Rose City Recreation Trail - Overview Plan

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Rose City Recreation Trail Art Opportunity

The Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), in partnership with the City of Portland's Parks & Recreation and Office of Arts & Culture, invites artists and artist teams to submit qualifications for a public art opportunity along the Rose City Recreation Trail network. One artist or artist team will be selected to create site-responsive artwork that engages with the landscape, ecology, history, and communities connected to the trail network.

Artwork may take many forms, from a single work or installation to multiple elements experienced along the trails. This opportunity considers the trail network and the landscapes it moves through not simply as locations for artwork, but as living and changing systems. Artists are encouraged to consider how art can invite discovery, reflection, learning, and new relationships between people and place.

Artist commission: $45,000
Application Deadline: Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Art Opportunity

Art Inspired by Land, Movement, and the Rose City Recreation Trail
A selected artist or artist team will develop artwork in relation to the Rose City Recreation Trail network. The artwork may take the form of a singular site-responsive work, multiple related elements, or a sequential experience that unfolds as visitors move through the landscape. There is no single medium or artistic approach required for this opportunity. Artwork should be designed as a permanent installation, using materials and fabrication methods appropriate for long-term exposure to Portland's outdoor environment, including rain, moisture, changing temperatures, sun, vegetation, and regular public use. Materials commonly used by artists for durable outdoor work include stone, concrete, brick or ceramic, weather-resistant or treated wood, stainless or weathering steel, bronze and other metals, and other materials specifically fabricated or finished for outdoor conditions. These examples are not intended to limit artistic approaches. Artists should consider how their chosen materials will age, weather, and require maintenance over time.

Possible approaches may include:

- Land-based, environmental, ecological, sculptural, installation, interdisciplinary, interpretive, or other site-responsive practices
- A single artwork, multiple related elements, or works experienced sequentially along a trail
- Subtle interventions discovered within the landscape or more visible human-scale works
- Artwork responding to ecology, wildlife, movement, seasonal change, history, community, views, gateways, or other qualities specific to the project area

Artists are encouraged to consider the trail itself as part of the experience of the artwork. Movement, changing viewpoints, discovery, seasonal conditions, surrounding ecology, and opportunities for pause may all inform how a work is conceived and experienced.

The following areas along the trail network offer different possibilities for artistic response:

Primary Trail Corridor *(red trail, see first page)*

The Red Trail is a highly visible and frequently used corridor along the southern perimeter of the site, connecting nearby schools, neighborhood edges, and primary pedestrian routes. It is also the only fully ADA-accessible segment of the trail network, making it an important point of access for visitors with a range of mobility needs. This trail runs through an active golf course, so artwork in this corridor will need to respond to additional siting, safety, and operational considerations. Artwork should not distract golfers, interfere with play or visibility, impede maintenance activities or equipment, or create conflicts with pedestrian and golf course circulation. These conditions will be considered collaboratively with the selected artist during site selection and design development.

- Serves as a primary circulation route for pedestrians and students
- Offers strong visibility and consistent foot traffic
- Ideal for works that engage movement, repetition, or sequential experience

- May offer opportunities to incorporate wayfinding or other trail-identifying elements into the artwork

Nodes, Gateways, and Gathering Areas

A series of smaller-scale opportunities located at trailheads, entrances, overlooks, and informal gathering points along the trail network.

- Includes entry points such as NE 72nd and other access corridors
- May offer opportunities for artwork that functions as a marker, threshold, or point of orientation
- Suitable for more intimate, place-based, or interpretive works

Bluff & Restoration Areas

These areas combine ecological restoration, established community stewardship, and distinctive views and experiences of the surrounding landscape. Artworks considered for these locations should respond carefully to existing ecological conditions and stewardship efforts.

- Offers opportunities for close engagement with ecology and changing seasonal conditions.
- Includes areas with established community stewardship and restoration activity.
- Particularly suited to environmentally sensitive, low-impact, and collaborative approaches that may involve community stewards, Parks staff, or ecological expertise.

Artists are encouraged to indicate which area or areas along the trail network they are most interested in exploring. Artists may express interest in a single area or multiple locations. A specific artwork or site proposal is not required as part of this application.

About the Rose City Recreation Trail

The Rose City Recreation Trail network moves through and alongside two adjacent public sites in Northeast Portland: Rose City Park and Rose City Golf Course. While physically connected, the park and golf course are separately operated within Portland Parks & Recreation and serve different uses and communities. Together, the trail network creates connections between these landscapes, surrounding neighborhoods, schools, recreation areas, and natural spaces.

The proposed trail network connects surrounding residential areas, including nearby schools such as McDaniel High School and Roseway Heights Middle School (Rice School, which is now the home of Parks Environment Education Program), and serves as a daily route for students, families, and community members. Entry points and trailheads create visible gateways into Rose City Golf Course and Rose City Park, while interior paths offer quieter, more reflective experiences shaped by terrain, vegetation, and seasonal change.

