

City of Sanford

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

Fiberglass Bees for the City of Sanford

Public Art Initiative

The City of Sanford Public Art Sub-Committee (appointed by the Appearance Commission of the City of Sanford) is currently accepting proposals from artists interested in painting a large fiberglass bee to commemorate Sanford being named a Bee City USA (these will be permanent installations throughout the city). This project is one of several public art initiatives aimed at enriching the Downtown Sanford and the City of Sanford experience for visitors and stakeholders.

The Public Art Sub-Committee will review proposals and make a recommendation to the Appearance Commission.

Project Goals

The goals of the Mural Sub-Committee are to:

1. Beautify public areas in Sanford which attract heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
2. Visually promote the benefit of the arts throughout the City of Sanford.
3. Use art as a landmark to visually connect visitors to public spaces and parking areas.
4. To educate visitors and citizens alike of the rich history of the City of Sanford and Lee County as a whole.

About the Project

- The project budget is \$1,000.00 for the painting of one fiberglass bee.
- The project budget includes the artist(s) labor fee, surface preparation, supplies, travel-related expenses, pick up of the Fiberglass bee (May 28, May 29 or May 30) and delivery of the bee back to the city of Sanford when completed (the week of August 4th), and other associated costs.
- Surface Preparation, shall adhere with Cowpainters recommendations (attached).
- The medium used must be durable and able to withstand minor wear and tear and harsh outdoor elements for at least ten years. However, other mediums will be considered, such as aerosol paint.
- Theme: Bee City USA, Pollinators
- Only North Carolina artists will be considered or artists born and raised in North Carolina that no longer live in North Carolina.
- The painted bee will serve as a visual landmark and should be distinctive through use of design color, etc. Only original art will be considered.
- The design will be suitable and acceptable for public viewing of all ages.
- Once completed and the paint on the bees have cured, they will be clear coated with an automotive clear coat done by professionals.

Proposals

Artists interested in creating a work of public art should submit the following materials by April 30, 2025, 5:00 pm.

1. A narrative of the concept for the bee, and a rendering of the proposed bee (attachment)
2. Supporting material such as examples of other works and/or reviews of similar work. Examples should describe size, materials, cost and location of other public works.
3. Mediums that you intend to use to paint the bee.
4. All proposals must be delivered by April 30, 2025 by end of business (hours 8:00 am to 5:00 pm) to my office located at the address below.
5. The attachments include samples of painted bees and an unpainted bee for you to use for your concept as well as the recommendations from Cowpainters the manufacturer of the bee.
6. All bees **must** be coated with Lascaux UV-1 gloss varnish (over acrylic paint only).

Please submit proposal by April 30, 2025 5:00 pm to:

City of Sanford
c/o Elizabeth Whitmore
115 Chatham Street
Sanford, NC 27330

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact staff liaison Liz Whitmore at 919-718-4657 extension 5393 or liz.whitmore@sanfordnc.net.

Attachments



Bee Sculpture Dimensions
5.5 feet tall
3 feet wide

*Finished sculpture designs
shown here are
representative only.*





PREP & PAINTING TIPS©

ARTIST INFORMATION HOTLINE: (773) 525 5720

Preparation: Your form is primed white. Wash the surface while looking it over carefully to see if there are any holes to fill or defects in the surface that must be fixed before proceeding. **If small holes are found:** fill with a bondo-type product sold in a tube and available at auto supply stores. Smooth with spatula and let set before sanding. For your health and safety, **always wear vinyl or rubber gloves and dust masks or respirators when prepping critters.** Work in a well-ventilated space. **CLEAN UP THE DUST WITH DAMP MOPS, DON'T SWEEP.** If you find any areas where the primer appears to be flaking off, stop and call the *Hotline* for suggestions. To assure a strong bond when painting the form, we also recommend that you rough up the surface primer a bit or gesso the form before beginning.

Paint and Varnish: We recommend acrylics by Golden, Windsor-Newton, Daler-Rowney, Pebeo, Lascaux, Liquitex and other professional-grade paint. You can also use the oil paints of your choice; please paint in thin layers when using oils, letting each layer dry thoroughly between applications. Latex wall or house paints are not recommended. Avoid paints that do not have a high colorfast rating -- you don't want your design to disappear in the sunlight! **Protect your artwork** before the form leaves your studio by varnishing with a coat of Lascaux UV-1 gloss varnish (over acrylic paint only). It can be ordered from Jerry's Artarama Catalog (800-827-8478) or Dick Blick Art Supply (www.dickblick.com). **Lascaux is the best so be sure to order early.** Order one 250 ml bottle for a small form, 2 bottles for a medium sized form and 3 bottles for a large form. One coat of Lascaux, diluted 3 parts varnish to 1 part water, will protect your work until it is clear-coated. If you are planning to decoupage or apply mosaics to your form, please call or email for additional information.

Clear-Coat: The art project should arrange for a final finish with an auto-body clear coat, which will create a hard-shell high-gloss finish with a UV-protection component. Our auto-body shop uses Sherwin Williams' automotive urethane 7000, cured at no more than 140 degrees for no longer than 40 minutes. It is recommended that you do not clear-coat over mosaic or mirrored surfaces.

Additions and Extensions: Remember that anything you add to the creature will be vulnerable. Vandals (and the weather) will try to remove add-ons, so think "permanence" when planning and executing your design. There are professionals in your community who can help you do this, such as auto-body shops and other professionals who work with fiberglass. If you wish to sculpt forms onto your fiberglass form, use epoxy putty. Go to www.magicsculpt.com and/or www.restorersupplies.com for epoxy putty and product tech support. To glue stuff onto your creature, use liquid nails or jewelers cement, epoxy adhesives or Bond 527 multi-purpose cement. We do NOT recommend that you add hats, bags and other items made of fabric. They will deteriorate outside. **REMEMBER THAT BUYERS WILL NOT BE HAPPY WITH FAULTY ARTWORK SO WHEN WORKING WITH THE FORMS, THINK PERMANENCE!!!**

Note: These tips have been compiled from the experiences reported to Cowpainters by public art project artists across the country and are provided for the information of our clients' artists. Please regard all of these tips as *suggestions* on how to proceed. The entire process depends upon an artist's knowledge of materials and proper application. If in doubt -- **EXPERIMENT.** We are happy to share this information with our clients, but Cowpainters cannot assume, and expressly declines, any warranty or liability for the finished artwork.

Cowpainters, LLC

women owned and operated

Phone (773) 525 5720 Fax (773) 525 5721

info@cowpainters.com <http://www.cowpainters.com>