



TOE River Arts
PO Box 882
Burnsville, NC 28714



**North
Carolina
Arts
Council**

Request for Qualifications

Signal Pole Wraps for Town of Burnsville, NC

Artist Commission \$4,000

Deadline to Apply: 11:59 p.m. (EST) | February 14, 2019

Project Summary

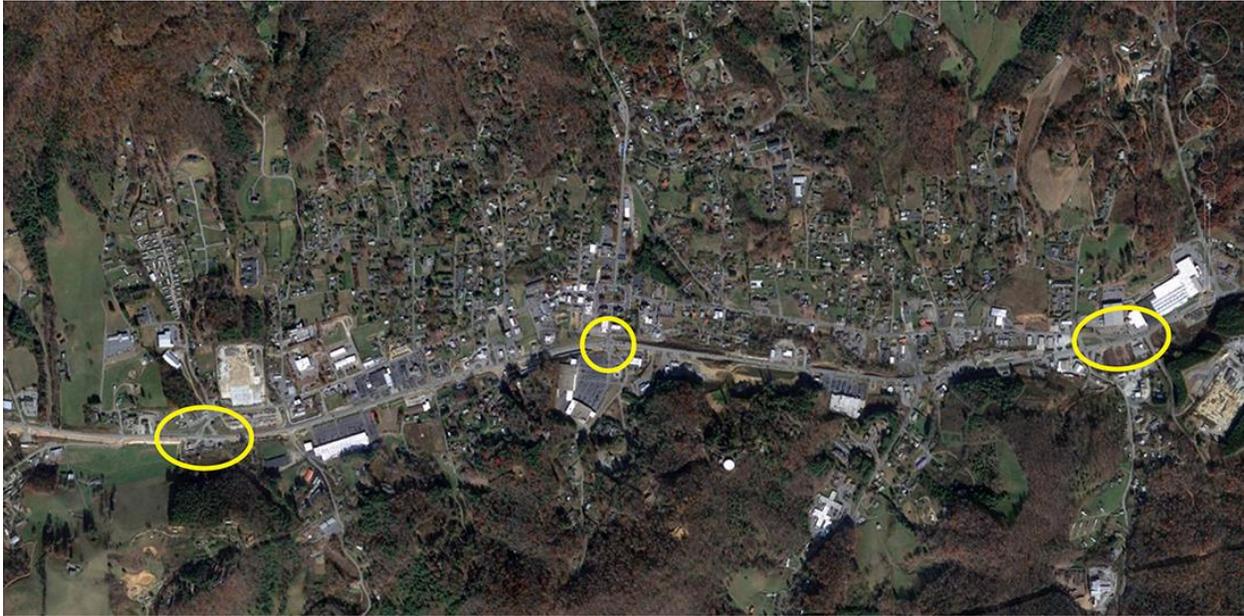
The Toe River Arts with the Town of Burnsville desires to hire 3-4 artists to design images that can be adapted for laser cut fabrication for metal traffic signal pole wraps at 3-4 major gateway intersections on Scenic Highway 19E. The public art opportunities at Burnsville's three major gateways into downtown were identified in the Burnsville Public Art SmART Vision Plan created by artist Jack Mackie with the community. The gateways into Burnsville are a part of the NC DOT road widening project along this major corridor. Funding by the National Endowment of the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council have been secured for this project.

Vision and Context

The [*Burnsville SmART Vision Plan*](#) identifies opportunities for public art in the downtown and along 19E Scenic Hwy corridor that will enhance the vehicular and pedestrian experience and announce to passersby that you have arrived. Lead artist Jack Mackie has been working with area glass artists over the last three years to create the first of six iconic glass entry markers based on the shape of a telescope used by Burnsville's namesake Admiral Ottway Burns. The significance of the telescope also communicates Burnsville's international Dark Skies designation and home to recently installed Bare Observatory which features the largest public telescope in the Southeast, US.

The plan identified the inclusion of metal pole wraps attached to signal poles at the three major intersections/gateways into the downtown off 19E. The wraps are envisioned to celebrate the native landscape, flora, and fauna found in Yancey County area in graphic designs that enhance the pedestrian and motorist experience. The Burnsville Gateway is designed to be a beacon to drivers at each of the Town's 3 entrances, signaling that they have arrived at a unique destination - a town and region they will want to explore.

