

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS 2026-2028 Public Artist Roster

Are you an artist interested in creating work in public spaces? Apply to join the Public Artist Roster. The Public Artist Roster is a standing list of pre-qualified artists or artist teams approved through open competition who work in various artistic media in public art. It is used as an optional artist selection process for City of Tucson public art projects with budgets of \$100,000 or below. This Request for Qualifications opens every two years, and approved artists remain on the Public Artist Roster for a two-year term.



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GUIDELINES AT A GLANCE

PROJECT NAME	Public Artist Roster
Open To	<p>The Public Artist Roster is open to professional artists and artist teams creating original artwork who are at least 18 years old, and reside in the City of Tucson, Pima County, rural Southern Arizona communities, or Tribal Nations between the Gila River and the U.S.-Mexico Border. This region includes Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties; the southern portions of Pinal, Yuma, Greenlee, Graham, and Maricopa Counties; and the Tribal Nations of Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Sovereign Nation of the Cocopahs, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, the Gila River Indian Community, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the Tohono O’odham Nation, and the San Carlos Apache Nation.</p> <p>Applicants at all stages of their careers working in various artistic media are encouraged to apply.</p>
Eligible Project Budget Size	\$100,000 or below
Roster Term	July 2026 – July 2028, <i>subject to change</i>
Collection	City of Tucson
Application Period	Thursday, April 16, 2026 – Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Deadline to Apply	Tuesday, May 26, 2026, by 11:59pm Arizona Time
Submission Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Artist statement (300 words or less) ○ Resume (2-page max; .doc, .docx, or .pdf) ○ Six (6) work samples (.pdf, .jpg, .png, .mov, .mp4)
Application Link	https://artsfoundtucson.submittable.com/submit
Public Art Program	Public Art Administrative Directives 7.01-4
Application Help	Email: publicart@artsfoundtucson.org Call: (520) 264-0595 Submittable: support@submittable.com

ARTS FOUNDATION MISSION AND VISION

The Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and funding agency with a mission to advance the artistic expression, civic participation, and equitable economic growth of our diverse communities. Through forward-thinking, accountable leadership, the Arts Foundation works to affect systemic change that fosters an accessible, diverse, inclusive, and equitable local arts community.

As the designated local arts agency, the Arts Foundation provides arts and cultural development across Southern Arizona for individual working artists, artist collectives, ensembles, and nonprofit organizations through grant programs, professional development opportunities, and public art program management for the City of Tucson.

The work of the Arts Foundation is made possible through generous support from the City of Tucson, Pima County, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mellon Foundation, the Arizona Community Foundation, and individual donors. Our service area includes all counties and native sovereign nations South of the Gila River, including 372 miles along the U.S.-Mexico international border in the South and along the 590-mile stretch of the Gila River, which flows west from the New Mexico border to the Colorado River.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona (Arts Foundation) does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, color, country of origin, religion, sex, gender, disability, or any other category protected under state or federal law. This non-discrimination statement applies to all activities of the Arts Foundation, including employment opportunities, grant awards, and community engagement opportunities.

CITY OF TUCSON PUBLIC ART PROGRAM GOALS

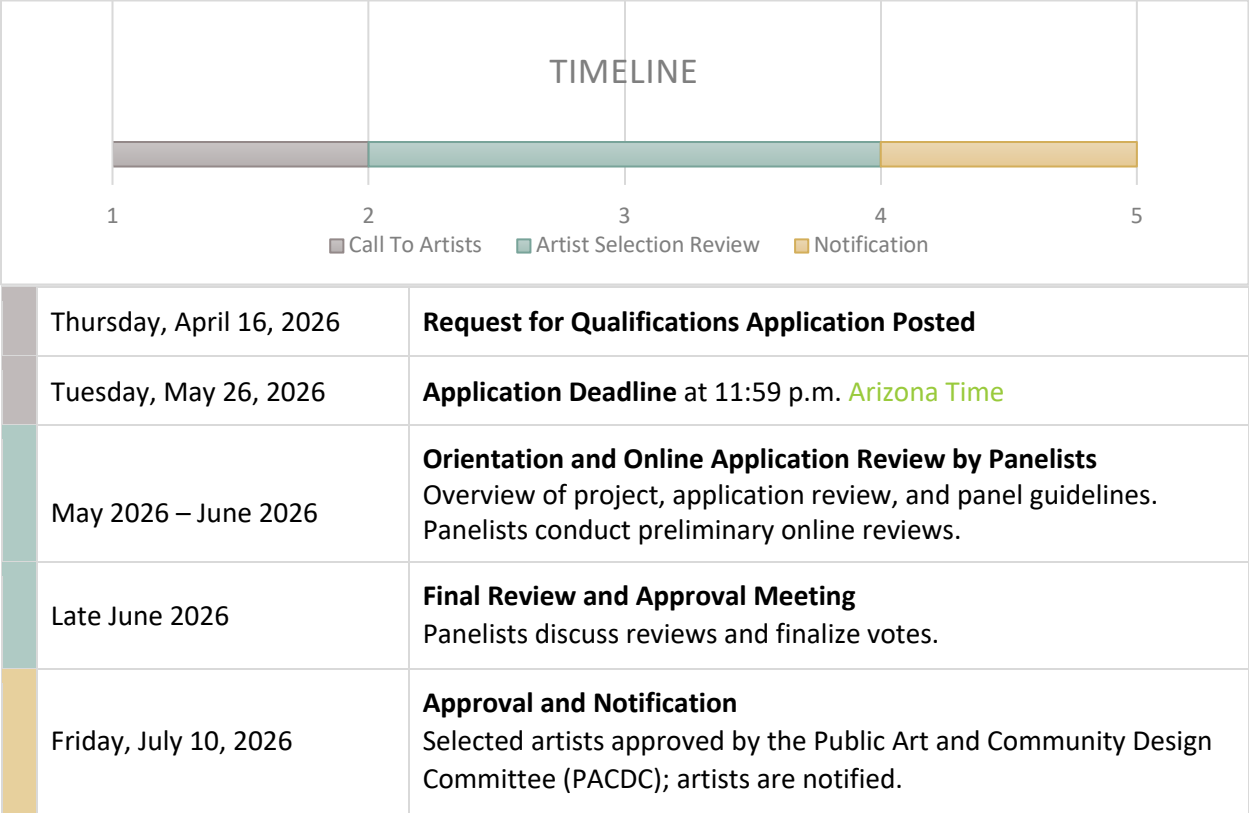
“The City of Tucson funds and supports public art in order to create a cityscape that contributes to the image and identity of the City. The City of Tucson’s Public Art Program aspires to meet the following goals: promote civic pride through the high quality of Tucson’s public art collection; celebrate Southern Arizona’s history, culture, and traditions; provide information and support for artists interested in creating public art; involve neighborhoods, users, and the general public in the public art process; and complement and support the City of Tucson’s economic development, neighborhood development, and downtown revitalization efforts,” (City of Tucson Administrative Directives, 7.01-1 The City of Tucson Public Art Program).

OVERVIEW

The Public Artist Roster serves as a directory of pre-qualified professional artists and artist teams eligible for Tucson-based public art opportunities with budgets up to \$100,000. Emerging and established artists who are interested in developing site-responsive, temporary, or permanent artworks for a variety of public-facing environments are encouraged to apply. The Roster application cycle opens every two years, significantly reducing the administrative burden on emerging and established artists while streamlining the artist selection process for smaller public art projects. Current and prior Roster artists must reapply every two years.

TIMELINE

This is the tentative timeline for the 2026 Artist Roster. Dates subject to change.



ELIGIBILITY

Open to artists and artist teams that meet all the following criteria at the time of application:

- Applicant is at least 18 years old.
- Applicant resides in the City of Tucson, Pima County, rural Southern Arizona communities, or Tribal Nations between the Gila River and the U.S.-Mexico Border. This region includes Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties; the southern portions of Pinal, Yuma, Greenlee, Graham, and Maricopa Counties; and the Tribal Nations of Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Sovereign Nation of the Cocopahs, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, the Gila River Indian Community, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the Tohono O’odham Nation, and the San Carlos Apache Nation.
- Applicant may be at any stage of their career, including emerging and established.
- Applicant may work in any artistic disciplines and mediums.
- Application must be completed solely by the artist or team lead artist.
- Current and prior Roster artists must reapply to appear on the 2026-2028 Public Artist Roster.

The following conditions are **not eligible** for this program:

- Applications submitted by artists’ representatives, managers, or galleries will not be accepted.
- Artists applying as a part of a team are not eligible to apply as individuals.
- Elected members or officers, commissioners, or employees of the City of Tucson, nor their immediate family members, are eligible to apply for the Artist Roster.

BENEFITS

Artists accepted into the Roster are automatically eligible to compete for public art projects with budgets up to \$100,000 for the City of Tucson (exceptions may apply). An overview of how the Roster is used is provided in Appendix A. Additional program benefits include:

- Artist Roster profiles will be featured on the Arts Foundation website.
- All City of Tucson permanent artworks commissioned through the Roster will be integrated into the City’s Public Art Collection.
- Community panels will use the Roster as the primary mechanism to select artists for projects that meet the budget threshold.
- The Roster welcomes a wide range of artistic media, backgrounds, and conceptual approaches.

HOW TO APPLY

Review Guidelines

- Step 1. Visit the Arts Foundation’s webpage to access the guidelines and the application link in the resources section.
- Step 2. Review the complete guidelines, application questions, appendices, and FAQ.
- Step 3. Prepare responses to all sections of the application listed in this document.
- Step 4. Prepare all required materials for upload, as described in the application questions.

Submit Online Application

- Step 5. Go to the online application form, *Submittable*:
<https://artsfoundtucson.Submittable.com/submit>

- Step 6. Refer to the correct listing for this grant program: **2026 Public Artist Roster**.
- Step 7. Create a *Submittable* account. If you already have an account, just log in.
- Step 8. Complete the online application form and all the sections listed in this document.
- Step 9. Review your application one last time! Then, click “Submit Form” to submit.
- Step 10. Submit the complete online application before the deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Step 11. Once the application form is successfully submitted, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address associated with the *Submittable* account.
- Step 12. Applicants may be contacted by Arts Foundation staff via *Submittable*, email, or by phone.

REVIEW PROCESS

All Roster applications undergo a technical review process. Application materials will be reviewed for eligibility, completeness, and compliance. Eligible and complete applications are then forwarded to community panelists for assessment, scoring, and commenting, based on the published evaluation criteria. Panel recommendations will be submitted to the Public Art and Community Design Committee (PACDC) and the Arts Foundation Board of Directors for formal approval and authorization.

Evaluation Criteria

Applicants must satisfy three out of four criteria (evaluated on a yes/no basis) to be recommended for the Public Artist Roster. The following criteria questions will be considered during the review of applications:

- 1. Does the applicant’s portfolio demonstrate technical skills and material knowledge to successfully execute a high-quality project?**
Evidence of the technical capacity of the artist.
- 2. Does the applicant demonstrate a unique and authentic relationship to the subject matter?**
Evidence of exploring specific concepts without appropriation or inauthentic stylization.
- 3. Does the applicant demonstrate capacity for creating work that prioritizes community benefit, civic participation, or site-specific relevance?**
Evidence of prior experience or stated interest in working with communities and environment.
- 4. Does the applicant communicate and demonstrate a distinct artistic voice or perspective that would be a valuable contribution to the City?**
Evidence of consistent vision and artistic excellence.

APPLICATION HELP

If you have questions about the application process or the content of your application, please email us at publicart@artsfoundtucson.org or call (520) 624-0595.

If you encounter any technical issues with the online application platform, please email the *Submittable* at support@submittable.com or call (855) 467-8264.

To find out more about our public art opportunities, sign up for our monthly newsletter here <https://artsfoundtucson.org/newsletter>

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

NOTE: Questions provided below are for reference purposes only. The full application materials **must be submitted online through the *Submittable* Portal.**

ELIGIBILITY

Please answer the questions below to determine your eligibility for this public art opportunity.

