



CULTURAL STRATEGIST CATHEDRAL SQUARE FAQ



Last updated August 26, 2026

1. Can an applicant submit an application for both the Cathedral Square and Downtown Alleyways Cultural Strategist positions?

*While one applicant can apply for both positions, applications should look very different as they are functionally different jobs. If you apply for both with an identical (or nearly identical) application, both will be considered, but it is not advised. We recommend you apply for the position that appeals to you the most, keeping in mind the location, the project stage, and the core skillsets required. If you can't decide, please submit **highly different** applications that demonstrate that you understand the difference between these two calls.*

1. What are the key skillsets for the Cultural Strategist at Cathedral Square?

Cathedral Square is a major project that has been underway with the City of Providence's Planning Department for the last 18 months, with an architecture firm engaged as well as multiple community conversations underway. While the redesigned site will eventually include large-scale public art, the Cultural Strategist at Cathedral Square is likely to work more in low-lift collaborative programming with abutters and stakeholders, keeping in mind that Cathedral Square is simultaneously a backyard, a break room, an entry to worship, a skate park, and a crosswalk.

Due to the nature of the site and the work that has already occurred, we seek a Cultural Strategist (or team) who is comfortable joining a project that has already begun and can co-create and produce low-lift programming while considering the spatial relationship of the various activities (ie, acoustic concerts, coffee carts, chalk drawing, etc).

2. How are these positions funded?

Both Cultural Strategist positions are funded through an allocation from the City's CIP (Capital Improvement Project) funding. It lives outside of the General Fund budget and is not a grant. This funding can span fiscal years and is bond money used for the City's long-term building and construction projects. This specific



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allocation was allocated to Art, Culture and Tourism to support public art. The Planning Department has separate CIP funding dedicated to both projects.

3. How will the contract be structured?

*The contract will be organized in two 6-month phases: Field Study and Programming Study. At the end of the first six months, the Cultural Strategist(s) will meet with ACT and Planning to review the first six months and the plan for the next six months. At this time, if either party feels that the proposed work will not be successful or that the first six months did not elicit enough data to be meaningfully useful, the contract can be terminated rather than move ahead. While we recognize the inherent risk in all projects that deal with change, we do not want to jeopardize community trust in the long-term outcomes or artistic thinking. **A decision to cut the contract after six months would not be a failed outcome.***

4. How is the \$50,000 contract structured?

Applicants should consider the \$50k the total contract, which includes the Cultural Strategist's fee, materials, and any subcontractors for the year. It is up to the Cultural Strategist to budget this funding in a way that works for your project. The City of Providence will work with the finalists to determine a funding timeline but will not act as a fiscal agent for the Cultural Strategist (ie, pay their subcontractors).

5. Can the Cultural Strategist be outside of Providence? Is this hybrid work?

Though certainly some of this work will happen asynchronously on-line, the most significant work will be on-the-ground at Cathedral Square with the Cultural Strategist determining their own schedule and reporting back, inviting and otherwise including various members of the team (ACT, Planning, HHS, Architects, etc) as they require. Though we can consider proposals from applicants who don't currently live in Providence, being able to be responsive and on-site at all times of day and days of the week is a crucial aspect of this work.