The landscape includes:

- Active golf course operations and associated safety and circulation needs
- A network of trails used by students, neighbors, families, walkers, and other recreation users
- Ecological restoration and community stewardship areas
- Trailheads, overlooks, gathering areas, and edges connecting Rose City Golf Course and Rose City Park with surrounding schools and neighborhoods

This location carries a layered history, having served as a racetrack and later an airfield before becoming a golf course and public open space. Today, it reflects both its past and present as a site shaped by changing land use, community priorities, and public investment.

The trail network is shared by communities with different relationships to and experiences of the landscape including golfers, walkers, cyclists, students, nearby residents, recreation users, and community stewards. Artists should approach the site with curiosity and sensitivity to these multiple perspectives, recognizing that ideas about recreation, access, stewardship, and the future of public space may not always align.

Siting and design will be developed in coordination with the Portland Parks project team to ensure artwork works successfully alongside trail use and maintenance needs, as well as golf course operations where applicable.

Artists are encouraged to engage the site not only as a physical location, but as a living system shaped by relationships—between people, land, ecology, history, and time.

Community Engagement

The selected artist or artist team will work with RACC and the Portland Parks project team to develop a thoughtful, community-informed process as part of the artwork's development.

Depending on the artist's approach and selected location, engagement might include:

- Conversations with trail users, nearby residents, students, or other communities connected to the project area
- Collaboration or consultation with community stewards, schools, neighborhood groups, or project partners
- Creative or interpretive approaches that invite people to reflect on their relationship to the artwork, landscape, or one another

The goal is not to reach consensus or require a particular engagement model, but to allow community knowledge and experience to meaningfully inform the work.

Budget

The selected artist or artist team will receive a $45,000 commission. The commission is inclusive of artist fees, design, fabrication, materials, installation, insurance, and other costs associated with completing the artwork.

Eligibility

Individual artists and artist teams currently living in Oregon and Washington are eligible to apply. We welcome artists whose practices meaningfully respond to land, ecology, movement, history, community, or the experience of the Rose City Recreation Trail.

We welcome a range of artists, including artists who are new to working in the public realm as well as experienced public artists. Applicants should demonstrate relevant experience or transferable skills working on projects of similar scale, complexity, materials, or environmental conditions. This may include experience designing, fabricating, coordinating, and installing durable work through public art, studio practice, fabrication, landscape-based work, installation, or other relevant creative practice.

Because the selected artist or artist team will be responsible for carrying the artwork through development, fabrication, and installation, applicants should demonstrate their ability to successfully realize the work. The Portland Parks project team will be available for consultation and coordination throughout the project.

Artists may apply individually or as a team. Emerging artists may also choose to partner with artists or collaborators whose skills and experience complement their own.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed based on:

- **Artistic quality:** Strength, creativity, and quality of past work
- **Connection to the opportunity:** Ability to articulate how the artist's practice could respond to land, ecology, movement, history, community, or the trail experience
- **Site and community responsiveness:** Sensitivity to the project area's environmental conditions, communities, and multiple uses
- **Ability to realize the work:** Ability to realize the work[JF1.1]: Relevant or transferable experience demonstrating the ability to collaboratively develop and successfully complete an outdoor public artwork
- **Environmental care and safety:** Ability to develop work that respects ecological resources, public safety, maintenance, and site operations

Project Timeline

Project dates are anticipated and may be adjusted in coordination with the larger Rose City Recreation Trail project schedule.

- RFQ Launch: Monday, October 26, 2026
- Deadline for Submissions: Wednesday, November 25, 2026
- Artist Notification: February 2027
- Artist orientation and site development: February 2027
- Community engagement and design development: March–April 2027
- Fabrication: May–August 2027
- Installation/completion: September–October 2027

How to Apply

All application materials must be submitted through the *RACC Opportunity Portal,* an online application system. Applicants will need to create an account, or log into their existing account at www.racc.org/apply. If you are applying as a team, please assign one person to apply and be the contact on behalf of the team.

For first-time users of the portal, view a brief video learning how to register here.

Application Materials

- Statement of Interest Based on the information provided, please address the following:
    - Your interest in this opportunity and how your artistic practice connects to the project's goals of access to nature and recreation, community connection, environmental stewardship, accessibility, and creating meaningful experiences along the trail network.
    - Which area or areas along the trail network you are most interested in exploring, and why
    - Relevant experience or transferable skills that would support your ability to develop, coordinate, fabricate, and complete this outdoor public artwork
    - Your approach to community engagement and how it may inform your design process
    - If you're applying as a team, how you anticipate working together

Applicants may submit their Statement of Interest in one of two formats:

- *Written Statement: 3,000 characters or less*
- *Recorded Statement: Video or audio recording no longer than 2 minutes*

(MATERIALS CONTINUED)

- Resume/CV
- Up to 8 Work Samples: These images are the primary way the quality of your artwork is evaluated. Work samples do not need to be examples of public art or land-based artwork. Provide no more than two images per artwork. For each artwork, please provide title, year produced, budget, media, dimensions, location. Conceptual information is desirable but not required.

Questions & Accessibility

For questions or application support, please contact:
Mario Mesquita
Public Art Project Manager
Regional Arts & Culture Council
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Interpretation and translation services are available upon request.