1. Are you over the age of 18?
2. Are you a resident of the City of Tucson, Pima County, rural Southern Arizona communities, or Tribal Nations between the Gila River and the U.S.-Mexico Border? This region includes Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties; the southern portions of Pinal, Yuma, Greenlee, Graham, and Maricopa Counties; and the Tribal Nations of Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Sovereign Nation of the Cocopahs, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, the Gila River Indian Community, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the Tohono O’odham Nation, and the San Carlos Apache Nation.

SECTION 1: Applicant Profile

Complete the Applicant profile. If applying as a team, enter contact information for the primary individual responsible for this application. Responses in this section will not be shared with panelists or used as a factor in the review of your application.

Question 1.	Primary Individual Applicant Legal Name
Question 2.	Pronouns
Question 3.	Primary Contact: Phone Number
Question 4.	Primary Contact: Email
Question 5.	Are you applying as an Artist Team or Company?
Question 6.	Name of Artist Team or Company
Question 7.	Secondary Contact: Full Name
Question 8.	Secondary Contact: Phone
Question 9.	Secondary Contact: Email
Question 10.	Mailing Address - Street
Question 11.	Mailing Address - City
Question 12.	Mailing Address - State
Question 13.	Mailing Address - County
Question 14.	Mailing Address - Zip Code
Question 15.	Social Media
Question 16.	Website
Question 17.	Applicant: State Legislative District <input type="radio"/> District 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ District 2 ○ District 3 ○ District 4 ○ District 5 ○ District 6 ○ District 7 ○ District 8 ○ District 9 ○ District 10 ○ District 11 ○ District 12 ○ District 13 ○ District 14 ○ District 15 ○ District 16 ○ District 17 ○ District 18 ○ District 19 ○ District 20 ○ Does Not Apply <p>Search address to find out: https://irc-az.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=424810a4667049388ef6df4f0c73098b</p>
Question 18.	<p>Pima County Supervisory District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does Not Apply ○ Pima County Supervisory District 1 ○ Pima County Supervisory District 2 ○ Pima County Supervisory District 3 ○ Pima County Supervisory District 4 ○ Pima County Supervisory District 5 <p>Search Address to Find Out: Pima County Supervisor District Map</p>
Question 19.	<p>Applicant: Federal Congressional District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does Not Apply ○ District 1 ○ District 2 ○ District 3 ○ District 4 ○ District 5 ○ District 6 ○ District 7 <p>Search address to find out: https://irc-az.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=ffc3e1bac1ed4350923608ae8e3544c7</p>
Question 20.	Tucson City Ward

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does Not Apply ○ Ward 1 ○ Ward 2 ○ Ward 3 ○ Ward 4 ○ Ward 5 ○ Ward 6 <p>Search Address to Find Out: https://gisdata.tucsonaz.gov/datasets/city-of-tucson-ward-boundaries/explore?location=32.155100%2C-110.881650%2C10</p>
Question 21.	<p>Tribal Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does Not Apply ○ Ak-Chin Indian Community ○ Sovereign Nation of the Cocopahs ○ Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation ○ Gila River Indian Community ○ Pascua Yaqui Tribe ○ Tohono O’odham Nation ○ San Carlos Apache Nation

SECTION 2: Application Materials

Before submitting your application materials, please review the *How to Apply* section in the Request for Qualifications Guidelines. Responses in this section will be shared with panelists or used as a factor in the review of your application.

