



# CALL TO ARTISTS

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

### STart – PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

## DOWNTOWN TACOMA GATEWAY ARTWORK

Sound Transit's Public Art Program (STart) is seeking an artist or artist team to create a site-responsive gateway artwork for a new entry to downtown Tacoma, Washington near Sound Transit's Pacific Avenue Underpass, which is part of its renovated commuter rail extension.

This call is being managed by the City of Tacoma's Arts Program.

### **BUDGET: \$185,000 for design and fabrication**

STart will provide additional support for installation and engineering as negotiated with the artist once the artwork concept has been approved.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 17, 2012, midnight**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

This opportunity is open to professional artists and/or artist teams living within the United States.

### **BACKGROUND**

Tacoma, Washington has turned its downtown core into one of the richest cultural districts in Washington State. Sound Transit's inaugural light rail system connects Tacoma's Theater District, Tacoma Art Museum, Museum of Glass, Washington State History Museum, and University of Washington Tacoma campus with the Tacoma Dome entertainment center and the new LeMay: America's Car Museum. The nearby Dome District and Brewery District are walkable urban-living neighborhoods with art galleries and artist studios.

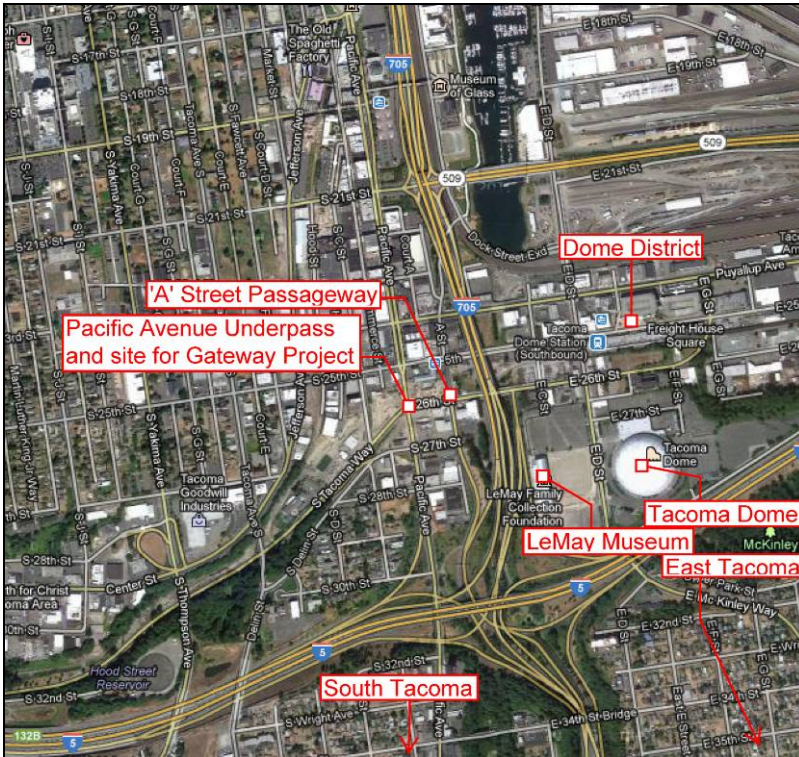
Sound Transit has recently extended its Seattle-Tacoma commuter rail line from the Dome District to South Tacoma, and by doing so, created a new entry to the southern edge of the museum-rich downtown area framed by the Pacific Bridge overpass and the earth berm that elevates the rail line. As part of this large capital project, Sound Transit is commissioning a landmark Gateway artwork to mark this new entrance to downtown Tacoma. <http://goo.gl/maps/eT5je>

In conjunction with this Gateway art project, Sound Transit is currently managing two separate pedestrian-scale projects adjacent to the site. While the artist selected for the Gateway project is not expected to create a collaborative piece with these artists, Sound Transit will inform the Gateway artist on the progress of these two small-scale projects and, as time allows, will arrange meetings between the artists. The two pedestrian-scale projects are:

1. Pacific Bridge Underpass – S. 26<sup>th</sup> Street & Pacific Avenue. Tacoma artist James Sinding is creating a pedestrian-scale artwork for the area under the Pacific Bridge.
2. 'A' Street Passageway – 'A' Street between S. 26th Street and S. 25th Street. Tacoma artist Diane Hansen is creating pedestrian-scale artwork for this ADA-compliant, people-focused pathway through the neighborhood.

