

HIGHLAND BRIDGE PUBLIC ART RFQ

INTRODUCTION

Public Art Saint Paul (PASP), a private non-profit, invites submissions on behalf on the City of Saint Paul, to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to be considered for a \$150,000 commission for public art at Highland Bridge, a 122-acre mixed-use development that will include residential housing, businesses, new streets, parks, and storm water systems. Envisioned as a "21st-Century Urban Village," Highland Bridge will employ sustainable energy sources and practices, multi-modal transportation, and health promotion through its parks, trails, and proximity to the Mississippi River. The area will have four new parks, some contiguous with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Two parks have Dakota language names: [Uŋčī Makħa Park](#) means "Mother Earth" and [Míča Park](#), which means "coyote," a reflection of the wildlife that live in the area. These names were recommended by the Dakota advisors to the City of Saint Paul Park's Department. Saint Paul is on the homelands of the Dakota people.

PASP is seeking qualified Artists or Artist-Led Teams who have inventive public art practices—sensitive to site, environment, and community, and to the visionary goals of the Highland Bridge Development. The intent of this RFQ is to identify qualified Artists or Artist-Led Teams who have demonstrated experience and expertise in facilitating design, fabrication, and installation of significant public art projects. If an Artist does not have experience in creating permanent public art, they will need to lead a Team with the requisite experience to assist them.

Public Art Saint Paul (PASP) is managing the Artist Selection Process in collaboration with the City of Saint Paul and the site's lead developer, Ryan Companies, and with the expertise and advice of a Public Artist Selection Committee made up representatives from the City of Saint Paul; Ryan Companies (lead developer); residents of St. Paul with expertise in art, public art, and cultures that make up the City's communities as well as their being critical stakeholders, constituencies, and/ or advisors.

The public art selection process has two phases. First, through the review of submitted RFQ materials, the Artist Selection Committee will select 3-4 Artists or Artist-Led Teams who will become finalists for the commission. Finalists will prepare, submit, and present specific concept design proposals for public art in the second stage of the process. Finalists will be paid \$1,500 to develop design concepts, a preliminary budget, and will also need to indicate their recommended placement of their proposed artwork on public land within the Highland Bridge area. One Artist or Artist Team will be selected from the pool of finalists for this \$150,000 commission.

BACKGROUND

The Highland Bridge site offers an unparalleled opportunity for the future of Saint Paul and for the entire region. Rarely does a city have the chance to redevelop 135 acres of land on the banks of one of the world's major rivers and in the heart of a thriving neighborhood and commercial area. Planned to be an inclusive, forward-looking 21st-century urban village, Highland Bridge is the new name for a 135-acre area in the southwest section of the City of Saint Paul, located along the Mississippi River. This new development is being built on the former home of Ford Motor Companies' Twin Cities Assembly Plant.

The City of Saint Paul and multiple partners spent a decade engaging with the community, studying environmental impacts, and approving a final plan for the site's redevelopment. Ryan Companies, as master developer of the site, is charged with executing the City's plan of a new connected, livable, mixed-use neighborhood with clean technologies and high-quality design for energy, buildings, and infrastructure. Highland Bridge will be woven into the existing community; support walking, biking, and transit; and provide services, jobs, and activities that every generation and people of all cultures can enjoy. Four City parks are planned for this development.

Goals of the development plan include economic accessibility; inclusiveness to the many cultures and generations that live in Saint Paul; ecological sustainability in energy use and in infrastructure that connects to the Mississippi River, employment opportunities for residents of the neighborhood that encourages no or low use of car commuting, mix of housing types and affordability levels from only a few single family homes to multifamily rowhouses, apartments, and condominium buildings, and deeply affordable housing choices. The Highland Bridge Master Plan requires 20% of all housing units to be affordable, with a mix of rental and owner-occupied housing options. At final build out, Highland Bridge will include approximately 763 new units affordable to households earning 60% or less of Area Median Income (AMI), with half of these affordable to extremely low-income households earning 30% or less of AMI.

Highland Bridge will be a connected, livable, and sustainable neighborhood that will serve as a world-wide model for a 21st Century Community. It will look to the future with clean technologies and high-quality design for energy, buildings and infrastructure. The redeveloped site will support walking, biking and transit, and provide services, jobs and activities that every generation can enjoy. The site can be redeveloped in a way that respects the history and context of the neighborhood, while designing a thriving community that significantly lowers its impact on the environment. A redeveloped Ford site can demonstrate that residents, employers, workers, and visitors can enjoy all the amenities and comforts of modern living while using much less energy, producing clean energy on site, reducing waste, reducing and treating storm-water runoff, restoring a natural ecosystem, and providing an infrastructure system that reduces vehicle trips and encourages walking, biking and transit.