Question 1.	Artist Name
Question 2.	<p>Artist Statement</p> <p>The statement must describe your qualifications for any of the following: site-responsive work, architecturally integrated, or community engagement. Your artist statement is a key part of the review process. We encourage you to be thoughtful and intentional when writing. (300 words or less)</p>
Question 3.	<p>Upload Resume</p> <p>Upload your Resume. Two (2) page max. (Acceptable file types: .doc, .docx, .pdf)</p>
Question 4 Question 5 Question 6 Question 7 Question 8 Question 9	<p>Artwork Image Sample 1-6</p> <p>Work samples must be original work by the applicant(s). Of the six work samples, only two may be mockups or project renditions. . Mockups and renditions must be stated as such. Composite images are accepted.</p> <p>(Acceptable file types: .jpg, .png, .pdf, .mov, .mp4)</p> <p>All artwork samples must include the following description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Artwork Title, Year Completed b. City, State of Installation c. Approximate Dimensions d. Materials Used

	<p>e. <i>Total Artwork Budget</i>: include design, fabrication, and installation costs. If studio work, what would it cost as a commission</p> <p>f. <i>Commissioning Organization</i>: If not a commission, state “studio-work” or how you would describe it</p> <p>g. <i>Your Role in the Project</i>: lead artist, fabricator, installer, artist assistant, co-lead artist</p> <p>h. <i>About Artwork</i>: Discuss the concept, symbolism, ideas, and context. Is it permanent or temporary? Did the project include collaborators? Please avoid duplicating information; if this is a detail or image of the same artwork, tell us what we are seeing in this image. (150 words or fewer).</p>
Question 10.	Selection of Artists Media
Question 11.	Selection of Commissioned Budget Range

SECTION 3: Disclosure and Signature

Responses in this section will not be shared with panelists or used as a factor in the review of your application.

Question 1.	<p>Media Release</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <p>I agree that the Arts Foundation and its assigns and designees may use any media uploaded in this application to educate and inform the public about Arts Foundation programs or to educate about the Arts Foundation in any of the ways outlined in the Media Release below.</p> <p>I agree that the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona and its assigns and designees may use enclosed media (work samples, photography, video files, etc.) to educate and inform the public about Art Foundation programs or to educate about the Arts Foundation in any of the ways outlined in Media Release:</p> <p>Print Media. The Arts Foundation may use the media in print materials.</p> <p>Lectures. The Arts Foundation may use the media to present its public programs.</p> <p>The Internet. The Arts Foundation may use the media on its website or via email.</p> <p>Television. The Arts Foundation may use media in television segments or programs to be aired on local, public, cable, satellite, and/or digital TV.</p> <p>Social Media. The Arts Foundation may use media on social media, Opt-out available.</p> <p>I recognize that any educational materials containing media may be distributed or broadcast nationwide. I release the Arts Foundation and its assignees and designees from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of the media. I certify that I have all rights necessary to agree to these terms.</p>
Question 2.	<p>How did you find out about this opportunity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> TV News Station <input type="radio"/> Radio <input type="radio"/> Podcast <input type="radio"/> Article in the Newspaper

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From a Friend ○ Arts Foundation social media accounts ○ Social Media from Another Account ○ Ward/District/County/ Tribal Government Newsletter or Social Media ○ Arts Foundation Email Newsletter ○ Arts Foundation Website ○ Other Specify
Question 3.	<p>Select other Arts Foundation opportunities that you are interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Newsletter Feature Interview ○ Nothing now, Thanks!
Question 4.	Is there anything else you would like to share with the Arts Foundation?
Question 5.	I acknowledge that I have read this application and approved its submission. I verify that the information submitted above is true.
Question 6.	Submit Form

APPENDIX A

HOW IS THE PUBLIC ARTIST ROSTER USED?

The following summary provides a general overview of how the Public Artist Roster may be used by public art project panels. The artist selection process for eligible Roster projects may vary depending on each new project's needs.

Artists approved to be on the Public Artist Roster become eligible for project commissions with budgets up to \$100,000 between the summer of 2026 and 2028. Roster artists are matched to specific projects based on alignment between the project specifications and the Roster artist's documented skills and experience. When selected for a project, the artist will receive specific information and a timeline.

When a new Public Art project is launched, a new panel is convened to select an artist from the Roster. The Panel is comprised of local artists, arts professionals, stakeholders, and community members.

