101 PREFONTAINE PL S
SEATTLE, WA 98104
**4CULTURE.ORG**

# RFQ: *Moving Stories* Audio Storytelling Producer

**Professional Services Fee:** $32,000, plus separate approved direct production expenses

**Eligibility:** Open to professional audio producers who live in WA State

**Deadline to Apply:** Thursday, December 3, 2026, 4:00 PM PST

**Applicants must submit requested materials by email to 4Culture Public Art at public.art@4culture.org with the subject line: *Moving Stories* Audio Storytelling Producer.**

## *Moving Stories* Project Background

*Moving Stories* is a public art project developed by 4Culture and King County Metro that brings together six regional artists to create a series of twelve original short-form graphic novels exploring the people, places, and communities connected to Metro's existing and planned RapidRide bus lines (A–K and R). The graphic novels will be published and distributed free to the public in late summer or early fall 2027.

The project draws on the RapidRide Art Plan created by Johnson|Ramirez, a visionary framework for integrating art across the expanded RapidRide network, centering imagination, cultural memory, comfort, and acts of kindness as public values.

## Audio Storytelling Producer Overview

To extend the project beyond the printed page, 4Culture and Metro, in partnership with KBCS 91.3 FM, are commissioning an original audio series to accompany the graphic novels. Rather than adapting the graphic novels directly into audio, the series will function as a parallel creative work that complements each artist's visual storytelling while exploring the RapidRide lines through sound.

The selected Audio Storytelling Producer will join the *Moving Stories* creative team and work with the commissioned artists, 4Culture, Metro, KBCS, and project advisors to develop the series' editorial framework and produce a cohesive collection of twelve distinct audio works, approximately four minutes each, with one for each graphic novel and RapidRide line.

The audio series will broaden public access to the project through podcast, community radio, and digital distribution while creating a lasting audio archive. In addition to distribution through 4Culture and Metro channels, the completed collection will serve as the basis for an approximately one-hour radio special produced in collaboration with KBCS, with the potential for broader distribution to other noncommercial stations through PRX (Public Radio Exchange).

## Audio Storytelling Producer Scope of Work

Working collaboratively with 4Culture, participating artists, King County Metro, KBCS, and other project partners, the Audio Storytelling Producer will:

- Lead development of the editorial framework and creative direction for the audio series in collaboration with the project advisor and story editor, and the project team.
- Meet individually with each artist to identify the most compelling audio approach for their graphic novels and develop an individualized production plan, including the storytelling format, recording needs, production schedule, and any artist responsibilities. Approaches may include documentary interviews, artist conversations, oral histories, immersive neighborhood soundscapes, narrated audio essays, experimental audio collages, or hybrid formats.
- Balance artistic flexibility with a cohesive listening experience across the series, recognizing that each artist's work and RapidRide line may call for a distinct creative approach.
- Conduct or coordinate interviews and field recordings as needed and provide technical guidance and recording support to artists who wish to gather their own interviews, narration, or environmental audio.
- Create drafts and incorporate multiple rounds of feedback from the story editor, the artists, 4Culture, Metro, KBCS, and other stakeholders.
- Produce a cohesive collection of twelve original audio works of approximately four minutes each, suitable for broadcast and podcast platforms, with one work accompanying each RapidRide line-specific graphic novel. Deliverables will include mixed audio files, titles and descriptions, required metadata, and accurate transcripts developed in collaboration with the project team.
- Work with KBCS and the project team on an approximately one-hour radio special that brings the twelve audio works together. The Producer will provide audio, stems, descriptive copy, and other production materials as needed to support development and promotion of the special.

Final audio works must be suitable for distribution through podcast platforms, KBCS, PRX, the 4Culture website, King County Metro digital platforms, and QR codes incorporated into the graphic novels and/or related project materials.

# Application + Selection Process

## Eligibility

This opportunity is open to professional audio producers who live and work in Washington State.

## Desired Qualifications

The ideal candidate will bring demonstrated experience in documentary audio production, podcasting, public radio, and/or community-based storytelling, with expertise in interviewing, field recording, and audio editing in a DAW such as Audition (or equivalent). Applicants should demonstrate the ability to manage complex, collaborative creative projects involving multiple stakeholders.

The Producer should be comfortable working within an artist-centered process that values experimentation, thoughtful listening, collaboration, and shared editorial decision-making, while meeting project deadlines. Experience producing arts and culture programming, documentary storytelling, or public art projects is highly desirable.

Equally important is alignment with the values of the RapidRide Art Plan and *Moving Stories*, a commitment to equity and social justice, and an ability to create work that is responsive to local context and culturally and economically diverse communities.

