



# CALL TO ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS J2018-03

Metro Parks Tacoma Public Art Program

## BILLY RAY MEMORIAL PROJECT – Eastside Community Center, Tacoma

**Budget:** \$70,000 all-inclusive

**Deadline:** February 13, 2018, 11:59pm

**Summary:** Metro Parks Tacoma is seeking an artist or artist team to design, fabricate, and install a memorial artwork honoring Billy Ray, his legacy, and the work of Team Billy Ray. Once selected, the artist will work with the design team to identify an appropriate, prominent location at the site. The resulting artwork should incorporate Billy Ray's likeness and use written elements to tell his story (incorporated or as supporting signage). As space and budget allow, it may also include seating or other associated amenities that support the piece. The artist will have the opportunity to talk with key family and friends, in order to honor Billy Ray's energy, essence, and humanity, and may choose to use his inspiring quote: "you got this". Most importantly, the artwork should be a welcoming, interactive space for remembering and honoring Billy Ray's powerful story. Local and regional artists are encouraged to apply, with priority given to artists with a tie to the Eastside community.

### Artist Eligibility:

- Applicant(s) must live in Washington or Oregon
- Applicants must be 18 years or older
- Applicants cannot be an employee, board member, council member, or commissioner of Metro Parks Tacoma or the City of Tacoma

### Selection Criteria:

- Artistic quality as exemplified in past work
- Ability to create artwork that tells a story
- Ability to create an artwork that includes Billy Ray's likeness
- Ability to create a welcoming, interactive space for visitors
- Ability to create an artwork responsive to the site and community contexts
- Ability to think and work with durable materials, and in a scale that is appropriate to the site
- Ability to relate to multiple types of viewers, particularly young people

**About Billy Ray Shirley:** As a resident of the Eastside of Tacoma, Washington, Billy Ray Shirley, III dreamed of opening his own community center in the neighborhood where he recognized the lack of facilities that provide a safe place as well as activities catering to the youth within the neighborhood. Unfortunately, he became a victim of homicide before he could make his dream come true, at the age of 17. Shocked by this tragedy, friends of Billy Ray came together to form Team Billy Ray and start the hard work of making sure that his death was not in vain.

**About the Eastside Community Center:** The Eastside Community Center, opening in 2018 on the First Creek Middle School campus, will offer a wide variety of recreational, enrichment, and learning

opportunities for people of all ages. The Center is a partnership between Metro Parks, City of Tacoma, Tacoma Housing Authority, and Tacoma Public Schools, driven by a strong grassroots movement and community buy-in, and inspired by a vision of Billy Ray Shirley III, a youth leader whose life was cut short before he could pursue his dream of building a community center: [metroparkstacoma.org/eastside](http://metroparkstacoma.org/eastside). Artist team Christopher Paul Jordan and Kenji Stoll worked with community to develop an Art Brief that proposes several different opportunities for artwork to be incorporated into the Center. Through the Art Brief process, it became apparent that an artist-designed memorial honoring Billy Ray, his legacy, and the work of Team Billy Ray would be a valued and essential part of the new Eastside Community Center.

View the Art Brief here: <http://cms.cityoftacoma.org/CEDD/TacomaCulture/arts/ESCCArtBrief.pdf>

#### **Timeline – all dates subject to Change**

February 13, 2018	Deadline for submissions
Week of February 26, 2018	Selection of Finalists
Week of March 12, 2018	Finalist Interviews
October 2018	Completion and Installation of Artwork

#### **Submission Process**

Eligible artists and artist teams interested in this opportunity must submit the following three items via Submittable (<https://tacomaarts.submittable.com/submit>):

##### *1. Short Responses*

Responses to the following questions in 200 words or less each:

- Why are you interested in this project?
- How have you successfully engaged community to influence a project?
- Anything else you'd like us to know?

##### *2. Work Samples with Descriptions*

Up to 10 digital images of past work with concise descriptions. If available, work samples should include documentation of similar past public projects. Artist teams are encouraged to submit work that was previously completed as a team.

##### *3. Resume with References*

Three pages or less. Artist teams should submit a resume for each artist, and 3 professional references. References will only be contacted for finalists.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Rebecca Solverson, 253-591-5564, [rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org).