The artist selection process for each new project may vary based on each project's specifications and criteria, and may include the following steps:

- **Preliminary Artist Selection:** The Panel conducts a preliminary review of the Roster artists to identify the styles and technical expertise that best align with the project specifications and panelists' vision. The Panel will evaluate Roster artists' work and vote for artists whose work best fits the project criteria. Depending on the project, the Panel may directly select an artist from the Roster or interview a shortlist of Roster artist finalists.
- **Finalist Selection:** Finalists will be notified and invited to an interview where they will present their work to the project panel.
- **Artist Selection:** Immediately following any interviews, the Project Panel will vote on and select the artist or artist team. Panel recommendations will be submitted to the Public Art and Community Design Committee (PACDC) and the Arts Foundation Board of Directors for formal approval and authorization.
- **Initial Design Meeting:** The selected artist or artist team will be required to attend several meetings with the panel, in accordance with the specific Public Art Project. Selected artist(s) will gather input from project panelists to develop design concepts.
- **Additional Design Meetings:** Selected artists will present their initial design concepts, and the panel will select one (1) final design concept for the artists to develop further. If none of the designs are selected by the panel, the artist(s) will continue developing different designs to present to the panel. The panel will convene as many times as necessary until a majority vote approves the selected final design.

Finalist Interview Questions

If you are a finalist for a project, you may be asked to present to the Panel with the following criteria and questions:

1. *Format:* You will provide a 15-minute presentation, followed by a 10-minute Q&A with the Panel.
2. *Presentation Preparation:* For your presentation, you will share examples

of your work as well as your experience and methods in public art. You will also share with the Panel why you are interested in this particular project. You may use any format for your presentation.

3. Please address the following in your presentation:
 1. What excites you about this project?
 2. How do you come up with your design ideas?
 3. How do you involve the community in your public art projects?
 4. How do you stay on schedule and within budget?

*Additional questions may be asked if appropriate to a specific project.

Presentation preparation tips

- Provide a diverse range of examples of your work in your presentation. Read through the Project Overview and Exhibition Component outlined above to identify appropriate art media for the public art project.
- Research the area or subject of the project, the potential significant history, culture, and vision of the program. Panelists appreciate candidates who have done their research and know what they are signing up for.
- Provide specific examples of community engagement tools that you have utilized during your work as an artist and/or for public art projects.
- Take time to prepare your responses and presentation. We give you the questions in advance so you can provide thoughtful answers.

APPENDIX B

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. Why is the first image in the portfolio important?

Lead with your strongest work. The first image you upload will be the selection committee's introduction to your portfolio, so choose a piece that makes a powerful first impression. For the best display quality, please upload horizontal images with a 4:5 aspect ratio.

2. I have never completed a public art project should I still apply?

Yes, all artists interested in being eligible for upcoming projects must apply. We strongly encourage emerging and established artists to submit, regardless of their experience with public art.

3. I am currently on the Roster should I still apply?

Yes, all artists interested in being eligible for upcoming projects must apply. Artists from previous Rosters must reapply.

4. What kind of artwork should I include in my work samples?

We recommend selecting work samples that showcase your range; present a variety of works to demonstrate experience with different materials, scales, and environments. You may select work samples that showcase details of your best work. If you use multiple images of the same artwork, clearly state in the 'About the Artwork' section.

5. Are "composite images" allowed for my detailed samples?

Yes, you can use composite images (multiple views in one file) to showcase a single project. It is recommended that composite images be used for projects with multiple site locations that are part of a single project.

6. What are 'mockups' and 'renditions'?

Mockups and renditions are lifelike visual representations of an artwork shown in a realistic context—such as on a building or wall where it is envisioned to be installed. These allow artists who may not have previous public art experience to demonstrate how they envision their work in a public setting. Limit your six work samples to only two mockups or renditions.

7. How should our artist team handle the resume requirement?

The application only accepts one file upload; artist teams must combine relevant experiences into one document. Specific layout and formatting are up to the applicant, but should not exceed the two-page maximum. We recommend focusing on your collective strengths or shared project history to represent your team's capacity.

8. Can I submit a video as a work sample?

Yes, video files are accepted in .mp4 and .mov formats. Please be aware that video files appear as grey icons to the selection committee.