

Find me in the Park, It's TREEmendous

Request For Proposals/Public Art

Project: Public Art Installations

Total Budget: \$5000; \$1,000 each (all-inclusive) for up to 5 artists/artworks.

Deadline for Submissions: April 24, 2015, 5:00 p.m. EST

City Department: Columbus Recreation and Parks

Artist Eligibility

This project is open to professional visual artists with sculptural experience, installation artists, fabricators, or craftsman, who live or work in the state of Ohio.

Project Summary and Concept

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department seeks to commission up to five professional visual artists to create, fabricate, install and maintain, 5 temporary, site specific public artworks, in the form of small tree houses, that will be installed in specifically chosen trees in 5 separate City of Columbus Parks.

For this project, artists shall creatively interpret the concept of small dwellings inhabited by magical woodland folk situated in trees. Whimsical designs capturing the essence of childhood lore, abstract story references, or make-believe creatures is the primary focus. The proposed structures should stir the imagination of young and old alike while creating a sense of wonder or mystery. Artists will submit designs for original, "miniature tree houses" that they will fabricate, and then affix out of reach in the branches of trees in specified public parks managed by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. In conjunction with *TREEmendous*, The CRPD will begin a major effort entitled "Find Me in the Park" in which members of the public will be encouraged to "discover" these tree houses using a number of different digital and non-digital means.

Project Goals

- Encourage exploration of Columbus parks
- Increase awareness of tree canopy and importance of trees
- Stimulate the imagination of kids of all ages
- Create outdoor activities for families
- Feature artists in a very public setting

Project Budget

Chosen artists will be awarded a total of \$1,000 each. The award is all-inclusive of design, fabrication, installation, travel, shipping expenses, insurance and other project-related costs, and maintenance of the project for its temporary installation period (June through September 2015.) Complete de-installation of the project at the conclusion of the contract term is expected for final payment to be disbursed.

The City of Columbus shall not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by any artist in the preparation and submission of the RFP.

Artist Payment Schedule

Following the Request for Proposals phase, the Art Advisory Panel will select up to 5 artists to prepare site specific design concepts. Each selected artist will receive an initial art proposal fee of \$200. Upon successful installation of the proposed work, each artist will receive another payment of \$500. At the conclusion of the project, after complete de-installation, each artist will receive their final payment of \$300.

Failure to complete all phases of the project will be considered breach of contract, in which case all payments will be stopped.

Artwork Sites

Specific parks and trees will be assigned to the artists in association with the CRPD staff. In each park, three trees have been selected as optimal choices. Artist and CRPD staff will make a final choice from each park's list of three trees.

The 5 parks chosen:

- Schiller Park (south – German Village)
- Westgate Park (west - Hilltop)
- Park of Roses (north - Clintonville)
- Wolfe Park (east - Old Town East)
- Goodale Park (central - Short North)

We suggest visiting one or more of the above mentioned parks for inspiration and for an understanding of the surroundings. The Art Advisory panel will take into consideration how the designs reflect the character of the park and/or surrounding neighborhood. If the design(s) you submit are intended for a specific park, please note that in your sketches. This information will be taken into consideration. The Artists Advisory Panel will make all final selections in regards to artist-park pairings.

Specific Installation Requirements

In order to maintain the health and integrity of the chosen trees and City property, artists MUST adhere to the strict guidelines set forth. Any artist who is found to have ignored or misrepresented any of the following installation requirements will be removed from the project and compensation will be voided.

1. No nails, screws, bolts, staples, spikes, rods, or the like which causes penetration into the bark, limbs, or trunk of the tree shall be used to secure fabricated structure.
2. Artists may use only pre-approved straps, zip ties, wires, cables, or the like to secure the artist's fabricated structure to the tree.
3. Artist is responsible for securing their fabricated structure soundly to the tree to adequately withstand, but not exclusively, inclement weather, theft or defacement, and insure the safety of the public.
4. Should damage to the fabricated structure occur by one or more of the above events, the artist is responsible for timely repairs or replacement during the contracted period.
5. The fabricated structure must use branches located just out of reach of the public, roughly 8-10 feet off the ground.
6. The artist is responsible for safe use of ladders, equipment and the like during installation. It is recommended artist has an assistant or spotter.
7. Artist may not drive on the grass or walkways in any park for any reason.
8. Artist shall use extreme care while installing to prevent damage to limbs and branches. Do not sit or hang on limbs or branches.
9. Artist shall not alter the tree in any way by trimming or removing limbs or branches.
10. Some *Friends of the Park* groups may impose specific design requirements reflecting neighborhood esthetic or character. This information will be supplied to the artist in advance.
11. Artist shall use materials like, but not exclusive to, wood, metal, ceramic, canvas, rubber, plastic, fiber, etc. to build fabricated structure.
12. Artist shall not use any construction technique which will cause harm to wildlife including, but not exclusively, birds and squirrels. Refrain from materials such as shiny tinsel, foils, and the like that can be ingested by park inhabitants.
13. Artist must receive approval to significantly change or alter their originally accepted design.
14. Artists must schedule their installation with CRPD Staff. In some cases a CRPD staffer may be assigned to you to oversee the installation process.
15. Artist will be provided a laminated sign with the "Find me in the Park...It's TREEmendous" logo that shall be displayed anytime you are at the work site. Artist shall be prepared to engage curios patrons of the park by explaining the project to them.
16. Artist must sign a liability release before work shall commence.

Art Advisory Panel

The Art Advisory Panel will be made up of members of the Recreation and Parks Department (Forestry, Development, and Cultural Arts) a member of the Columbus Art Commission, as well as a member for the public.

Artist Evaluation Criteria

The selection of each artist shall be based on whose qualifications and proposed sketches best meet the requirements set forth in this RFP and who shows a strong interest in creating art within a public environment. The panel will consider the quality and creativity of design, the strength of concept and the artist's ability to connect to the given environment.

The Artist Advisory Panel may also consider the following evaluation criteria:

- Has the applicant been commissioned for similar types of projects and/or installation?
- Does the applicant understand the issues, concepts and challenges of making public art?
- Has the applicant shown the ability to successfully complete a public art project? For example:
 - Is the applicant's past work (including conceptual approach, design, craftsmanship and execution of the artwork) outstanding?
 - Is the applicant's past work well-suited—relative to scale and materials and the surrounding environment? Does it have a relationship to the site?
 - Does the artist have a unique and distinctive vision?
 - Is the applicant a professional, working artist? Has he or she studied fine art? Does he or she have an exhibition record? Has he or she been a recipient of visual-art-related awards?
 - Does the applicant have the experience, knowledge, education and expertise to create a public artwork of the scope of this project?

Selection Process

- 1) The Artist Advisory Panel will evaluate all submissions and select up to 5 artists.
- 2) The Columbus Arts Commission will review the 5 selected artists for final approval.
- 3) The chosen artists must then enter into a contract with the City of Columbus before creating their approved site-specific public artwork.

Submission Requirements

Proposals are due by 5 pm on April 24, 2015. Please indicate on the envelope or package in bold letters TREMENDOUS PUBLIC ART RFP and mail or hand deliver to the following address:

Columbus Cultural Arts Center
139 West Main St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
TREMENDOUS PUBLIC ART RFP

This call/RFP requires the following materials to be submitted:

1. A **one-page letter of interest** with a general statement about your artwork and your interest in the project.
2. **Proposal sketches.** Artist may submit a maximum of two (2) separate designs for consideration. A maximum of five (5) hard copies or jpeg images, including details and alternate views, may be included in your submission. We recommend scanning or copying images to submit as all submissions will become property of the City. Do not send original sketches.
3. **Images of past work.** Up to five (5) hard copies or jpeg images of past works, including details and alternate views, may be included in your submission.
4. **Current resume,** not to exceed four pages, including name, address, phone number, e-mail address and website.

Proposals may be submitted in hard copy form or in electronic versions on a CD or USB flashdrive.

Questions

Should you have questions about this project or about your submission, please direct them to:

Name: Todd Camp, Cultural Arts Center
Phone: 614-645-7514
Email: tmcamp@columbus.gov

Schedule:

The artist selection, design, fabrication and installation process is planned as follows:

- 3/23 RFP goes out to public
- 4/24 RFP closes at 5pm
- 4/27 selection panel convenes
- 4/28. Artists sections are submitted to commission for approval; once approval is attained, Artists are notified and fabrication may begin.
- 6/22 Installations week begins
- 9/21 De-installation begins.

The City of Columbus reserves the right to change or alter the project schedule.

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