

The City of Oklahoma City and its Trusts

Request for Qualifications

RFQ-OCITY-195 Public Art for the MAPS 4 Clara Luper Civil
Rights Center



The Opportunity

MAPS 4 Clara Luper Civil Rights Center Public Art Summary

The City of Oklahoma City announces a call to artists for a work of public art for the new MAPS 4 Clara Luper Civil Rights Center exterior. The art award is \$101,750 and the deadline for responses to the RFQ is Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 4 pm CT.

Background

The Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS 4) is a debt-free public improvement program, funded by a temporary penny sales tax, that will raise a projected \$1.07 billion over eight (8) years for a wide variety of projects including the Clara Luper Civil Rights Center.

The Clara Luper Civil Rights Center, set to open in 2027, will serve as a beacon of education, community engagement, and activism — honoring the legacy of Clara Luper and her pivotal role in the civil rights movement in Oklahoma City. Designed by Bockus-Payne and Atelier Cory Henry, this five-acre campus will be constructed immediately adjacent to the historic Freedom Center, transforming the city, state and nation's knowledge of our civil rights history and positively influencing the future of northeast Oklahoma City and our entire community. With exhibition and programming areas, outdoor and events spaces, this new campus will be an educational and community gathering place that honors the past, enlightens visitors today and empowers the next generation of leadership.



An educator, historian, and activist, Clara Luper was born in 1923 in Okfuskee County, Oklahoma. She was an alumna of Langston University and the University of Oklahoma, where she was the first African American student accepted into the graduate history program. Clara Luper worked primarily as a public school teacher and would later go on to lead the local NAACP Youth Council in a series of sit-in demonstrations from 1958 to 1964, making significant strides in the fight for equality. Clara Luper received over 150 awards, including an induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

You can learn more about the life and legacy of Clara Luper [here](#).

Goals

The Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs invite artists and artist teams to respond to this RFQ with the desire of designing, fabricating, and installing a work of art that will be located outside of the new Civil Rights Center. This project will be a unique design that will be a representation of Clara Luper and her legacy as an educator, activist, and community leader. This project is expected to be a lighted sculptural-style work that will include a figurative depiction of Clara Luper. Artists may consider the use of non-traditional mediums and materials, including approaches that integrate sound, landscape, or other unique architectural elements. The work should be durable, robust, and low maintenance. The selected finalists will have the opportunity to propose a design for one of the three locations indicated below in yellow.

