

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**METRO ARTS ANNOUNCES CALL TO ARTISTS FOR
5th AVENUE OF THE ARTS PUBLIC ART**

Project to focus on public art inspired by the Nashville Civil Rights Movement

Nashville, Tenn. –Metro Nashville Arts Commission (Metro Arts) has opened a national call for artist qualifications (RFQ) for a new public art work to honor the Civil Rights movement here.

The call to artists and additional information can be found on the Metro Arts website:

<http://www.artsnashville.org/PublicArt.aspx?MID=3&CID=240>

The work will be located on 5th Avenue of the Arts (on Fifth Avenue North between Church and Union streets) and is part of the major streetscape improvement currently underway by Metro Public Works Department. The streetscape will include new green space and trees, outdoor dining areas, lighting features and public art that will activate this emerging visual arts corridor.

“This work will be the anchor of a new arts corridor—we see it as an element that can tell a story of our past and our future—something that brings energy and life and unification to the street---just as the student movement did to our country,” said Jennifer Cole, executive director of Metro Arts.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, Fifth and Sixth Avenues were the epicenter of the coordinated non-violent, student lunch counter sit-ins. The effort positioned Nashville as a city that fueled the Civil Rights movement with outstanding, trained student leaders who led, then reinforced other Southern Civil Rights protests—including the Freedom Rides.

“Metro Arts seeks applications from a wide variety of artists who can create a work that captures the importance of this part of our city history and collective memory,” said Cole.

The call is open to **professional artists** working in the United States. Applicants will be reviewed by a citizen panel including:

Veronica Frazier	Department of Public Works Representative
Dr. Courtney Martin	Postdoctoral Research Associate and Lecturer, Vanderbilt University
Dr. Carlyle Johnson	Head, Department of Fine Art, Tennessee State University

Dr. Ernest “Rip” Patton, Jr.	Civil Rights Veteran
John Seigenthaler	Civil Rights Veteran
Dr. Linda Wynn	Assistant Director for State Programs, Tennessee Historical Commission
Inez Crutchfield	Civil Rights Veteran
Mikal Malik	HCA Design Department
Sally Connelly	Executive Vice President, Nashville Downtown Partnership

The panel will recommend semi-finalists who will visit Nashville, attend community input meetings, meet with Civil Rights veterans, meet with street plan designers and local business owners and then produce a site-specific proposal. The Citizen Selection Panel Committee will recommend a finalist for the public art location and who will then be approved the Metro Arts Commission and its Public Art Committee.

Metro Arts hopes to have the work in place by late 2013 or early 2014, said Cole.

Metro Arts currently oversees 10 projects that will result in 25 new works in the public collection by 2015.

An interactive map and photographs of public art projects can be found at www.artsnashville.org

Metro’s Capital Projects Pay for Public Art

In 2000, a Metro ordinance was passed that allocates one percent of the net proceeds from general obligation bonds issued for new or major renovation construction of Metro facilities, to be set aside for the creation of new public art.

About the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission

The Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission is a commission of the Metropolitan Nashville Government, that stimulates and advances the arts to enrich the human experience for the community. Additional information about the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission is available online at www.artsnashville.org.

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