

Call for Artists-Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Public Art Opportunity: Lion Sculpture to Accompany Police Memorial Wall

Deadline to Apply: Monday, August 18, 2025, by 8:00 a.m.

Overview:

The Los Alamos, New Mexico Art in Public Places Board (APPB) invites artists to submit qualifications for a public art project: a sculpture of an African male lion to be installed at the center of a designated area surrounded by the newly relocated Police Memorial Wall, outside the main entrance of the police station. This sculpture will serve as a visual enhancement to the site but is not a memorial in itself.

This open call seeks to identify qualified artists interested in being considered for the project. Selected artists from this call will be invited to submit a Concept Proposal and present it to the APPB. Those invited to develop proposals will receive a stipend. A single artist may be selected from this group to fabricate and install the final work.

Project Context:

The sculpture will be installed at the center of a designated area surrounded by the newly relocated Police Memorial Wall, situated between the Justice Center signage and the police storage entrance. The lion sculpture will contribute to the visual identity of the site, offering a bold and symbolic presence that complements the setting without representing or replacing the memorial itself.

Artist Scope of Work:

- Create an **African male lion** sculpture.
- The sculpture must fit within a **9 ft x 9 ft** footprint and must not exceed **5 ft tall x 3 ft wide x 8 ft long**.
- Approved materials ideally include **bronze** or **stone** but can be other durable mediums suitable for long-term outdoor installation; all artwork must satisfy the Los Alamos public art ordinance requirement of a permanence of at least 20 years.
- Artists are responsible for the complete project: concept development, fabrication, transportation, and installation.
- Final installation ideally will be completed before May 2026, in time for site readiness ahead of the annual Police Memorial Ceremony.

Project Budget:

The total project budget is **\$45,000 to \$55,000**, which includes artist fees, design, materials, fabrication, coordination with project collaborators, installation, insurance, travel, and any associated costs.

Selection Process:

This is a two-phase selection process:

Phase 1 - Qualifications Review

Artists will be selected to move forward based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence and innovation as demonstrated in past work
- Ability to develop a design that supports the goals of this public art project
- Demonstrated understanding of and interest in creating work for the specific site
- Experience with projects of similar scale and budget
- Proven ability to work with durable materials appropriate for exterior public installation

Phase 2 - Concept Proposal (Invitation Only)

Selected artists will receive a stipend to develop and present a concept design to the APPB. The Board may select one artist for full commission. The County reserves the right not to proceed with any proposals if none are deemed suitable.

Timeline:

- Qualification Submissions Due: **Monday, August 18, 2025, by 8:00 a.m.**
- Artists Invited to Compete will be Notified: Week of September 1, 2025
- Project Completion Deadline: Ideally before May 2026

Eligibility:

This opportunity is open to all artists, regardless of geographic location. **New Mexico-based artists are strongly encouraged to apply.**

How to Apply:

Interested artists should submit a single PDF that includes:

1. **Cover Letter** (1 page): Briefly describe your interest in the project, your artistic approach, and relevant experience.
2. **Resume/CV** (maximum 2 pages): Include details of public art projects or similar commissions.
3. **Images of Past Work** (up to 10): Include a brief description with each image (title, year, material, size, location, budget).
4. **Professional References:** Minimum of two contacts familiar with your work.

Email your complete PDF qualification package to:

Chelsea Ashcraft
Art in Public Places Staff Liaison
chelsea.ashcraft@lacnm.us

Questions?

For more information or questions about the call for art process, please contact the APPB staff liaison at the email listed above. You can also visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/LACAPPARTCALL>