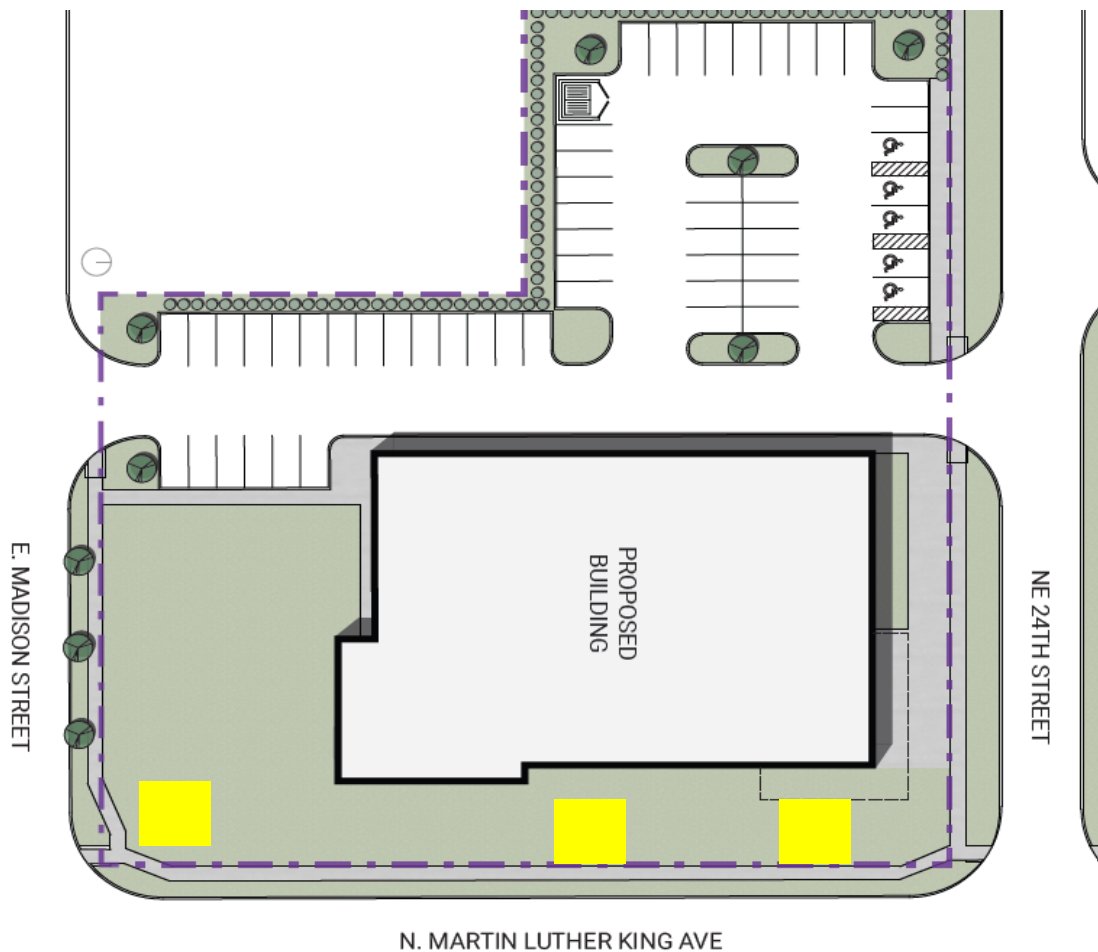




Image above is a rendering of new center looking west from Martin Luther King Avenue designed by Bockus Payne Architects and Atelier Cory Henry

Scope of Services

Description of Services

The selected artist and/or team (Artist) will:

- Perform all work as detailed in the Public Art Commission Agreement to design, fabricate, and install a permanent work of art and an art identification marker.

Contract Management Expectations

The Artist, either personally or through their agent(s), is responsible for project management. The Art Award/Project Budget covers all aspects of the entire project, including but not limited to design, engineering, construction, installation, rental, liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, transportation, shipping, travel, lodging, design district review and other incidental expense.

Contract Payment

The total Art Award of **\$101,750** includes all costs for designing, creating, and installing the artwork, including but not limited to materials, engineering, research, fabrication, travel, transportation, required insurance and any necessary permits and certificates.

How We Choose

Eligibility

As required by state law, this opportunity is open to all practicing artists who are at least 18 years of age. Artists selected as finalists must attend the required in-person site visit. Artist teams may include artist apprentices younger than 18, when prior written permission is provided by the apprentice's parent or guardian.

Selection Process

Selection involves a three-step process: initial review by an evaluation committee; first selection by the full selection committee resulting in choosing finalists who will create and present conceptual design reports; final selection by the full selection committee after finalist presentations. The selection committee may include but is not limited to an Arts Commissioner, a professional art consultant, selected representatives, and stakeholders.

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria to be applied and interpreted by the Selection Committee include:

- Artistic excellence and originality, as evidenced by representation of past work in images and other supporting materials;
- Evidence of ability to handle a project of this size and scope;
- Evidence of clarity and understanding of Clara Luper, her legacy, and Oklahoma City's Civil Rights Movement;
- Stated availability to work within the Project time frame and to be present for required meetings; and
- Price and current market value of Artist's work in relation to the scope and value contemplated for this commission.

Project Schedule

Schedule of events for RFQ-OCITY-195. **By responding to this RFQ applicants acknowledge that they are available to meet on the designated dates.** The City reserves the right, as deemed necessary, at its sole discretion, to adjust this schedule by written notice to all the Artists who have timely responded to the RFQ.

RFQ-OCITY-195 announced		Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Deadline for submissions		4:00pm CT Wednesday April 15, 2026
First selection meeting	Committee only	Thursday April 30, 2026
Site visit for finalists	In person required	2:00 pm Thursday May 14, 2026
Finalists presentation	Online required	Wednesday, June 24 2026
Arts Commission meeting		Monday, July 20, 2026
City Council approval		August 2026
Installation		TBD

Note: Revisions may be requested by the selection committee after the selection of final design, before final City Council approval.

Submittal Instructions & Content

All submission materials, including the eight full-size .jpg photos, should be combined into a single file then submitted together. Send only the following completed questions listed in the order below. Fillable forms can be found in the **Required Forms for RFQ-OCITY-195** pdf in this packet.

