

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Planning Consultant Sought to Develop Master Plan for Public Art Along the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail

Issued by:

Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy
Art on the Rail Trail
195 New Karner Road
Albany, NY 12205

Date Issued: August 1, 2025

Applications Due: September 1, 2025

1. Project Overview

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy seeks a qualified consultant to develop a comprehensive Master Plan for Public Art along the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail in Albany County, New York.

This Plan will guide Art on the Rail Trail's mission to support and improve the Rail Trail through the placement of public art, and to promote it as a destination for both art and recreation.

2. Project Background

The Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail (the Rail Trail) is a multi-use trail that spans approximately 9 miles from the City of Albany to the Village of Voorheesville. It traverses diverse neighborhoods, natural landscapes, and cultural landmarks, offering a unique platform for community engagement through public art.

Art on The Rail Trail (ART) has facilitated numerous temporary art projects and events along The Trail since 2017. This Master Plan will provide ART with a strategic guide for commissioning future artworks and cultural programming.

3. Scope of Work

The selected Plan consultant will:

- Conduct a comprehensive, on-site review of the Rail Trail and make recommendations for specific art locations, with attention to current site conditions as well as locations that could be developed to allow for art installations.
- Gather community input on public art along the Rail Trail through activities such as public meetings, workshops, and surveys, allowing residents, stakeholders, and trail users to express their ideas and concerns.

- Provide a detailed summary of the community input, including respondents' demographics.
 - Report County and municipal code requirements and preferences for placing art installations along the Rail Trail.
 - Recommend types of temporary outdoor public art and associated viewing timeframes (seasonal versus multi-year; very ethereal or time-based versus longer-duration).
 - Identify strategies for conservation, preservation, and security of art installations.
 - Provide a map of the Rail Trail with recommended site locations.
 - Prepare a phased implementation plan that includes project prioritization and annual growth objectives.
 - Recommend the process of project development, review, administration, installation, and maintenance.
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4. Application Requirements

- Cover Letter
 - Resume
 - Visual documentation of past project planning
 - References (at least two previous clients)
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6. Budget

\$10,000 inclusive of all fees, travel, meetings, and reporting expenses

7. Timeline

- RFQ issued: August 1, 2025
 - Applications Due: September 1, 2025
 - Notifications: September 15, 2025
 - Project Start Date: September 15, 2025
 - Project Completion Date: June 1, 2026
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8. Submission Instructions

Proposals should be submitted via email in PDF format by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 1, to:

art@mohawkhudson.org

Subject Line: ART RFQ

9. Contact Information

For questions, please contact:

art@mohawkhudson.org

We encourage proposals from women, minority, LGBTQ+, and underrepresented artists and firms. We are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our selection of artists and companies.

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) is a nonprofit conservation organization conserving and stewarding the lands and waters of the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys for the benefit of people and the environment in Albany, Schenectady, and Montgomery counties. Since its founding in 1992, the Conservancy has protected nearly 16,000 acres of land, including over 2,500 acres open to the public for hiking, cross-country skiing, and other educational and recreational opportunities. To learn more, visit www.mohawkhudson.org.

Art on the Rail Trail (ART) is a volunteer committee of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. ART's mission is to support and improve the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail by creating public works of art along the Rail Trail. These unique art installations encourage local and regional visitors of varying ages and physical abilities to enjoy this amenity, both increasing the diversity of trail users and benefiting the local economy. To learn more, visit www.mohawkhudson.org/art.