Highland Bridge is two to seven miles from MSP's International Airport, the downtowns of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and the Mall of America. It is in the heart of a thriving business

community, near dozens of educational and research institutions, has transit and nearby rail corridor access and sits along the unique gorge of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. This active, amenity-rich area will attract residents, visitors, employers, and employees to create a robust neighborhood.

Resources:

Development: <https://highlandbridge.com>

Site Plan: <https://highlandbridge.com/explore/>

<https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/Highland-Bridge-Ford-Master-Plan-05-2820.pdf>

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-and-economic-development/planning/ford-sitehighland-bridge>

SAINT PAUL'S PUBLIC ART ORDINANCE

The public art commission for Highland Bridge is funded by the City's Public Art Ordinance, related to Capital Improvement Bonds (CIB). This Ordinance was founded on the aspirations and vision of civic leaders, artists, and the community for a creative city at the headwaters of the Mississippi River. It arose from decades of exploration and observation as the City planned its future, as its population diversified, and as the practice of public art evolved. The City Council passed the Ordinance in 2009, creating a powerful tool that places artists at the core of civic action in shaping the form and experience of the city.

Public Art Saint Paul, a private non-profit that often partners with the City of Saint Paul, was charged by the City Council in 2005 to draft significant revision to its existing ordinance. Public Art Saint Paul researched and reviewed the history of public art development in Saint Paul; the City's existing public art ordinance, policies and practices; the work of non-profits and community organizations to develop and care for public art; city-wide and neighborhood plans that reference public art; plans and policies that express the City's capital development values; and the public art policies and experiences of other cities nationwide.

A host of artistic, urban planning, and design, heritage preservation, and community partners participated in this work. City staff from the Departments of Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Libraries, and Financial Services offered essential insights and ideas. Representatives of the Saint Paul arts and cultural community, district councils, and community organizations were vitally engaged.

Many neighborhood and city-wide planning documents testify to the value citizens place on public art. Citizens see public art as promoting the city and individual neighborhoods as desirable places to live, work and visit, and improving the attractiveness and pedestrian

friendliness of city streetscapes. Planning studies articulate the potential of public art for expressing neighborhood history, identity, and sense of place, and for fostering intercultural harmony and understanding in our increasingly diverse city. City officials and staff, business owners and residents embrace public art as a key component in promoting the vitality of commercial nodes and creating distinctive places that foster attachment, awe, and appreciation among visitors and residents.

Since its passage in 2009 and implementation in 2012, Saint Paul's Public Art Ordinance has provided more than \$2 million in funding for public art throughout the city.

www.stpaul.gov/publicart

PUBLIC ART SAINT PAUL

Public Art Saint Paul (PASP) is a private, non-profit organization that often works in partnership with the City of Saint Paul to imagine and create a more just, sustainable, and beautiful city. By placing artists in leading roles, the organization helps to [shape public spaces](#), [improve city systems](#), and [deepen civic engagement](#).

PASP engages artists to research and help to plan public projects and developments, such as Kellogg Mall and Mears Parks. They also commission, produce, and tend to public art—from Minnesota Rocks to 1,200 poems stamped in sidewalks to Urban Flower Field, a green space design that provides a transition from brown field to future city park. PASP transforms civic life through such innovative art projects as City Artist Program, The University Avenue Project, Pop Up Meeting, Western Sculpture Park, CREATE: The Community Meal, and The Art of Food in Frogtown and Rondo. From small-scale gestures to large-scale events, Public Art Saint Paul creates more beautiful communities and fosters more inclusive civic life. Over 33 years, the organization's work has been woven into the fabric of daily life in Saint Paul.

PASP has been a public art leader in many areas, such as its City Artist Program, in which an artist on staff with the nonprofit is embedded in the City of Saint Paul and works across departments to spur new thinking and innovation, to contribute to more equitable processes and projects, and to create artistic interventions that help the city meet its goals for sustainability, equity, and livability. Now in its 16th year, the City Artist Program is the longest-lived artist-in-residence program in the country. Many PASP programs and projects are emulated and adopted by cities and towns across the nation.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to Artists or Artist-Led Teams with experience in creating permanent public art. Competitive candidates will have experience working as part of a team with government or municipal agencies to develop projects that intersect with public buildings and places, or public infrastructure, including bridges, roadways, streets, and viaducts.