## How to Apply

To apply for the *Moving Stories* Audio Storytelling Producer opportunity, submit the following:

- A statement of interest (400 words or less) describing why you are interested in *Moving Stories*; the experience, perspective, and working approach you would bring to the project; and your experience working collaboratively with artists, community members, and/or multiple project partners.
- A résumé or summary of relevant professional experience.
- Two to three examples of relevant audio work, with links and a brief description of your role in each.

Please do not develop a speculative creative proposal for the audio series as part of your application. The editorial framework and individual audio approaches will be developed collaboratively after selection by the Producer, participating artists, the project advisor and story editor, and the project team.

Submit application materials by **Thursday, December 3, 2026, 4:00 PM PST** to **public.art@4culture.org** with the subject line: ***Moving Stories* Audio Storytelling Producer**.

### Review and Selection

Applications will be reviewed by a small selection committee composed of 4Culture staff, the project advisor and story editor, a *Moving Stories* cohort artist, and representatives from Metro and KBCS.

The panel will evaluate applicants based on:

- Quality and relevance of previous audio work;
- Experience with documentary, arts and culture, public radio, podcasting, and/or community-based storytelling;
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with artists, community members, and project partners;
- Editorial judgment, interviewing, and storytelling skills;
- Ability to manage a complex, multi-part creative production and meet project deadlines; and
- Alignment with the values and goals of *Moving Stories*.

Finalists will be invited to participate in a virtual interview with the selection panel.

Interviews will focus on the applicant's storytelling and editorial approach, collaborative working style, experience working across different communities and creative practices, and approach to developing a cohesive audio series while allowing each artist's work to retain its own voice.

Following interviews, one Audio Storytelling Producer will be selected for the project.

## Anticipated Project Schedule

### October–December 2026

- RFQ released Monday, October 26, 2026
- Application deadline 4:00 PM PST on Thursday, December 3, 2026
- Application review and finalist selection

### January–March 2027

- Finalist interviews
- Audio Storytelling Producer selected and contracted
- Project orientation and review of graphic novel development and other background materials
- Individual artist consultations

- Preliminary editorial framework and production planning

### April 2027

- Individual production plans finalized
- Editorial framework and overall series structure established
- Recording schedule confirmed

### May–August 2027

- Story development
- Interviews and field recording
- Editing
- Artist and project partner review
- Revisions
- Completion and final delivery of audio works, transcripts, metadata, and distribution assets

### September–October 2027

- Launch of the audio series alongside the publication and distribution of the graphic novels, anticipated for late summer or early fall 2027, with coordinated promotion through 4Culture, Metro, KBCS, and other project channels
- Broadcast of the approximately one-hour radio special on KBCS 91.3 FM

**Project milestones and release dates are subject to change.*

## Compensation + Project Support

The selected Audio Storytelling Producer will receive a professional services fee of **$32,000, inclusive of all applicable taxes, including Washington State Sales/Use Tax**.

This fee recognizes the creative and technical expertise required to guide twelve distinct, artist-centered audio works from initial concept through final production and bring them together as a cohesive series. It supports the full range of services described above, including project planning, artist consultations, editorial and story development, interviews and field production, recording, editing, revisions, preparation of transcripts and metadata, collaboration on the approximately one-hour public radio special, and final delivery of all podcast and broadcast assets.

4Culture will support the Producer throughout the project by coordinating access to participating artists and project partners, including the project advisor and story editor,

providing relevant background and graphic novel materials, facilitating consolidated review and feedback, and helping address logistical and production needs as they arise.

To keep the $32,000 fee focused on the Producer's professional services, 4Culture will establish a separate budget for reasonable, pre-approved direct project expenses. Depending on the production plans developed with each artist, these expenses may include:

- Community participant, narrator, musician, or cultural advisor honoraria
- Local travel, mileage, parking, and transit required for interviews and field recording
- Specialized equipment or studio rental beyond the Producer's standard production tools
- Professional mastering and additional technical support required for particular works
- Music composition or licensing, archival recordings, and other third-party content
- Transcription support, translation, and specialized accessibility services beyond the Producer's preparation of initial transcripts
- Podcast hosting, distribution, and broadcast-related fees
- Graphic design, promotion, and other approved launch expenses

The Producer will identify anticipated direct expenses during production planning so that 4Culture can review and approve them in advance. Whenever practical, 4Culture will pay these costs directly; otherwise, approved expenses will be reimbursed separately from the professional services fee.

KBCS will serve as the broadcast and production partner for the approximately one-hour public radio special. 4Culture will work with the project advisor and story editor, as well as KBCS, early in the process to define responsibilities, deliverables, and any additional production costs. These direct broadcast production expenses will be supported separately from the Producer's fee.

## Questions?

Please contact:

**Jordan Freeman**
jordan.freeman@4culture.org
206.263.1589

or

**Jordan Monez**
jordan.monez@4culture.org
206.263.7849

**This information is available in alternative format for persons with disabilities at 206 296.8574 TTY.**