Lead Artist Jack Mackie has established working relationships with local fabricators and will assist selected artists with preparing their designs suitable for CAD files that will be used by Laser cutters to fabricate pole wraps. Mayland Community College has donated CAD services and Altec Burnsville Body Manufacturing Industry will donate fabrication services. Selected artists will have the opportunity to gain experience with translating their 2-dimensional drawings into large scale artworks suitable for transportation environment.



Burnsville Project Corridor Map

Background & Burnsville

[Burnsville](#) (pop. 1700) in western NC, is surrounded by 18 majestic mountains over 6,000 feet, including Mt. Mitchell, the east coast's tallest peak. The Town is designated as [Tier 1](#) by NCDOT, its economy decimated by the collapse of textile and furniture manufacturing. The population is 94 % white, 4% Hispanic and 2% African American. The area is home to one of the highest concentrations of craft artists in the country, most attracted here by [Penland School of Crafts](#) and the natural beauty. In the center of Burnsville's historic downtown is the state's oldest town square. It's a "Dark Sky" community and Yancey County is the site of one of the world's 30 [Dark Sky Parks](#) housing the largest public telescope in the SE. In 2012, Burnsville was selected as one of five [SmART communities](#) by the NC Arts Council, to demonstrate how the arts build sustainable economic development.

Schedule:

- Application Deadline – February 14, 2019
- Finalists Interviews – Week of March 11th
- Artist Selections – Early Spring

- Concept Development - Spring
- Begin Design – Summer
- Fabrication & Installation – Summer 2019

Artwork Goals

1. *Artwork is suitable for translation into laser cut metal traffic signal pole wraps*
2. *Artwork emphasizes the nature found in the Yancey County region*
3. *Artwork encourages reflection on Burnsville’s community*
4. *Artist consider long-term maintenance requirements*

Community Engagement

Once a contract is signed, the selected artists will return to Burnsville for a site visit, prior to developing a concept design. The artist will meet various project stakeholders and interact with the public in a workshop hosted by Toe River Arts & the Town of Burnsville.

Artist’s Responsibilities

Primary responsibility of the selected artists is to create a monochromatic drawing / painting that can be translated into a foreground / background graphic (see Traffic Light Pole Wrap example below). Each artist will be given specific dimensions per their poles (either four or three poles per intersection/artist). The artist’s drawing will be scaled by the fabrication budget to achieve an approximate general size of 13’0”h X 5.0” circumference (each pole varies).

Artist will select monochromatic color(s) for each pole wrap.

Artist will be available to make minor drawing adjustments during fabrication.

Artist may observe as appropriate the CAD translation of their drawing, laser cutting, rolling, painting / powder-coating, and installation.

Submittals

Local, regional, and national professional artists are invited to apply online using:

<https://www.hightail.com/u/DeniseDickens-PublicArt>

NOTE: Previous experience producing CAD files or working with laser-cutting is ***not required*** to be eligible for this RFQ. The Town of Burnsville and Toe River Arts welcomes submittals by artists of all mediums.

Submission materials must include:

1. A statement of interest
2. Artist resume
3. 10 images of related art and design projects named and numbered to match an annotated image list
4. Three (3) current references with current contact information

Artist Selection Committee

Representatives of the SmART Team, Public Art & Design Board, *Burnsville SmART Plan* Lead Artist Jack Mackie, and Toe River Arts will participate on the committee. Members have expertise in the visual arts, public art, urban design, planning, economic development, and are engaged in the preservation of history and cultural life and growth of Burnsville & Yancey County. They will review the RFQ applicants based upon the criteria provided and will invite up to three (3) finalists for telephone interviews.

Selection Criteria

- a) artistic excellence and originality of existing work;
- b) timeless concepts related to context and community;
- c) relevance of artworks over time; and
- d) imaginative art solutions that expand the creativity of place making.

Eligibility

Applicants must be age 18 or older, and are eligible regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identification, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical ability.

Submission Due Date February 14, 2019 | 11:59 P.M., Eastern Time Zone

Budget \$4,000 (each artist) – Contract for Design and Oversight of Fabrication
Overall project budget \$80,000.

Telephone Interview

Up to three (3) finalists will be invited to do a telephone interview with Lead Artist Jack Mackie. **No proposal for an artwork will be required of the finalists for their interviews.** Telephone Interview will be tentatively scheduled for week of March 11th, 2019.

For information

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