If an Artist does not have experience creating permanent public art, they must be part of an Artist-Led Team that has the requisite expertise to successfully and safely design an art project, manage the budget, execute and install the artwork.

The Saint Paul Public Art Ordinance defines as an Artist as an individual who creates original art and is recognized by professional peers and critics as a professional practitioner of the visual, craft, literary, musical, conceptual or performing arts, as judged by the quality of that practitioner's body of work and experience.

Each Artist must meet this definition and every team must be led by an Artist who meets this definition per the Public Art Ordinance.

Through their submitted materials, Artist or Artist-Led Team need to demonstrate the following skills and competencies:

1. Ability to develop design concepts with sensitivity to project site, aspirations of the larger development, and to social, physical, environmental, and historical contexts;
2. Ability to develop design concepts to be built or fabricated in durable materials suitable for outdoor environments in Saint Paul's variable climate, and which require low maintenance.
3. Ability to translate schematic designs into construction documents for fabrication of public artwork (Artist or Artist-led Team may fabricate if they have the skills or may subcontract with professional fabricators and installers);
4. Administrative capacity to responsibly and effectively manage the resources involved in completing an art installation on time, within budget, and in compliance with all applicable codes, ordinances and contracts. This may include but is not limited to:
 - a. Proposing and adhering to project budgets, timelines, production materials, and installation methods
 - b. Subcontracting to properly credentialed professionals such as architects, structural engineers, draftsmen, fabricators, and installers
 - c. Carrying all insurance required by applicable laws, codes, ordinances and contracts
 - d. Securing all necessary permits and approvals
 - e. Coordinating with all applicable City departments, lead developer, and other stakeholders

PLEASE NOTE: This public art project will not require additional community engagement, which has been extensive over the 10-year planning process for the Highland Bridge development and includes community input on public art. These resources will be made available to the finalists

who are selected from the RFQ submissions process. If the commissioned Artist or Artist-Led Team wish to undertake additional community engagement, it is their choice and the Artist or Artist-ed Team must design and implement their own engagement plan with any expenses coming from the commission amount.

Each Artist, whether applying individually or as part of a Team, must be:

- A professional artist
- At least 18 years old

For the purposes of this RFQ, a professional Artist is someone who:

- Has at least a three-year history of professional art practice
- Has specialized training in the field (not limited to academic training)
- Has demonstrated success in the arts through the creation of high-quality work, especially that which is well-suited for public spaces
- Is recognized as a professional by peers (artists working in the similar disciplines) and experts in the field
- Is not enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate course of study in the visual arts as of July 1, 2021.

For the purposes of this RFQ, an Artist Team:

- Is two or more professional artists (as defined above) and/or technical professionals in a related field collaborating in the creation of joint work for which all team members hold copyright per the Copyright Act of 1976 (17 USC Section 101).

WHAT TO SUBMIT

Artists or Artist-Led Teams are advised to adhere to the submittal requirements of the RFQ. Failure to comply with the instructions of this RFQ may be cause for rejection of any non-compliant applications.

Submit only images or videos of Artists or Artist-Led Team's own original artwork or collaborative joint work for which Artist or Artist-Led Team shares copyright. Do not submit images or videos of works or projects by others for which applicant played a supportive role (assistant, fabricator, engineer, etc.). This call is a request for qualifications only. Do not submit information for specific public art projects or donations of artwork for this call.

1. Letter of Interest:
 - o On a single page, in 500 words or less, please describe the Artist or Artist-Led Team's specific interest in working with the City of Saint Paul on the Highland Bridge Public Art Project.

- o Provide a brief summary of Artist or Artist-led Team's professional experience in public art to date, including how that experience qualifies for this public art project.
 - o If applying as a team, include a description of your collaborative history and process.
2. Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- o Artists: Please submit a 2-page resume or CV detailing past projects, exhibitions, and education.
 - o Artist-Led Teams: Please submit a 2-page resume or CV for each individual collated into a single document.
3. Work Samples
- a. 10 visual images of existing, recent public artwork
- File Types: JPEG or JPG only
 - File Dimensions: 1200 pixels or greater on the longest side
 - iFile size: Under 5 MB
 - Do not submit more than 2 images of the same work.
 - Composite images of no more than 2 views of the same work are acceptable.
 - Illegible images (e.g. poor resolution) will not be reviewed.
- b. Optional: Up to 2 videos documenting existing public artwork
- Submit video only to demonstrate kinetic or time-based work.
 - Do not submit video of static work, artist interviews, or promotional material.
 - File Types: MOV, WMV, MP4, 3GP, AVI, ASF, MPG, M2T, MKV, M2TS
 - File size: Under 100 MB
 - Linked media from YouTube, Vimeo, etc. are not accepted by CaFÉ
4. Annotated Image List
- o For each work sample provided, please list:
 - Title of Work
 - Medium/media
 - Dimensions
 - Year completed
 - Price, project budget, or commission budget
 - Installation site (if available), including street address or coordinates
 - Brief statement (2 sentences maximum) about the work

