



Call for Social Practice Artists: Collaborative Public Art Design Incubation

PROJECT BRIEF

The Towns of Brentwood and North Brentwood are seeking an artist or team of artists to engage with the North Brentwood community and design a large-scale piece of art to support a community-designed placemaking and public history project. The sculpture will stand on the town lines and will speak to a divided past as well as a shared future for the two towns.

Removing barriers, both physical and institutional, is at the core of this project. In that spirit, a non-established artist/team with maximum 2 years experience in the field of public art is sought. Public art experts will be invited to the project as mentors.

ART AT THE BARRIER

A design intervention is needed as part of a cultural history and placemaking project. A historic traffic barrier sits at the line dividing two towns. The barrier represents a legal boundary between two municipalities and a racial division between black and white. Both Towns have changed since their founding and since the 1950s when the barrier was installed. Some residents know the history, others do not. Interacting with, engaging, and creating with community members is critical to the success of this project. Currently, the intent is to remove the existing barrier but keep the street closed to traffic. The intervention should be interactive and hold space to narrate the history of the barrier as well as engage a larger landscape redesign for the area. Opportunities to engage with a Civil Rights Trail and other regional initiatives are available.

**to note: this is Phase 1 of a 2 phase process. Phase 1 is design and engagement only. Fabrication + Installation will be in Phase 2.*





PROJECT CONTEXT

A traffic barrier sits on Windom Road, separating the Towns of Brentwood and North Brentwood and holds historical significance. In 2017, the Mayors of both Towns partnered with the Neighborhood Design Center to generate a sense of place at the barrier site that highlights its history. Captain W.A. Bartlett, who fought and led a black regiment during the Civil War, bought the land that shaped the two Towns in 1887. In 1924, North Brentwood became the first incorporated African American town in Prince George's County. Brentwood, established concurrently on adjacent higher ground, instituted sundown town restrictions preventing anyone who was not white from entering or remaining in the town after dusk. In 1957, a barrier was placed by Brentwood to physically reinforce the divide.

Today, segregation laws no longer exist and with a growing Latino population in the County, the towns look and act differently. North Brentwood and Brentwood are working together to document the past and change the future narrative of the area.

Working with key stakeholders, the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) created a preliminary site plan that included areas of a Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission-owned park in North Brentwood and a street, Windom Road, in Brentwood. Along with landscape designs, NDC led a design workshop that brought residents of both towns together to define signage frameworks for look and content. The final schematic design plan proposes to replace the barrier with an interactive sculpture, improve the landscape of the park, and bring informational signage to both the park and the two Towns to narrate more historical points and encourage people to visit the barrier site. A grant has been obtained to design a Green Street through the project site. NDC will be leading the design process with the support





of stormwater engineers. Coordinating artist design ideas with landscape and green infrastructure design is highly desired.

PROJECT VALUES

- Design for all people
Principles of universal design, translation of materials into Spanish, and consideration for all ages is imperative for this to be a part of the fabric of the community.
- Tell the Story
Attract visitors to learn and experience the history of the place, through both signage and sculpture. Help people see themselves in the present and future of these Towns.
- Make It Interactive
Designs should consider how users will engage with the art and how it will change / enhance their connection to place
- Respect diversity, elevate equity and be inclusive
 - *This project seeks to foster mutual respect between all parties involved. We will elevate different skillsets, experiences, and ages as equal and engage with a diverse group of stakeholders representing legacy and new residents.*

ROLE OF ARTIST(S)

- Collaboratively design community engagements with project partners. These could take the form of interviews, workshops, site walks, and/or performances
- Provide conceptual design ideas for an experience and permanent installation at the site of the Barrier
- Convey concept design ideas through renderings or other media
- Advise on signage or other landscape interventions that support the designed experience





- Update project partners on progress at pre-agreed upon milestones
- Generate renderings / text / other project collateral
- Formally document process through appropriate media and produce a compilation / summary piece

ROLE OF SUPPORTING PARTNERS

- Provide project history and background and all relevant documents
- Connect artist to residents and provide technical support on ethical community engagement (provided by Neighborhood Design Center)
- Access to facilities for meetings and support with outreach and staffing
- Technical Assistance from to include but not limited to structural stability, materiality, cost estimations, installation advice (provided by Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council PGAHC)
- Historical research, interview support, and writing guidance for signage (provided by Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center)
- Select supporting partners will provide design or process advice as desired (facilitated by PGAHC)
- Provide prompt feedback and design guidance
- Guide interventions and design with artist(s) as plans for the Windom Road Green Street are being developed

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Towns of North Brentwood and Brentwood, Neighborhood Design Center, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning, Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center, Joe's Movement Emporium, Hyattsville CDC, Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, Anacostia Trails & Heritage Area, Red Dirt Studio





BUDGET & TIMELINE

\$10,000 includes up to \$5,000 for artists' fee and \$5,000 for materials and expenses related to the design process. Design Proposals to be submitted by April 1, 2020 for presentation to the public on April 4, 2020.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should live in Washington DC Metropolitan Area (including Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia) and be over the age of 18.

SELECTION PROCESS

A committee of local artists, Town leadership, Historical Society Members, and Arts & Culture professionals will consider applications and reach out to finalists for in-person interviews.

Finalists will be notified by December 23, 2019

Final Committee Decision will be reached by January 10, 2019

HOW TO APPLY

Interested artists, please prepare and submit the following by **December 2, 2019**:

- Letter of interest (no more than two pages in length) which explains your interest in the competition, how you will address the project values, and what you uniquely bring to the project
- Samples of work that embody your artistic process and values (max 5MB)

Please mail applications to: aoneill@ndc-md.org

Send Questions to: aoneill@ndc-md.org





APPENDICES

A1: Conceptual Project Design: “Windom Road Barrier Park”

RESOURCES

Mapping Racism Project: <https://mappingracism.home.blog/>

Town of North Brentwood: <http://www.northbrentwood.com/aboutus/townhistory.html>

Town of Brentwood: <http://www.brentwoodmd.gov/102/History>

Denny, George D. Proud past, promising future: Cities and towns in Prince George's County, Maryland. <https://www.amazon.com/Proud-past-promising-future-Maryland/dp/B0006FB0P8>

Footsteps from North Brentwood: <https://pgaamcc.org/footsteps-from-north-brentwood/>