



# OKLAHOMA Arts



## **Oklahoma Art in Public Places**

### **Project: Route 66 Public Art Trail (Catoosa, OK)**

Deadline: July 19, 2026

#### **Overview and Project Description**

Artists and artist teams are invited to submit qualifications for the design and installation of artwork for an Oklahoma Art in Public Places project located in Catoosa, Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC), in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), is seeking an artist or a collaborative artist team to create an artwork along the roadway of Route 66. The public artwork will be situated in a highly visible, accessible location where visitors can experience the work from the roadway and up close. The proposed area for the artwork is Gazebo Park, located between Route 66 and Cherokee Street, off the right of way on Antry Drive.

#### **Theme and Intent**

Envisioned for this project is a monumental scale artwork that celebrates the history and people of Catoosa with a unique and thoughtful design. The proposed artwork should reflect the spirit of Catoosa and seek to capture the interest and imagination of residents and travelers on Route 66.

Artists are encouraged to consider the many layers that have shaped Catoosa, including connections to tribal nations, transportation and trade, waterways, agriculture and industry, roadside culture, and the movement of people across the American landscape. Inspiration could be drawn from local history, the Verdigris River and the Port of Catoosa, or broader themes of travel on Route 66.

The artwork shall be an original creation, designed for outdoor installation and built to endure all weather conditions. It should enhance the Route 66 corridor by providing a memorable aesthetic experience that is both highly visible and interesting to visitors.

#### **Educational Resources**

<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=CA074>

<https://catoosachamber.org/>

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/route-66-oklahoma.htm>

## **Project Funds**

The artist or artist team will receive \$325,000 to create the artwork. All costs associated with the public art project including, but not limited to, artist design fee, structural engineering, eligible materials, fabrication, insurance, transportation, installation, building or site modification, artwork lighting, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected expenses, and any other costs related to the project are covered by the budget. All costs associated with the public art project are covered by this budget, and no additional funds will be available.

## **Eligibility**

This opportunity is open to artists and artist teams within the United States who have worked with public art project budgets exceeding \$20,000.

## **Application Requirements**

[Artists must complete this application form](#) and provide support materials specified below. Please be sure to allow adequate time to submit your application as technical difficulties can occur. Applications that are mailed, emailed, faxed, or hand delivered will not be considered.

**Qualifications will not be accepted after the July 19, 2026, 11:59 p.m. (CDT) deadline**

## **Application materials include:**

- Letter of Intent
  - Summary of artistic focus and professional career, particularly as your background relates to this project
  - Can include a brief description of the concept to be proposed, should the applicant be selected
  - One page maximum
- Resume/CV
  - If applying as a team, please include the team/studio resume. If a team/studio resume is not available, please combine the individual resumes of each team member into one document.

- Five images of relevant previous work per member of team, with a maximum of fifteen images.
  - Files can be up to 2MB. Images should be at least 72 dpi.
  - Please number images 1-5, etc., in the file name using this system, #LastName,FirstName.jpg
- Image descriptions
  - Please include title, medium, dimensions, and year for each artwork. You may also include a brief statement about each work (two-sentence maximum).
  - Number your descriptions, corresponding to the file names.

### **Selection Process**

RFQ applications will be reviewed by the Director of Art in Public Places and the Oklahoma Arts Council Art in Public Places program staff to ensure artists qualify to be considered for the project. A shortlist of qualified artists will be submitted to the selection committee based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Appropriateness of artwork to the goals of the project, as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Professional experience is adequate to meet the demands of the project, including working in a large scale.
- Availability to participate in the design, approval, and implementation of the project as required.

The list of qualified artists will be presented to the Route 66 Selection Committee. The committee will identify up to four finalists who will be invited to develop a full proposal. Each finalist will be paid an honorarium of \$1,000 for the development and presentation of their full design proposal. Artists are expected to attend a mandatory in-person artist orientation and will present in person to the selection committee. An honorarium of up to \$2,000 will be provided for costs associated with in-person attendance. The selection committee's recommended artist and concept for commissioning will be presented to the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Oversight Committee for final approval prior to completing the contract for commissioning.

## **Timeline\***

Application opens June 2026

Application deadline July 19, 2026

Notification of selected semifinalists July 30, 2026

Mandatory finalist orientation session August 14, 2026, 1:30 p.m. (CDT)

Semifinalist Artist presentations September 15, 2026, 1:00 p.m. (CDT)

Oversight Committee Late September 2026

Anticipated notification of selected artists September 30, 2026

Anticipated installation of artwork August 2027

\*Timeline is subject to change. Artists will be notified in writing of any changes well in advance.

## **Rights and Licensing**

The commissioned artist or team shall grant a commercial and noncommercial license for promotional use of the artwork images. Copyright remains with the artist unless otherwise negotiated.

Once selected, the artist or artist team will work with the Oklahoma Arts Council and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to coordinate the project and installation schedule.

## **Questions/Follow up**

Please direct questions or requests for additional information to Cara Alizadeh-Fard, Public Art Manager, at [cara.alizadeh-fard@arts.ok.gov](mailto:cara.alizadeh-fard@arts.ok.gov) or (405) 317-3297.