## THE SITE

A large scale project is needed to be visible from the train and to mark the junction where South Tacoma Way meets South 26<sup>th</sup> Street at Pacific Avenue, all busy arterials. This area is on the south edge of downtown Tacoma and connects the urban core with the Dome District and then into South Tacoma and East Tacoma. The site is adjacent to and easily accessible from Interstate 5 and Highway 705.



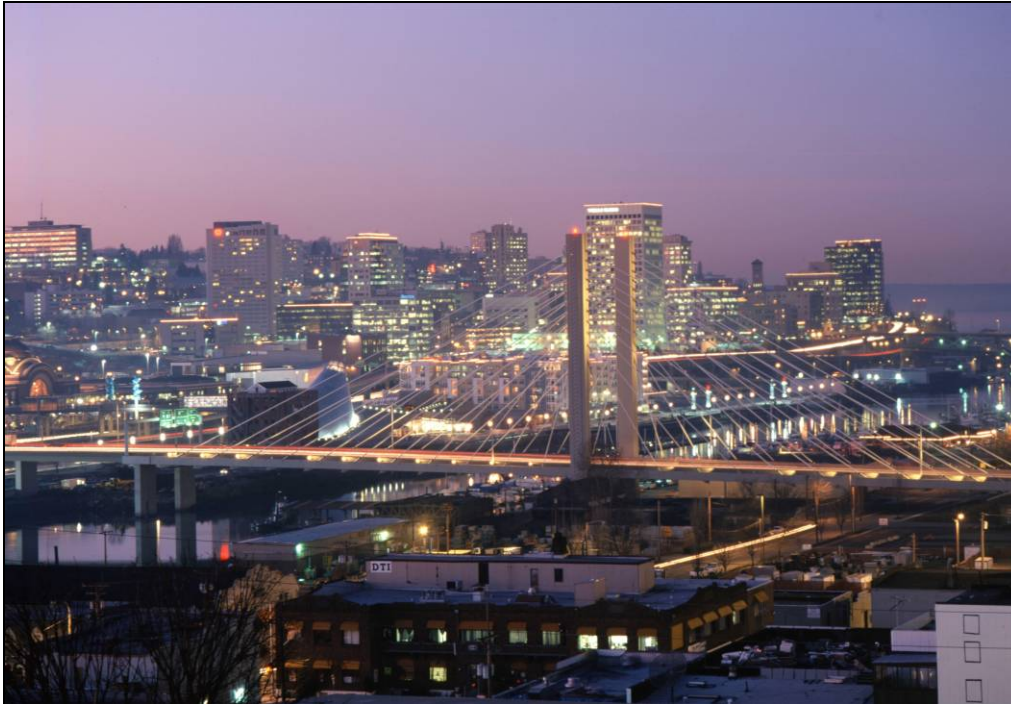
Artwork is anticipated to be on either side of the landscaped railroad berm areas flanking Pacific Avenue. The selected artist may propose additional site(s) for consideration and will work with Sound Transit to determine the best location for the artwork. Artwork cannot be attached to the rail bridge itself. *STart* will provide footings or necessary attachment points for the artwork.

### About Tacoma –

Tacoma is Washington state's third-largest city, with close to 200,000 residents. Located at the foot of Mount Rainier and along the shores of Commencement Bay, Tacoma is recognized as a livable and progressive international city. The city has grown from its historical roots as a home of sawmills and a bustling port that exported goods around the world to a center for international exports, the arts, and healthy, affordable living.

Downtown Tacoma has undergone a renaissance in the last three decades with the development of the University of Washington Tacoma campus; restoration of Union Station; cleanup of the Thea Foss Waterway; development of Tacoma Link Light Rail; and investment in and development of a thriving cultural scene. Downtown Tacoma boasts four major museums -- Museum of Glass, Washington State History Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, and LeMay: America's Car Museum -- all within walking distance of each other. It is also home to a lively Theater District which includes the Pantages Theater, Rialto Theater, and Theater on the Square.

Just south of downtown, is the Dome District. It is an emerging urban neighborhood located in the heart of the city's transportation center with easy access to freeways, the waterfront, and multiple forms of regional transit. It is bordered by downtown Tacoma, the Thea Foss Waterway, I-5 freeway, and the Port of Tacoma. The area is walkable and bike-friendly and embraces its industrial roots as well as its eclectic and funky vibe. The District is home to the Tacoma Dome, the city's public venue for large scale events and concerts, and LeMay: America's Car Museum.



