

Request for Proposals – Gastonia, NC

Prospectus for Commissioning Artwork(s) for the Great Place to Bee project of Gastonia, North Carolina

I. Project Intent

Keep Gastonia Beautiful's Art Committee seeks to commission artwork for the downtown area of Gastonia, North Carolina titled "Great Place to Bee" and include interactive smaller art pieces that will weave/waggle their way through Main Street to a larger art piece. The artwork will be sited in a prominent location at a Gateway to the new FUSE Baseball Stadium.

To learn more check out: <https://gohoneyhunters.com/> <https://www.fusegastonianc.com/>

We are seeking artists who are regional in either North or South Carolina. This artwork should create excitement and interest for the community and also represent Keep Gastonia Beautiful creatively and thoughtfully. Keep Gastonia Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, which is a national non-profit, public education organization dedicated to protecting the natural beauty and improving waste handling practices in American communities. Keep Gastonia Beautiful's major goal for the future will focus on enhancing the appearance of our community and expanding and improving our "green" efforts. Our main areas of focus encompass the following: Art, Beautification, Bee City, Education, and Litter/Recycling. For more than 40 years, Keep Gastonia Beautiful has made it their sole mission to make our City a more beautiful place to live, enjoy, and be proud of. We've done this by planting trees and flowers; helping to keep our city clean, recognizing homes with enviable yards, educating citizens on how to better recycle, and, perhaps most importantly, teaching our children the value of preserving our environment and natural resources. Over the past 10 years, we've added another goal to the list: installing public art throughout our Center City to not only create attractive landmarks but also to inspire and motivate those who visit the heart of our City.

To learn more about Keep Gastonia Beautiful check out our website or follow us on social media. <https://www.cityofgastonia.com/about-keep-gastonia-beautiful.html>

We are currently looking for an artist who could fabricate unique 3-D bees as a creative way for Keep Gastonia Beautiful to showcase its Bee City USA affiliation by educating our community about the importance of bees and pollinators through public art. This project, titled "Great Place to Bee" has the potential to create a buzz of excitement and interest for the entire downtown. Custom metal bees will "waggle" (*a waggle is a movement performed by a honeybee at the hive or nest, to indicate to other bees the direction and distance of a source of food*) through downtown as part of a scavenger/honey hunt. At each stop of the scavenger/honey hunt we would include fun facts about bees, and depending on the location, the historical significance. We envision groups "buzzing" around downtown searching for these bees. The "end" of the hunt will lead groups to a new art installation, envisioned as a kinetic piece where bees will be "swarming" around a hive near the Baseball Stadium, home of the Honey Hunters. We are looking for around 8-12 bees to start with the potential to grow, at least 3 inches in length but we are open for interpretation and the ending sculpture should connect and coordinate the bees to their final location. Metal bees should be able to be moved overtime to different locations. We believe it's important to recognize where we came from in order to see where we are headed and encourage you to the use the nectar of your imagination when creating this project.

To put the metal bees of this project into a visual context, please see the link to view what Greenville, SC did with their Mice on Main project. All bees will be located outside of buildings within an eyes view. We are extremely dedicated to being a Bee City USA Affiliate and enjoy exploring creative options to

educate the public about our pollinator friends. We hope that this project will demonstrate a sense of community that enhances our city's culture and influences local surroundings.

<https://www.visitgreenvillesc.com/things-to-do/signature-experiences/mice-on-main/>

The artist's willingness to learn in-depth about the community and the project, and have a dialogue with interested community members from which to apply the concepts is integral toward developing the art pieces. The artwork must be durable, low maintenance, and appropriate to the locations. The artist should take into consideration the high volume of pedestrian traffic within the FUSE District, sunlight, and exposure to the elements when designing the artwork.

Art pieces in a variety of media and forms will be considered. Examples of media include, but are not limited to: textiles, wood, recycled materials, and metal. Although Keep Gastonia Beautiful does not endorse any restrictions on any particular artistic content, the Art Committee will consider the fact that the public will see this artwork in making the final decision about the selection.

II. Budget

Keep Gastonia Beautiful's Art budget for this project is \$15,000 to \$20,000. The budget includes all costs associated with the project including, but not limited to: artist's design fee, travel, materials, fabrication costs, documentation, and the transportation and installation of the work.

III. Eligibility

The project is open to all artists who are residents of North Carolina and South Carolina, age 18 and over, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines.

IV. Timeline

September 30, 2021	Postmark deadline for application materials
October 2021	Artist Selection Panel meets to review material and choose finalist(s)
November 2021	Finalists interviewed
December 2021	Project awarded
April/May 2022	Artwork installed

V. How to Apply

Artists interested in this project must prepare and submit the following:

1. Artists should submit Statements of Qualification (SOQ) with artwork samples and letter of interest relevant to this specific commission.
 - Letter of Interest. The letter should be no more than one page in length and should explain the artist's interest in the project.
 - Current resume. If submitting as a team, a current resume should be submitted for each team member.
 - Ten digital images of the artist's work. Images can be sent digitally or submitted on a USB flash drive. Each image must be numbered with

the artist's name included in the title. Artists applying as a team may submit no more than 15 images total.

- Annotated image list. The image list must include the artist's name and a brief description of each image stating its title, date, medium, size, location, and if a commissioned project, the commission budget.
2. References. A list of at least three professional references that have an intimate knowledge of their work and working methods. The list must include complete addresses, telephone numbers, and email contact information.
 3. Artists should submit possible prototypes of their vision for this project to show the direction that the piece will take.
 4. SASE. A self-addressed stamped envelope must be included for the return of application materials if the artist so desires.

Optional. The artist may include up to three selections of support materials such as reviews, news articles, and other related information.

Artists interested in being considered should submit the above materials by **Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to:**

Sent digitally to JuliannL@cityofgastonia.com or mailed to:

Keep Gastonia Beautiful
Attn: Juliann Lehman
P.O. Box 1748
Gastonia, NC 28053

VI. Selection Process

Keep Gastonia Beautiful's volunteer Art Committee will review all art submissions and select two to three artists to be interviewed for the commission. The finalists may be invited for a site visit and may schedule to have a dialogue with the community. The finalists will then be asked to develop a conceptual approach for artwork at the site and to make a presentation of their proposal/prototype, including concept, materials, size, weight, hanging requirements, details of maintenance guidelines, and budget. The finalists will be compensated (\$350 each) for their participation in this stage of the selection process.