



CALL TO ARTISTS/CREATIVE TEAMS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CITY OF TACOMA MUNICIPAL ART PROGRAM



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



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Public Art Plan for the Prairie Line Trail, Tacoma, WA

Deadline: February 28, 2011

Budget: \$30,000 (\$25,000 for plan plus \$5,000 for a demonstration project)

Call Summary

The City of Tacoma is seeking an artist, creative team, and/or art consultant to develop a public art plan for the half-mile/2 acre Prairie Line Trail. The Trail is a historic rail corridor connecting downtown Tacoma's significant recreational, cultural, and educational destinations to its waterfront.

Eligibility

Applicant must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Reside in the United States
- Have at least three years experience as a lead artist/consultant on public art projects
- Have completed at least one public art plan

Background

The City of Tacoma received a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to create a public art plan for the Prairie Line Trail to insure that public art plays an instrumental role in defining the trail's identity, sense of place, and vibrancy, both in its development and future manifestation.

Prairie Line Trail

The Prairie Line Trail is historically significant as the west coast terminus of the transcontinental railroad. The former BNSF railway travels through the Brewery District, University of Washington-Tacoma campus, past the Tacoma Art Museum, and down to the Thea Foss Waterway - strengthening an important connection between downtown and the waterfront. The trail is located in a vibrant area of downtown, adjacent to the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center, Tollefson Plaza, restaurants, and retail. The Sound Transit Light Rail crosses the Prairie Line Trail and the Museum of Glass and Washington State History Museum are nearby.

This rail to trail conversion will create a linear park and active transportation gateway to the waterfront, build on downtown Tacoma's natural, historic, and cultural assets, and become an integral component of the vision of an attractive, livable, and revitalized downtown. Grant funding has been received for preliminary engineering of the trail. Funding for the implementation of the public art plan and a completion date for the trail is to be determined. See attached photos for trail map and existing conditions.

Project Description

The City of Tacoma is seeking an artist, creative team, and or/art consultant to create a public art plan that will provide strategies for the development of public art and public art experiences along the

Prairie Line Trail. The plan will identify opportunities and recommend locations for integrated public artworks, site-specific permanent public art, and ephemeral temporary art and performance. The completed plan will be suitable for print and web and will include images of existing sites; policies and guidelines for commissioning site-specific, integrated, and temporary works of art; recommended locations for each of these types of art; concepts and important themes derived from community meetings; proposed next steps; and a list of potential projects that capitalize on future grant opportunities, the City of Tacoma's 1% for art program, and potential partnerships with surrounding organizations.

The public art plan and demonstration project completion date has been extended to October 31, 2011.

Community Engagement

The selected contractor will engage the public in a series of events that evoke input regarding the character, history, and potential use of the spaces for art and art experiences. Input will be specifically sought from artists and neighboring stakeholders including University of Washington-Tacoma, Tacoma Art Museum, Washington State History Museum, Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, and local businesses in proximity.

The contractor will coordinate with the participants involved in the overall design and planning for the Prairie Line Trail including architects, urban planners, alternative transportation communities, open space and sustainability organizations, and economic development specialists.

Demonstration Project

The contractor will devise and coordinate a demonstration project that includes other artists to illustrate possibilities for temporary artwork and give visibility to the Public Art Plan. The demonstration project can occur as part of initial community engagement or at the end of the planning process.

Selection Criteria

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Exhibited experience with public art and in creating public art plans
- Quality of work as exemplified in digital images of past work and in samples of past plans
- Thorough understanding of the public art field
- Ability to work successfully with community members, city staff, architects, engineers, planners, etc. to gather information and interpret it successfully in a plan
- Ability to present ideas and concepts to public groups
- Ability to complete the project by October 31, 2011

Timeline

February 28, 2011	Deadline for submissions
March 16, 2011	Review of submissions and selection of finalists
Week of March 28, 2011	Interviews with finalists and selection of artist/artist team*
October 31, 2011	Completion of public art plan and demonstration project

*Travel expenses are the responsibility of the artist. If selected for the project, the expenses may come out of the art budget. Video conferencing will be available for finalist interviews.

Help

For questions regarding the project contact Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator at 253-591-5192 or amcbride@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Please submit the following four items by email to tacoma.submissions@cityoftacoma.org with "Prairie Line Trail_Your Last Name" in the subject line. If your email is over 9 MB in size, you may need to send attachments in several batches. Please do not send zip files.

- Letter of Interest**
Typed, two pages maximum. The letter should include a description of the applicant's approach to public art, including relevant past experience in developing a public art plan. Artist or team could also highlight experience in the development of complex art-related concepts or similar professional experiences.

- Resume/ Curriculum Vitae**
 - Resume should not exceed 3 pages
 - Resume should include 3 references, as well as artist's name, phone number, e-mail address, and relationship if part of an artist team
 - Teams should submit one resume per member
 - Name the file with the applicant's last name like this: "Smith Resume"

- Support Materials**
Please submit the following two items as part of your support materials:
 - 1 PDF copy of a public art plan that the applicant has completedAND
 - 15 digital images of recent/relevant works or previous concepts/proposals which illustrate the applicant's previous experience with large, publicly involved projects. Artists applying as a team who have no examples of joint work in the past may submit 10 images of each artist's work
 - Submit only "High" quality JPEG files (do not use GIF, TIFF, or other formats.)
 - *Image Size*
 - Images must be at least 72 ppi resolution
 - Images smaller than 600 pixels per side are not recommended
 - *File Size*
 - Files must be less than 5 MB each
 - *File Labeling*
 - Files must be titled with a number indicating the viewing order, followed by the applicant's name. The numbers must correspond to image descriptions as listed on the Work Sample Description Sheet. Use a "0" in front of single digit numbers and use only letters, numbers, and underscores. For example: 01_Smith.jpg; 02_Smith.jpg
 - If using Mac OS 8 or later, include a ".jpg" extension at the end of image titles
 - Do not embed the images into PowerPoint or submit moving image or audio files

- Support Materials Description Sheet** (two pages or less) including:
 - Applicant's name, address, phone, and email address in the upper right corner
 - For digital images:
 - Numbered order in which the images are to be viewed
 - Title of each work or activity depicted in the image
 - Media & dimensions (H x W x D"), if applicable, or description of activity
 - Name of the project for which it was implemented
 - Date completed
 - If work is part of a larger project, please define your role in the larger project
 - For public art plan:
 - Title and short description of the submitted plan including the budget

Prairie Line Trail Map:



Existing Conditions:

