

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Project: Merriam Community Center Public Art Installation(s)

Art Budget: \$243,000

Issue Date: January 4, 2019

Deadline: Monday, February 4, 2019, 11:59 pm PST

Project Summary

The City of Merriam, Kansas is seeking one or more professional public artist or artist teams for the design, fabrication, and installation of two permanent outdoor works as a part of the new Merriam Community Center project. The selected artist(s) for the commissions will conceptualize and develop appropriate designs for proposed project elements. The target date of completion is 2020.

The City of Merriam requests qualifications from professional public artists or artist teams who live and work in the United States. An Artist Advisory Panel seated by the Merriam Public Art Committee will select up to six finalists to interview with a secondary Selection Panel.

Project Site

In September 2017, Merriam voters approved a bond initiative to build a new community center, including indoor and outdoor aquatics. This new facility will replace an aging aquatic center and existing community center. It will feature a variety of amenities, including indoor and outdoor aquatics, fitness, and recreation areas, and community gathering space. A key feature of the building design is an outdoor plaza that will connect the community center, a parking structure, and a future library. The new community center will be located across from the existing City Hall and Police Department complex and will replace an approximately seven-acre park. The site location is in the heart of Merriam and is bordered by the aforementioned civic complex to the west, multi-family and business sites to the south, single family homes to the east, and large commercial sites (Hobby Lobby and Ikea) to the north.

Specific location(s) for public art on the Community Center site have been identified in the plaza and as an element on the adjacent parking garage. A site plan is attached and more information about this project is available at

<http://www.merriam.org/843/Building-Community>

Project Background

The City of Merriam is currently mid-way through a five-year public art program that received \$500,000 in funding through the City's Capital Improvement Plan. The first

two projects, *Still Time* and *Planting the Seeds*, are completed, and work is currently underway on the third project, *Hmmmm*. These projects are all located along Merriam Drive, which runs through the heart of City's downtown district. The final two projects are being performed in conjunction with existing City facilities. Art Project #4 is proposed to include artistic enhancements to City Hall, and this project, Art Project #5, will be completed as part of the new community center project. A resident public art committee helps oversee the program and makes recommendations to the City Council.

Who May Apply

Professional visual artists or artist teams, working in any and all media, who are at least 18 years of age, and who live and work in the United States are eligible to apply. City of Merriam staff, Artist Selection Committee members and their family members are not eligible to apply. Artists must be in good standing with regard to taxes and must have appropriate artist and business insurance. This call will be released nationally. The total art budget is \$243,000 all inclusive.

Submission Requirements

There is no submission fee. Submissions will be made by emailing a single PDF as outlined below to Lauren Crosby at Lauren@designinglocal.com. Upon submission, you will be emailed an acknowledgement of submission. Submissions are due no later than **11:59pm PST on Monday, February 4, 2019**. Among the items you will need to include are:

Statement of Interest: In **300 words or less**, describe your interest and your qualifications for undertaking such a project. Be sure to address the selection criteria (below). If you are applying as an artist team, your statement of interest should reflect the work and approach of the team.

Resume: Please include **no more than two pages** outlining your professional accomplishments as an artist and any community engagement experience. Be sure to include any relevant public or private commissioning experience.

If you are applying as an artist team, be sure to combine all individuals' information into a two-page document that summarizes the team members' qualifications. *For example, a four-member team may choose to include a half-page bio*

for each member.

Media: No more than **12 images of completed work**, including examples of work similar to the scope of this project. Images should be no less than 100 dpi. If you have a video that is relevant to this project (i.e. a kinetic sculpture or sound element), submit a PDF with a link to the video. Each video PDF link will count as one of your 12 images. Each video may be no longer than 3 minutes.

References: A list of at least **three professional references** that have a solid knowledge of your work and working methods, including addresses, email, and telephone.

Optional: You may include **up to three selections** of support materials such as reviews, news articles, and other related information.

**If you are applying as a team, designate one artist to be the team leader to submit your information, along with team members' image(s) and resume/bio(s). Submissions from artist teams should reflect samples from each artist on the team, and not exceed the overall submission limit of 12 images.*

***Any additional materials provided in excess of materials requested above will not be considered.*

Proposed Timeline for Implementation

January 4, 2019: Artist Call/RFQ Released

February 4, 2019: Artist Call/RFQ Closed

February 16, 2019: Artist Selection Committee meets to select finalists and alternate

Mid March 2019: Approval of contracts with artists for completion of design proposals, contracts signed with finalists.

Mid May 2019: Finalists proposals due

Late May 2019: Artist(s) selected by Artist Selection Committee

Mid June 2019: Selected art proposal(s) submitted to the Merriam Public Art Committee

July 2019: Legislation to contract with the artist(s) submitted to Council

July 2019: Finalize contract with selected artist(s)

July 2019 - end of Spring 2020: Fabrication

May 2020: Installation and dedication (weather permitting)

**This timeline is subject to change*

Budget

A project proposal fee of \$1,000 will be provided to each of the finalists to develop proposals. The travel stipend of \$500 will be allotted to each artist.

The budget for the final commissioned artworks is \$243,000.00 and is inclusive of all costs associated with the project, including but not limited to: artist expenses, administration, sub-consultants, travel/lodging, artwork fabrication (including materials, details and specifications), storage, transportation and installation, related permits, licenses, taxes and insurance. Any expenses that exceed the contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility. The artist will be responsible for submitting an artwork maintenance manual upon completion.

Final Selection Criteria

Finalists will be selected by demonstrating the following, with each criteria weighted as indicated.

1. Artist Excellence (60%): The aesthetic significance and quality of the artwork, including the artworks transformative and distinctive qualities.
 - Does the artist's past work show a consistent exploration of ideas and concepts that are engaging and evolving?
 - Does the artist have a distinctive vision that aligns with and reflects Merriam's vision for the future?
 - Is the artist a professional working artist with an exhibition record and/or work that has been reviewed?

2. Collaboration and Communication (20%): Experience and ability to work and collaborate with design professionals, engineers, community leaders, and artists, to communicate effectively, and to collaborate and work with a team.
3. Project Management (20%): Experience and ability to research client needs and propose an appropriate design, willingness and ability to attend frequent project meetings (whether in person, by phone, or by electronic connection). Ability to access appropriate resources when necessary, to develop an appropriate and realistic budget, to supply realistic quotes for fabrication, and to complete projects on time and within said budget.
 - Based on the artists past work, can the artist provide a 10 year maintenance plan for the work(s)?
 - Does the artist have experience completing this scale of project on time and working within this type of budget?

Nondiscrimination

The City of Merriam does not discriminate against any qualified individual on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic bias, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or other category protected by applicable state or federal law.

Additional Rules and Guidelines

- The City of Merriam may check references to assist in the evaluation of any submission.
- The City of Merriam shall not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by any artist in the preparation and submission of the RFQ.
- All submissions are considered public and subject to review upon request.
- The jury has the right to reject any and all proposals.
- The City of Merriam has the right to issue additional solicitations for Qualifications.
- The City of Merriam reserves the right to withdraw this call at any time.
- Artist(s) have the right to withdraw their Qualifications at any time.

Questions?

Inquiries about the program or the project should be made by sending an email to project consultant Amanda Golden with Designing Local at amanda@designinglocal.com.

Merriam Community Center Site Plan

