



MERRIAM KANSAS
JUST RIGHT

Request for Qualifications

City of Merriam, Kansas

Budget: \$100,000

Deadline: 11:59 PM August 11, 2017

In 2015, the City of Merriam, Kansas, located in northeast Johnson County, began a 5-year placemaking initiative to enhance public spaces in downtown Merriam and its environs. The project is now entering its third year and the City wishes to commission an artist or artist team to design, produce and install compelling public art for a site on the Turkey Creek Streamway Park Trail, a paved multi-use trail. Site features include broad grassy areas, large trees and a nearby creek and waterfall. Please note that this site is located in a flood zone. The location does not flood regularly, but successful proposals will plan and engineer accordingly for 100-year flood events. Please see site images below.

City history:

Merriam history began in the 1820s when the Shawnee Indians were moved into this region from settlements in Ohio and Missouri. As the tribe moved to lands that are now Johnson County, the Quakers followed and built a mission in 1836.

In 1864, a Tennessean, David Gee Campbell, moved his home to the area that is now known as Merriam. In his honor, the town was named Campbellton, and included approximately 20 homes and a few businesses.

Railroad development played a major role in settling this area, with a route from Kansas City through the Turkey Creek basin. In 1870, the first station in Campbellton was built, and by 1880, the name of the town was changed to "Merriam," in honor of Charles Merriam, a one-time secretary and treasurer of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf railway. A rail line has been located in the Turkey Creek basin ever since.

As Kansas City became a focal point for trade, communication and transportation, railroad executives purchased 40 acres in Merriam to develop a park. Merriam Park was completed and dedicated in July, 1880 by President Ulysses S. Grant. One of Merriam Park's superintendents, George Kessler, went on to plan the renowned park and boulevard system of Kansas City. By the turn of the century, Kansas City had constructed its own amusements and Merriam Park went out of existence.

Another popular recreation area in Merriam was Hocker Grove. Running along a trolley line, Hocker Grove existed from 1907-1919 and contained a picnic ground, baseball field and pavilion.

Merriam became the biggest town in northeast Kansas around 1930. Four grocery

stores, two hardware stores, four gas stations, three drug stores, two dry-goods stores, three restaurants, a bank, two garages, two barber shops, a beauty shop, two feed and coal yards, two taverns, a lumber yard, chicken hatchery, two realty businesses, a dry cleaning store, insurance agency, two churches and a grade school all called Merriam home at this time.

One of the most notable occurrences in Merriam history was the Webb v. School District 90 lawsuit, filed in 1949 on behalf of 39 families whose children were rejected from the white-only South Park Elementary school in Merriam. Corinthian Nutter, a true pioneer in desegregation, was the key witness in this case that paved the way for the U.S. Supreme Court 1954 Brown v. Topeka Board of Education decision that led to segregation being prohibited in the nation's public school systems.

Merriam has long been a leader in the development of the Kansas City area and is home to the following firsts in Johnson County:

- the site of the first Bell Telephone office in 1908;
- the first public library in 1956;
- the first major park (Antioch Park) in 1956;
- the first full-service hospital in Johnson County (Shawnee Mission Medical Center) in 1962;
- the first home to Johnson County Community College from 1969-1972.

Today, Merriam is a vibrant and growing community within the Kansas City metro region. Many regional residents recognize Merriam as the gateway to Johnson County on the I-35 commuter corridor heading south from Kansas City.

To learn more about the City of Merriam, visit <http://merriam.org/>.

Selection process and timeline

Artists submitting to the RFQ are not being asked to develop a specific model or proposal at this time. Rather, RFQ submissions will be assessed on the quality and nature of the applicant's past work; experience working on commissions that are placed in open and public areas; and experience collaborating with other professionals such as architects, engineers, fabricators and installation personnel. RFQ submissions will be evaluated by City of Merriam personnel, selected members of Merriam's Public Art Initiative ad-hoc committee, and art consultant James Martin, who is facilitating all phases of the project.

A limited number of artists will be selected from the RFQ pool of applicants. A stipend of \$1,200 will be paid to each invitee to develop and submit a formal proposal.

The project timeline is subject to change, but is envisioned as follows:

1. All RFQ submissions due by 11:59 PM August 11, 2017
2. Artists invited to submit a design proposal notified mid- to late August 2017
3. All design proposal submissions due by 11:59 PM October 31, 2017
4. Selected artists present proposal at art selection committee meeting in mid- to

late November 2017

5. Art selection committee presents recommendation(s) to City Council for approval, early December 2017
6. Winning artist(s) notified mid-December 2017
7. Artist(s) install project autumn 2018
8. Artist(s) attend public dedication and reception in autumn 2018

Submission process and address

This application requires that artists submit examples of their work in digital format. Document files should be delivered in Microsoft Word .doc or .docx format to ensure ease of copying and pasting if necessary. PDF files are discouraged. Images and videos should be cross-platform compatible and easy to copy and paste if necessary.

Materials can be submitted in one of the following ways:

1. Upload your submission materials to a file-sharing website such as www.dropbox.com. Please compress all files into one .zip file to allow quick and easy downloading. Email a link to the download location to project consultant James Martin at artinkc@gmail.com with the subject line "Merriam Public Art RFQ."

Do not send an email with attachments. In the email with your download link, include only a brief note that you are applying to the Merriam Public Art Project.

2. A CD containing all materials in digital format may be mailed. The CD and all files on it must be compatible with both Macintosh and PC platforms. DVDs will not be accepted. Send materials to:

City of Merriam Public Art Initiative
Att'n: James Martin, Art Consultant
c/o Assistant City Administrator Meredith Hauck
Merriam City Hall
9001 W. 62nd St
Merriam, KS 66202

Submission materials

Please include the following materials for all RFQ submissions:

1. A cover letter describing: why you are interested in this project; your experience with creating art for the public realm; and your experience collaborating with other professionals such as architects, engineers, fabricators and installation personnel.

Name this cover letter file with the convention Lastname_Firstname_letter.doc.

2. Up to 10 images and/or videos of your past work. Artist teams may submit a combined total of 10 images, not 10 work samples per each artist. Images should

be in .jpg format, no larger 5 MB. Videos should be in .avi or .mp4 format and no longer than 3 minutes each. DVD formats are not accepted. You may include links to third-party video hosting websites such as YouTube or Vimeo. To ensure that your videos can be viewed, please do not use links to your personal website.

Name each work sample with your last name, first name and the numbers 1-10. For example, if your name is Jane Smith, the first work would be named smith_jane_1.jpg and the second image would be smith_jane_2.jpg.

3. A short description of each image submitted. The description for each image should include the following information if applicable: the submitted file name of the image being referred to; title; dimensions; materials; budget; location; and a brief summary.

Name this file with the convention Lastname_Firstname_descriptions.doc

4. An artist statement. Artist teams who do not have previous experience collaborating should submit a statement for each artist, plus a statement of how the artists will collaborate for this project.

Name this file with the convention Lastname_Firstname_statement.doc

5. Your resume. Artist teams should submit one resume per artist.

Name this file with the convention Lastname_Firstname_Resume.doc

All submissions must be postmarked or uploaded by 11:59 PM August 11, 2017.

Contact information

If you have questions regarding this RFQ, contact project consultant James Martin:

artinkc@gmail.com

913-485-5267

<http://artinkc.biz>

