

Riverside Sculpture

Request for Qualifications

Overview

The City of La Crosse Arts Board in partnership with designated governance groups invites experienced sculptors/public artists/teams to submit qualifications for the design and installation of a unique sculpture on the banks of the Mississippi River in 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, as the park exists on Ho-Chunk land.

The deadline to submit qualifications to the Arts Board is [INSERT DATE].

Up to 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/bio (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 the 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, Maintenance 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. The sculpture will include a proposal for a maintenance plan that is in compliance with Park Board policies for same. The site is located in a floodway, and the sculpture and its installation must comply with FEMA floodplain regulations.

Location

North end of Riverside Park, adjacent to the Riverside International Friendship Gardens and the Mississippi, Black and La Crosse River confluence. More detailed site information, including floodplain zoning will be made available to project finalists

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 selection committee composed of members from city boards, committees and partnerships will select up to three finalists from the call to artists. Finalists will be provided more technical information, terms and conditions before acceptance of providing design proposals. Finalists will receive an RFP and be asked to present their proposal in a public forum on **[INSERT DATE]**. Finalists will receive a \$1,000 design stipend for their presentation. The project budget for the selected artist/team will be 2

determined based on funding. The final design/moquette(s) and resulting sculpture shall become the property of the city of La Crosse.

Proposed Timeline

- Seek approval to form planning/selection committee to review RFQ, discuss funding sources
- Public listening session
- Identification of funding sources, grant applications
- Secure funding
- Publish RFQ
- RFQ deadline
- Review RFQ responses, select finalists
- Finalist presentations
- Finalist selection via RFP process
- Approval of final design proposal
- Site preparation
- Installation
- Dedication