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PUBLIC ART SAINT PAUL AND INTERESTED ARTISTS OR ARTIST-LED TEAMS

Artists or Artist-Led Teams must communicate only with Public Art Saint Paul as manager of this public art process. All questions or requests for clarification must be in writing, sent by email to Colleen Sheehy, Executive Director of Public Art Saint Paul at colleen@publicartstpaul.org

Questions or requests for clarifications must be received no later than July 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Responses to the questions or requests for clarification all will be compiled and be posted on the Public Art Saint Paul website under the Highland Bridge Public Art link on the home page. (www.publicartstpaul.org)

Responses will be posted by July 23, 2021.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

To be assured of consideration, **RFQ submissions must be submitted through the online Call for Entries (CaFÉ) no later than 11:59 PM (Mountain Time) on July 29, 2021.**

No late submissions will be accepted.

PASP reserves the right to reject any submissions that do not conform to the requirements set forth in this RFQ.

HOW TO APPLY:

Submissions will be accessible via CaFÉ (www.callforentry.org) from July 9, 2021 to July 29, 2021. Interested applicants must register with CaFÉ in order to view the application. Registration is free for artists. Only submissions submitted via CaFÉ will be reviewed. Do not submit materials by email or by U.S. Mail. Only one submission per Artist or Artist-Led Team will be accepted. Artists can not apply themselves AND be part of another team.

CRITERIA

A panel composed of representatives from the City of Saint Paul; Ryan Companies (lead developer); residents of St. Paul with expertise in art, public art, and cultures that make up the City's communities as well as their being critical stakeholders, constituencies, and/ or advisors will review the Artists'/ Artist Teams' submissions. The panel will assess all eligible applicants based on:

1. **Artistic excellence:** Applicant's work demonstrates originality of concept and content; innovative thinking is evident; evidence of sensitivity to contexts; visual impact that

encourages viewers' attention; content that speaks to people of many backgrounds and ages; mastery of skills, techniques, and materials; professional quality of craftsmanship; professional approaches to process and presentation.

2. **Professional competence:** Applicant demonstrates activities indicating a professional practice, which may include but are not limited to specialized training in the field (not limited to academic training); previous commissions for public art and site-specific work; exhibitions in museums, art galleries, and/or other art venues; awards and other professional recognition, and other professional activities.
3. **Administrative capacity:** Application demonstrates the organizational skills, collaborative demeanor, and resource management capabilities necessary to successfully develop and deliver a commissioned artwork on time, within budget, and in compliance with all applicable codes, ordinances and contracts. This may be demonstrated by previous public art commissions or by other art projects with similar budget, scale and/or complexity.

FINALISTS

The Highland Bridge Public Art Selection Committee will select three to four finalists from the RFQ submissions of Artists or Artist-Led Teams. Finalists will then be asked to develop a specific design proposal and recommended site in the Highland Bridge development. They will receive additional materials and information about the site, meet with City and Ryan Companies staff, and tour the site, which is currently under construction. They will present their design to the Artist Selection Committee via an online platform and will be paid a \$1,500 stipend.

This stipend is to cover all expenses related to the finalist's efforts to develop and present their proposal. This includes meeting with city and Ryan company staff, touring the site, and developing concepts through renderings, site maps, budget, and written descriptions and any other labor the finalists need to develop their final proposal. A list of required materials for this presentation will be given to all finalists approximately 4 weeks before their presentation.

All Finalist presentations will be done remotely on the Zoom online platform.

Schedule

RFQ Open July 9, 2021

Questions Due July 15, 2021, 11:59 PM Central Time

Question Responses Posted July 23, 2021, 11:59 Central Time

RFQ Submission Deadline July 29, 2021, 11:59 PM Mountain Time (CaFÉ is located in Denver)

Finalists Notified

By August 30, 2021

Please address questions to: colleen@publicartstpaul.org by July 15, 2021.