



**TIME AND PLACE: EXHIBITIONS OF PUBLIC ART AND HISTORY
ALEXANDRIA'S 275TH ANNIVERSARY**

The City of Alexandria, Virginia seeks a public art curator/consultant/consultant team to develop and implement a public art project plan for curated exhibitions of temporary public art projects that examine aspects of Alexandria's history in recognition of the City's 275th anniversary in 2024. The selected curator/consultant/consultant team will be a fine arts professional who assists in the development of the public art projects, primarily by locating an artist(s) suitable for a project, assisting the artist(s) in developing their concept, and assisting in the implementation of the project as outlined in the [Public Art Implementation Plan](#).

Project Overview: The City of Alexandria completed a Public Art Implementation Plan (herein referred to as the Plan) to support the Public Art Policy that was approved by City Council in 2012. The Plan outlined a vision and goals for the public art program and established three Creative Directions: Time and Place, Neighborhood Identity, and Urban and Natural Systems.

The Plan suggests that a key component of the Time and Place creative direction should be periodic, curated exhibitions of temporary public art projects in a variety of media that examine aspects of the city's history and that the focus of each exhibition would be determined by a curator through conversation with the Office of the Arts, the Office of the Historic Alexandria, and relevant boards and commissions. Artists would be given the opportunity to draw on the historic and archaeological resources that the City has available, or be challenged to look for meaningful locations elsewhere throughout the city.

Exhibitions of public art and history are envisioned as a unique aspect of Alexandria's Public Art Program, distinguishing it from its peers in the region, and establishing national leadership in the field while also allowing artists to play a central role in Alexandria's ongoing dialogue with history.

Two major anniversaries are approaching in Alexandria: Alexandria's 275th anniversary in 2024, and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Both offer opportunities for Time and Place installations related to those milestones. Leading up to 2026, there will be statewide and national celebrations that Alexandria can connect with as well.

The current theme for the City's 275th anniversary is "One Alexandria, Many Stories." A successful public art curator will embrace an expansive understanding of the City of Alexandria today and bring that understanding to develop inspiring and relevant public art programming that engages diverse audiences.

The City of Alexandria's Public Art Program is seeking a curator for Time and Place public art installations in 2024 (connected to the City's 275th anniversary) with an opportunity to extend the contract to span programming and activities through 2026, should the subject matter or public art approach benefit from further exploration connected to the USA 250th anniversary; and is desired by the City and the chosen curator.

Public Art Context: Alexandria’s Public Art Program is a nationally recognized program that has built a reputation for working with artists in innovative ways to realize new projects. The Program’s vision is for public art to enrich the experience of Alexandria’s past, celebrate the spirit of Alexandria’s present and shape the identity of Alexandria’s future. Recent and current initiatives include:

- A temporary public art series Site/See: New Views in Old Town providing an engaging visual anchor that draws visitors and fosters interaction and enjoyment in Alexandria’s new Waterfront Park;
- An award-winning partnership with the Office of Historic Alexandria to curate the inaugural Time and Place exhibition, which commissioned three artists to explore the intersection of contemporary art with Alexandria’s multifaceted history and resulted in temporary work for Gadsby’s Tavern Museum;
- A permanent playful sculpture in a community playground; and
- An artist residency with Alexandria Renew Enterprises (Alex Renew), the City’s water resource recovery public utility, that engaged an artist with issues of water stewardship.

For more information about Alexandria’s public art program visit www.alexandriava.gov/publicart

Selection Criteria:

- Success in developing and implementing quality historical or civic based public art projects.
- Demonstrated experience working with artists to successfully develop and implement public art projects.
- Proven ability to coordinate with stakeholders through the project development and implementation processes, including municipal staff, task forces, and commissions.
- Ability to implement projects designed with a high level of community engagement and proven outcomes.

Deliverables:

- Curate a public art project(s) associated with the City of Alexandria’s 275th anniversary with installation and/or activations occurring between Spring and Fall of 2024.
- Develop and implement a public art program plan to include goals, vision, strategies, for implementing periodic, curated exhibitions of temporary public art projects that examine aspects of Alexandria's history as outlined in the [Public Art Implementation Plan](#).
- Provide recommendations for an artist(s) suitable for the project(s), and assist the artist(s) in developing their concept(s) and implementing them on schedule.
- Lead at least one public meeting, as needed to implement the project(s).
- Meet with relevant City staff, boards, and commissions, and provide regular status updates to staff.
- Develop written materials to support the public art exhibit(s), including but not limited to press releases, interpretive materials (ex. signage and display panels), and web-based materials to support public understanding of the project.

Curator Fee for Time and Place 2024 (Alexandria’s 275th Anniversary): \$7,500

Public Art Budget for Time and Place 2024 (Alexandria’s 275th Anniversary): \$20,000

Application Materials

- A cover letter expressing your interest in the project and how you would approach this project
- A resume/CV
- Names, emails, and phone numbers of at least 2 relevant references

Application Due Date

Please submit the Application Materials no later than **Wednesday, December 20, 2023**, via email to diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov c/o Diane Ruggiero, Director, Office of the Arts, City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Questions

Please submit questions via email to Meika Daus at meika.daus@alexandriava.gov.

Resources:

- Office of the Arts: www.alexandriava.gov/Arts
- Public Art Program & Public Art Implementation Plan: www.alexandriava.gov/publicart
- Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA): www.alexandriava.gov/Historic
- City museums and historic sites: www.alexandriava.gov/Museums

Contact: Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Office of the Arts diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov 703.746.5590

Deadline to reply: Wednesday, December 20, 2023.