

## City of La Crosse ARTS BOARD Riverside Sculpture RFQ

### **Overview:**

The City of La Crosse Arts Board in partnership with the Park Board and Riverside International Friendship Gardens Board of Directors invite experienced sculptors/public artists/teams to submit qualifications for the design and installation of a unique sculpture for the north end of the city's distinguished Riverside Park. The sculpture will engage, educate and inspire the public, and it may serve as a gathering space accompanied by the newly designed indigenous garden. This call is for sculptors in the Upper Midwest, including Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Indigenous artists are especially encouraged to apply.

**The deadline to submit qualifications to the Arts Board is September 1, 2020.** Three finalists will be selected following this Request for Qualifications. Interested parties are required to submit a letter of interest, a portfolio of their past-completed work, as well as profile (including tribal affiliation, if any), and contact information. Indigenous artists are especially encouraged to apply.

**Symbolic References and Potential Themes of Artwork:** The City Arts Board and its partners desire an iconic and dynamic sculpture artwork that will engage the public intellectually, physically, and visually. Situated near confluence of the Mississippi, Black, and La Crosse Rivers, there is a desire for artwork that pedestrians can interact with while visually enhancing the surrounding park, gardens, river and bluffs. Possible themes or symbolic inspiration for the artwork could include history of indigenous peoples, gathering places, and the natural world.

**Materials and Practical Considerations:** Materials are to be of a permanent durable nature that can hold up in an urban environment for many decades to follow. The work should be repairable if an extreme event were to happen as well as being resistant to graffiti and vandalism. Appearance during both day and nighttime should be considered. The plan is for the sculpture to engage the public intellectually, physically, and visually. The sculpture should complement pedestrian access and activities that take place in Riverside Park.

**Location:** North end of Riverside Park, adjacent to the Riverside International Friendship Gardens and the La Crosse Queen paddlewheel riverboat. More detailed information will be made available to the five finalists for the project.

**Scope of Work:** Budget includes the design, engineering, fabrication, delivery, insurance and installation of a sculpture at designated location.

**Budget:** to be determined based on combined grant and public funding including design, engineering, fabrication, delivery, installation and insurance.

**Process:** A five-member jury from the City Arts Board and partnerships will select three finalists from this call for art. Finalists will be provided more technical information, terms and conditions before acceptance of providing design proposals. The Three finalists will receive a RFP and be asked to present their proposal in a public forum in February, 2021. Finalists will receive a \$1,000 design stipend for their presentation. The final project budget for the selected artist/team will be determined based on funding.