form of public artwork is permissible in any location in Neff Park, with the exception of the pool area enclosed by the perimeter fence . Vertically oriented public art is especially encouraged. Artistic shelter for the dugouts is also a possibility. Since the pool area isn't a part of this RFQ, artworks on surfaces in that area are discouraged, in consideration of any potential future renovation.

Budget

The all-inclusive budget to complete the Neff Park project may not exceed \$26,819. This all-inclusive budget includes costs related to public engagement; the design, fabrication, and installation of the public artwork; any artist fee; and all other related expenses, including footers or foundations.

Pre-Renovation Conceptual Site Plan



(Note that the pickle ball courts are not on this site plan, but are shown on the schematic below. There will only be one baseball diamond, and it is the one below the parking lot.)

Schematic w/pickle ball courts

New Shelter and Playground



New Walking Loop Path



Additional View of New Walking Loop Path



Baseball Diamond



Retained Outdoor Swimming Pool Area (Not Part of Renovation)