- 1. Artist names, roles, contact information, and references**
- 2. Artist Statement:** In 500 words or less make the case for yourself to be selected as a finalist. Think about what you uniquely bring to this project; how you would approach the design and implementation of the work; what single work in your portfolio gives us the best insight into what you could propose for the MAPS 4 Clara Luper Civil Rights Center? Only one artist statement per team.
- 3. Instead of a Resume part 1:** In 250 words or less, tell us what life experience or educational experience of yours is most relevant to this project and to our understanding of who you are. Name up to three with brief explanations.
- 4. Instead of a Resume part 2:** In 250 words or less, tell us more about at least one but up to three of the works in your image submissions. Give us a backstory, insight into your technique ... whatever gives a richer understanding of what you created and why.
- 5. Image list:** Include up to eight (8) images of representative work. **Note: Limit to 1MB in size per image.** Each image must include the title, medium, dimensions, location, cost/value, and year of completion. You may include the details within each image or on a separate page, provided that all images and information are contained in a single document.

Failure to complete these requirements may result in the disqualification of your submission.

First time registration in Bidnet Direct / Register for free:

1. Visit: <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/oklahoma/cityofoklahomacityandtrusts> and click on the "Register Now" button.
2. Select the Limited Plan at no cost.
3. Select Oklahoma in the state field and click on Save and Continue.
4. You will enter your company information.
5. Your Username will be prefilled with your e-mail address. Write down your password as you will need when you activate your account.
6. Click on the "I agree to Terms & Conditions".
7. Click on Finalize Registration.
8. This will take you to a confirmation page that you have subscribed.
9. You will receive an e-mail notification to enter your username and password. This will log you into the site. This needs to be done within 48 hours or Bidnet will need to reset for you.
10. Create a company profile to receive bid invitations from agencies. Go to Working Categories and search for Public Art and add the NIGP Code 91886 – Public Art Consulting to your profile. This will allow you to receive alerts for these RFQ's.
11. Bidnet Direct has a webinar on how to register and other training links on the City's Bidnet page at: <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/oklahoma/cityofoklahomacityandtrusts>

Notices

- See Sample Public Art Commission Agreement attached in Bidnet. The Agreement includes non-discrimination and non-collusion requirements and information about the Oklahoma Open Records Act and Confidential Information, and a sample VARA waiver. **Submission of an entry shall constitute acknowledgement, understanding, and acceptance of the terms, conditions, criteria, requirements, and evaluations as generally set forth in the Public Art Commission Agreement.**
- The Artist selected for the project shall retain all rights under 17 U.S.C. §101 et seq. (the Copyright Act of 1976), subject to rights of attribution and certain other specific rights, as well as all other rights in and to the Work, ***except ownership and possession. City shall have ownership and possession of Work pursuant to this Agreement, but shall not own the copyright to the Work, which shall be retained by Artist.*** No Work created by Artist for City, pursuant to this Agreement or any other Agreement, shall be considered a “work made for hire” as defined by Title 17, U.S.C §§ 101 and 201(b) (the United States Copyright Act of 1976). 17 U.S.C. §106(a) The Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, “VARA”) See sample VARA Waiver in Exhibit H in the Public Art Agreement (sample) following Section X below.
- The City reserves the right to amend or withdraw this RFQ-Call to Artists at any time and for any or no reason. Receipt of submission entries by City, or submission of an Artist’s entry to City, or selection of an Artist for purposes of negotiating a contract, confers no rights to any Artist nor obligates City in any manner. City reserves the right, at its sole discretion and for any reason, to reject all submission entries and not award any contract, and to solicit additional or different submission entries at any time. City incurs no obligation regarding this Call to Artists, or any contract resulting there from, until a Public Art Commission Agreement is fully negotiated, and all documents have been properly submitted and executed by all parties.
- The costs of developing a submission entry are solely the responsibility of the Artist. City shall not provide reimbursement for such costs. City shall not be liable for any Artist’s preparation costs for any reason, other than the \$1,500 fee paid to an Artist or Artist team invited by the Selection Committee to produce a Conceptual Design Report for the Selection Interview. **Submission of an entry shall constitute acceptance of the terms, conditions, criteria, requirements, and evaluations set forth in this Call to Artists, and operates as an offer and a waiver of all objections and Proposer-originated modifications to the contents of this Call to Artists.**
- All information in submissions to this RFQ, and any resultant Conceptual Design Reports by finalists for this project are considered to be public record by the Oklahoma Open Records Act.
- All entries properly submitted shall be received and reviewed by City. City reserves the right to reject any entry deemed to be non-responsive for failure to comply fully with the terms of the Call to Artists. However, City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request clarifications, corrections, or additional information and to waive irregularities in execution or delivery of the entry, provided it is in the best interest of City.
- The Selectee must identify a locally based (living within a 120-mile radius of the Project site) Project Representative, who is the main Project contact, and who can be on site or react on 24 hours’ notice as needed for construction meetings and other contingencies. Artists may designate themselves, if locally based.