



REQUEST FOR ART PROPOSALS

Legacy Organ Art Commission

Second Presbyterian Church | Norfolk, Virginia

Project Overview

Second Presbyterian Church (SPC) invites artists to submit qualifications and conceptual proposals for the creation of a permanent commemorative artwork incorporating components from the church's historic Austin pipe organ.

For nearly 75 years, the organ has served as a central part of worship at Second Presbyterian Church, accompanying congregational singing, weddings, funerals, special services, concerts, and community gatherings. As the church transitions to a new custom digital organ, SPC seeks to preserve the legacy of the instrument through a work of art that honors its history and celebrates the future of music ministry within the congregation.

The completed artwork will be prominently displayed in the church's Narthex and will serve as a lasting reminder of the important role music has played in the life of the church.

Project Vision

The selected artwork should honor the legacy of the Austin pipe organ while reflecting the themes of remembrance, renewal, faith, music, and community.

The church hopes the piece will:

- Celebrate the role music has played in worship and congregational life
- Honor generations of musicians, choir members, organists, and worshippers
- Preserve elements of the historic instrument in a meaningful and visible way
- Inspire future generations as the congregation begins a new chapter in its musical ministry

Second Presbyterian Church intentionally seeks creative interpretation and does not wish to prescribe a specific artistic direction. Artists are encouraged to respond to the history, materials, and spirit of the project in their own unique way.



Artistic Opportunity

Artists are invited to create an original wall-mounted or suspended artwork incorporating salvaged components of the existing pipe organ.

Available materials may include:

- Organ pipes
- Wood components
- Mechanical elements
- Decorative organ materials
- Other salvaged components deemed suitable for artistic use

The church welcomes a wide range of artistic approaches, including contemporary, traditional, abstract, mixed-media, and sculptural works.

Artists are encouraged to consider:

- Heritage and continuity
- Transformation and renewal
- The relationship between music and worship
- The architectural character of the church
- The history of Second Presbyterian Church
- The transition from a historic pipe organ to a new instrument serving future generations

Lighting Element

Artists are encouraged to consider incorporating light as a design element.

This may include:

- Integrated lighting
- Illuminated components
- Reflective materials
- Light and shadow effects
- Other creative approaches

The incorporation of lighting is not required but is welcomed as part of the artistic concept.

Installation Location

The artwork will be installed in the Narthex of Second Presbyterian Church.



The final piece should:

- Be wall-mounted, suspended, or otherwise appropriate for the designated location
- Be suitable for permanent indoor installation
- Be durable and maintainable in a public environment
- Reflect the dignity and character of a sacred space

Project Budget

Final Artwork Commission: \$5,000–\$10,000

This budget should include:

- Design development
- Fabrication
- Materials
- Transportation
- Installation

Design Proposal Honorarium

Selected finalists will receive a design honorarium of \$1,200 upon submission of a complete concept proposal package.

The church anticipates selecting a limited number of finalists for this phase.

Eligibility

Artists at all career stages are encouraged to apply, including:

- Professional artists
- Emerging artists
- Faculty artists
- Graduate students
- Undergraduate student artists

Collaborative teams are welcome.

Site Visits and Material Review

Prospective artists are encouraged to visit Second Presbyterian Church to view the organ, inspect available materials, and experience the proposed installation location.



Site visits will provide an opportunity to:

- View and photograph organ components
- Explore the Narthex installation space
- Learn more about the history of the organ and church
- Ask questions regarding project goals and installation requirements

Visits may be arranged by appointment with Lori Crouch, chair, Organ Project Task Force.

Additional photographs and background materials may be provided to artists who are unable to visit in person.

Submission Requirements

Interested artists should submit:

1. Letter of Interest
2. Artist Statement
3. Resume or Curriculum Vitae
4. Portfolio of relevant work (5–10 images)
5. Brief description of their approach to the project
6. Preliminary concept ideas (optional)

Proposal Requirements

Selected finalists will be invited to submit:

- Concept narrative
- Drawings, sketches, renderings, or visual representations
- Description of proposed use of salvaged organ materials
- Description of any lighting elements
- Preliminary budget
- Installation requirements
- Estimated timeline

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Artistic excellence
- Creativity and originality



- Responsiveness to the project vision
- Ability to thoughtfully incorporate organ materials
- Feasibility within budget and schedule
- Demonstrated ability to complete the proposed work

About Second Presbyterian Church

Founded in 1872, Second Presbyterian Church has served the Norfolk community for more than 150 years. Music has long been central to worship, fellowship, and spiritual formation within the congregation.

The church's Austin pipe organ has faithfully served worshippers for nearly 75 years. This commission seeks to preserve a tangible connection to that legacy while celebrating the future of music ministry at SPC.

Additional information about the church's history can be found at:
<https://www.spcnorfolk.org/our-history>

Tentative Schedule

Request for Proposals Released: June 18, 2026

Site Visits Available: Aug. 3-7

Questions Due: Aug. 12

Proposal Submission: by Aug. 31

Artist Selection: by Oct. 1

Installation: by March 19, 2027

Contact Information

Second Presbyterian Church Norfolk, Virginia

Organ Project Task Force

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