



CALL TO ARTISTS
PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION
Celebrating Allen's 150th Anniversary
Allen, Texas

Project Summary

The City of Allen and the Allen Public Art Committee invite qualified artists and artist teams to submit their credentials and concept proposals for artwork that represents the spirit of Allen and commemorates the City's 150th Anniversary.

Selected artwork will be featured in three prominent applications:

- A permanent interior installation on canvas at the Allen Senior Recreation Center
- A graphic adaptation of the selected artwork to serve as the wrap design for the City's Mobile Art Trailer
- A coordinating sign for display on or alongside the Mobile Art Trailer to enhance visibility at community events

This commission offers a unique opportunity to create work that highlights Allen's identity—its welcoming character, creative energy, rich history, and strong community connections. Proposals should present designs that are visually compelling, conceptually meaningful, and reflective of the City's values and vibrancy.

The selected artist or artist team will be responsible for the design, fabrication, and installation of the permanent artwork, the companion trailer sign as well as the provision of high-quality digital files required for the trailer wrap.

Together, these components will serve as signature visual elements of Allen's sesquicentennial celebration and beyond.

Project Background

Allen, Texas has grown from its beginnings as a modest railroad and agricultural community into a vibrant, forward-thinking city of more than 110,000 residents. Established along the Houston & Texas Central Railway in the late 1800s, Allen quickly became a key stop for commerce and travel,



supporting early farmers, ranchers, and merchants across the region. The town is also known for the 1878 Allen Train Robbery—believed to be the first successful train robbery in Texas—an event that placed Allen firmly into state folklore.

Throughout the 20th century, Allen maintained its small-town character while gradually expanding through agriculture, cattle, and local trade. Major growth began in the 1980s and 1990s as the Dallas–Fort Worth region boomed, transforming Allen into a highly desirable suburban community. Investments in parks, recreation, education, and public infrastructure helped shape the city into the thriving, family-focused community it is today.

Now recognized for its extensive parks system, dynamic recreation culture, robust local economy, and commitment to innovation, Allen continues to evolve while honoring its rich heritage and strong sense of community.

- <https://youtu.be/AOZZdmzQY28?si=abvzHnwoNWyuDdnS>
- https://youtu.be/O8eAkRHdULk?si=hi_98hjQDRdJ30y8

The Allen Senior Recreation Center serves as a social and wellness hub for adults 60 and older, offering a welcoming environment where community and creativity flourish. The Mobile Art Trailer—a new initiative within Allen’s arts and culture program—brings creative experiences directly to neighborhoods and events throughout the city, extending access to art and engagement for all residents.

Together, these two applications represent both the heart and the movement of Allen: one grounded in place, the other in motion.

The selected artist will design and produce artwork that can be effectively showcased both as a physical installation and as a digital wrap design.

Connection to Allen’s 150th Anniversary Celebration

The artwork should:

- Celebrate the City of Allen’s community spirit, creativity, and vitality.
- Reflect the diversity and connection of Allen’s residents.
- Be visually engaging and suitable for adaptation to multiple formats



(indoor display, possible companion trailer sign and mobile trailer wrap).

- Enhance the aesthetic and cultural experience of both locations.
- Utilize durable, low-maintenance materials appropriate for the intended environment.
- The final selected artwork must consist of a single cohesive design.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to all professional artists and artist teams, age 18 and older, working in any visual art medium. While this is a national call, **Texas-based artists are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Project Budget

The total project budget is **\$75,000** inclusive of all artist fees, design, materials, fabrication, installation, insurance, and travel costs, as well as preparation of artwork files for the Mobile Art Trailer wrap.

Timeline

- **Submission Deadline:** March 1, 2026
- **Artist Short List Selection:** March 9, 2026
- **Artist Interviews/Finalists Selection:** March 18, 2026
- **Community Engagement** – using Engage Platform
- **Concept Presentations/Selection Panel Recommendation:** May 13, 2026
- **Final Design Approval by Public Art Committee:** May 19, 2026
- **Contract/Notice to Proceed** – Late May
- **Installation and Wrap Completion:** Anticipated by October 2026

*All dates subject to change.



Submission Requirements

1. Artist Statement (max 2 pages)

- Interest in this project and approach to community-inspired art.
- Experience with site-specific and multi-format design.
- Typical materials and fabrication methods.

2. Collaborative Experience Statement (max 2 pages)

- Examples of previous collaborations with municipalities, architects, or design professionals.
- Contact references.

3. Images (up to 6)

- Photos of past works relevant to scale, setting, or material.

4. Annotated Image List (max 1 page)

- Include project name, location, materials, completion date, and brief description.

5. Resume (max 3 pages per artist)

- Include website and social media links.

SUBMISSIONS must be submitted to PublicArt@allentx.gov by March 1, 2026.

Selection Process

A Public Art Selection Panel will review all submissions and select finalists based on artistic quality, relevance, and feasibility. Finalists will receive a \$750 honorarium to develop concept proposals.

Contact Information

Questions may be directed to: Jennifer Robinson, City of Allen Parks and Recreation Department

Email: jrobinson@allentx.gov



Phone: 214.509.4703



150th Anniversary Logo





Allen Senior Recreation Center

Proposed art location :





Possible Trailer Option:

