

CALL FOR ART

NORTH COMMON SHIPPING CONTAINER

Project Timeline

- Info session via Teams (optional): February 10, 2026 (5pm)
- RFQ Close: February 17, 2026 (7pm)
- Artists Selected for Round 2 Notified by: March 6, 2026
- Round 2 Artist Graphic Proposals Due: April 3, 2026
- Final Selected Artist Notified by: May 1, 2026
- Work Complete by: October 1, 2026

The information session will be held via Teams, serving as a space where artists can ask questions.

Link to info session: https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_OTI-1YzczODItM2VmNi00MzUyLWI5Y2QtZTYyOWM4OTI5Y2Y4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22289941cb-b08d-4973-a6c2-b1feb28fe0c7%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%2230a85940-eee8-419a-b683-1c531f2534ee%22%7d

General Information

The City of Lowell is inviting Lowell-practicing artists to submit their qualifications for a mural or wrap for the “back wall” of the new concessions stand at North Common. This project will be managed by the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) in collaboration with the Office of Cultural Affairs (CASE). The selection committee will be comprised of staff from DPD and CASE.

The two-step selection process will begin with a request for qualifications (RFQ); three (3) artists will be selected, based on the attached RFQ Rubric, to receive a \$1,000 stipend to create a graphic proposal for the shipping container. One (1) final artist will be selected, based off of their submitted graphic proposal, to create and install their proposed mural or wrap. The final artist selection will be a public vote at the North Common ball field ribbon cutting event.

This call is restricted to Lowell-practicing artists. Artists who do not maintain a residence or studio space in Lowell will not be considered.

*All responses must comply with federal CDBG requirements.

Please contact Brianna Martinez at BMartinez@lowellma.gov with any questions.

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Project Details

Location

North Common: 413 Fletcher St.

Concessions stand (purple shipping container) is located near the DCR Pool

Selection

RFQ: Selection will be made based on the proposals that receive the highest score on the RFQ Rubric. Three artists will then be selected to create graphic proposals.

Graphic Proposal: Selection will be made based on the submitted graphic proposal that receives the most votes at the North Common Ribbon Cutting Event, which will mark the opening of the new ball field and concessions plaza. Event attendees will be allowed to vote for one (1) artist proposal.

Budget

Graphic Proposal: \$1,000 will be awarded to three (3) selected artists to create design proposal (Graphic / visualization of proposed mural/wrap on concessions container).

Final Work: \$7,000 will be awarded to the selected artist to create / install their proposed mural or wrap.

Site Prep and Installation

The selected artist is responsible for any necessary site prep. Final work must be graffiti resistant or be coated in an anti-graffiti seal coat.

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Application Requirements and How to Submit Qualifications

Applications must be received by 7pm on February 17, 2026 and they must include:

Contact Information

Artist name and contact information—phone number, email and mailing address.

Application Elements

- Short bio (two paragraphs; please indicate if you live or hold studio space in Lowell).
- Work samples:
 - 3-5 digital images of applicant's related work with descriptions that include: title, year and medium. Please include in single PDF if emailed, or printed and mailed with application materials.
 - Links to artist's website and/or portfolio if available.
- UEI (Unique Entity ID) Number or proof of UEI Number request
 - You can request a UEI number here: https://secure.login.gov/sign_up/enter_email

Applications May be Submitted the Following Ways:

Email

BMartinez@lowellma.gov
Please submit all materials in a single PDF.

Hand Delivered

Department of Planning and Development
50 Arcand Dr.
Lowell, MA 01852

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RFQ Rubric

	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points
Lowell Practicing Artist	Is a Lowell practicing artist		Is not a Lowell practicing artist
UEI Number	Has UEI number or proof of UEI request		Does not have UEI number or proof of UEI request
Work Examples	4+ strong examples of work doing murals and/or wraps	2-3 strong examples of work doing murals and/or wraps	0-1 strong examples of work doing murals and/or wraps

*All responses must comply with federal CDBG requirements.

Graphic Proposal Rubric - Recommended Considerations for Public Vote

Impact

Does the work engage with the surrounding space to create a visually striking impact on people visiting or passing by the park?

Spirit

The project reflects the following themes: play, parks, nature, recreation, teamwork, community.

Suitability

The proposed graphic is well suited for the shipping container concessions stand.

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