

# RENTON

— WASHINGTON, USA —

## **Request for Qualifications**

Renton Utility Box Wrap Program

### Introduction

The City of Renton is seeking one or more artists to create designs for wrapping utility boxes with art. There is funding currently available for wrapping boxes in three neighborhoods– Sunset, Benson Hill, and Downtown – but the City hopes to have additional funding available in the future for other opportunities. The City of Renton plans to commission the artwork from one or more artists working in the community. The opportunity is open to visual artists working in any medium, provided the design can be digitally reproduced as a vinyl wrap.

### Program Overview

You may have noticed the utility boxes wrapped with art in Downtown Renton. The City embarked on this place-making endeavor as part of a broader effort to beautify Downtown Renton streets in 2015. We are now working to wrap more utility boxes with art in additional neighborhoods in our community. There is currently funding available to cover five utility boxes with art: three in the Sunset Area and one each in Benson Hill and Downtown Renton. More utility boxes will be added in Renton neighborhoods as additional funds are available. The designs will be printed professionally on heavy-duty vinyl wrap and affixed to utility boxes for everyone to enjoy.

In the Sunset Area, funding will be provided in part through a Port of Seattle economic development grant as part of the “Sunset Shines” marketing campaign to support public art installations and tactical placemaking activities. The City believes in supporting local artists, and in the power of placemaking as a tool for community and economic development.

## What are utility boxes and why wrap them?

Utility boxes, also known as traffic signal boxes, are the gray metal cabinets that sit at every signaled intersection in the city. While they are ubiquitous, there's a good chance you haven't noticed them. Necessary for controlling the electrical equipment that keeps traffic moving in Renton, the boxes can serve as canvases for highlighting the work of local artists and contributing to the character of the neighborhood.



Utility box with vinyl wrapping in Downtown Renton (City of Renton)

The City has had success with the wrapping utility boxes in Downtown Renton and is eager to further develop this place-making strategy in our community.

## Request for Qualifications

### Inquiries

All inquiries related to this request are to be directed to:

Anthony Marris Swann  
Department of Community and Economic Development  
Renton City Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057  
Telephone: (425) 425-7270  
Email: [amarris-swann@rentonwa.gov](mailto:amarris-swann@rentonwa.gov).

### Closing Date

Complete submissions must be received by **Friday, March 16 at 12:00 noon** to be considered for this program. Submissions should be clearly marked with the name and address of the respondent and the program title.

Late responses may be permitted at the sole discretion of the City depending on the quality of the submissions and the volume of the initial response. However, respondents are strongly encouraged to submit materials before the posted deadline.

## Eligibility

This request is open to any and all artists in the greater Seattle area, but artists living or working in Renton are especially encouraged to submit their qualifications. This program is not intended to support advertising or other signage.

## Notification

The selected artist(s) will be notified as the City moves forward with the utility boxes in the three neighborhoods identified above, and for any additional utility boxes as funding becomes available. The City's intention is to begin with the utility boxes in the Sunset neighborhood, followed by Downtown Renton, the Benson Hill, and potentially additional neighborhoods.

## Services

The City intends to select and commission one or more artists to create the utility box art for the program. The selected artist(s) will need to submit a design for each utility box commissioned, preferably in pdf format. The City will then provide the design(s) to a contractor for fabrication and installation. Depending upon available funding and the number of utility box art wrap designs commissioned, the City anticipates compensating the artist(s) approximately \$500 for each design.

Because this program involves several neighborhoods and is intended to be ongoing, the City has not chosen a specific theme to inform the work. The final designs, however, should be reflective of the identity of the community where the box is located. The selected artist(s) may be asked to engage with the community to determine what kind of design would best reflect the identity of the community. Additional compensation will be provided if community engagement efforts are required. The City may include additional potential art and/or placemaking elements as part of the community engagement, depending upon available funding.

## Evaluation Criteria and Selection

The City will consider the following criteria in selecting an artist(s) for this program:

- Artistic quality as exemplified in previous work
- Ability to think and work in a scale appropriate for outdoor public art
- Ability to convey the identity of a community through art
- Ability to relate to multiple audiences (pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, drivers)
- Ability and willingness to create the utility box art wrap design(s) and any related community engagement within the City's available funding for each project.

The City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to select one or more artists from the respondents for the utility box art wrap program, or to accept no artists and to solicit additional respondents.

## Submission Requirements

To submit designs for consideration, please include in your application:

- a cover sheet with your name, mailing address, home and/or cell phone number, email address and website (if applicable)
- A résumé that includes exhibition history, past projects, and/or a brief description of cooperative, community-based projects (do not exceed two pages)\*
- A minimum of three examples of previous work including a brief description
- A statement of interest

Submit your application via email, mail, or hand-delivery to:

ATTN: Utility Box Wrap Program  
City of Renton  
Department of Community and Economic Development  
Renton City Hall – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1055 S Grady Way  
Renton, WA 98057

\*If you are a student, a letter of recommendation from an art teacher may be accepted in lieu of a résumé

## Conflict of Interest

The City reserves the right to disqualify a respondent from the Utility Art Wrap Program or for a specific utility box art wrap project if the City believes that the respondent has a potential or apparent conflict of interest.

## Terms and Conditions

All images and rights relating to them, including copyright and ownership rights, will remain the sole and exclusive property of the artist. An agreement will provide the City of Renton with the right to reproduce, publicly display, and distribute the images only for the terms as agreed upon by both parties. Images used for any purpose not directly related outside of those terms must be with the express permission of the artist.

The parties agree that the artist is an independent contractor and that the artist shall not be deemed to be an employee of the City of Renton. No agency, partnership, joint venture, or employee-employer relationship is intended or created by this agreement. Neither party is authorized to act as agent or bind the other party except as expressly stated. The artist and deliverables prepared by the artist shall not be deemed a work for hire as defined under Copyright Law.