View of downtown Tacoma, facing northwest, from the Dome District and including the 509 cable stayed bridge, Washington State History Museum, and Museum of Glass. Dome District in the foreground. Brewery District and Pacific Avenue Underpass lie to the southwest of this area.



View of downtown Tacoma, facing west, from the Foss Waterway and including the historic Murray Morgan Bridge on the right, which connects downtown Tacoma to the Port of Tacoma. Dome District, Brewery District, and Pacific Avenue Underpass lie to the south of this area.

## **SOUND TRANSIT PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

Sound Transit plans, builds and operates commuter train, light rail and express bus services in the Central Puget Sound Region of the northwest, and serves the urban areas of King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. *S*Tart, Sound Transit's Public Art Program, enhances the transit system and helps to create a sense of place at its stations. Sound Transit is committed to making its facilities feel inviting, safe, and memorable. The agency sets aside construction dollars for capital projects to incorporate the perspective of artists.

*S*Tart uses many types of art to enhance people's experience with Sound Transit. Art in the Sound Transit collection consists of large sculptures, station integrated art works, functional elements, temporary art to keep construction sites attractive and active, and fine art photography recording the heroic effort of building a new transit system. The thinking of artists contributes to making surrounding neighborhoods more livable and walkable, and to making this a world-class transit system.

*S*Tart has collaborated with artists in creating more than 80 permanent works at their sites: light rail extensions, transit centers, park-and-ride facilities, freeway stations, and HOV (transit carpool lane) improvements. For more information: [www.soundtransit.org/STart](http://www.soundtransit.org/STart).

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

A successful artwork will help create a memorable and welcoming presence to Tacoma's urban core and be appropriate in scale and composition to be primarily viewed by passing motor vehicles and commuters on the train. This will be a permanent exterior artwork. Materials must be of a durable nature, and resistant to vandalism and tagging.

- Artwork should be site-responsive
- Artwork should help create a sense of place
- Artwork should be of appropriate scale
- Artwork should consider the community in which the piece will be sited
- Artwork should be long-lasting, durable, and require little maintenance
- Artwork surface should include a coating or surface treatment that allows for the removal of tagging

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

An artist or artist team will be selected from an open call-to-artists. A selection panel of art and design professionals and community stakeholders, including a representative from the Tacoma Arts Commission, will review the application materials, and select three to five finalists for interviews. Interviews will be conducted in person and/or via teleconference. The panel will select an artist or artist team based on past work; proposals are not requested.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- Artistic quality as exemplified in past work
- Ability to think and work in a scale and with materials appropriate to the site
- Ability to think conceptually and create artwork responsive to the site
- Ability to propose media and methods appropriate for the site
- Ability to reflect the unique nature of this commission
- Availability in the designated time period

## TIMELINE

December 17, 2012, midnight	Application deadline
by January 25, 2013	Application review
to be determined	Site/project orientation for finalists
to be determined	Finalist interviews and selection of artist or artist team
2013	Design
2013 - 2014	Fabrication
Spring 2014	Installation

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

Eligible artists interested in this opportunity must submit the following four items by email to [tacoma.submissions@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:tacoma.submissions@cityoftacoma.org). Please include “TacomaGateway\_Your Last Name” in the subject line. If your email is over 12 MB in size, you may need to send attachments in several batches.

### Letter of Interest

- Name, address, phone, and email address at the top of every page
- In one page, describe your approach to creating public art, your relevant experience, and your interest in this opportunity
- A PDF file is recommended; a Word document is acceptable
- Name the file with the applicant’s last name: “Smith Letter”

### Professional Resume

- Resume should not exceed 3 pages and should include the names, titles, addresses, emails and phone numbers of three professional references. Artist teams should submit a resume for each artist. Resume should include artist’s name, address, phone, and email address, and relationship if part of an artist team, at the top of every page.
- List most recent public art and/or art experience first
- A PDF file is recommended; a Word document is acceptable
- Name the file with the applicant’s last name: “Smith Resume”

### Images

15 digital JPG images of the artist’s completed work. We cannot accommodate DVDs or video files.

- We will not modify any image or document file.
- Artists are discouraged from adding text to images and collaging multiple pictures into a single image.
- Do not send additional materials or original artwork; it will not be viewed.

If available, images should include documentation of similar public/interactive past projects. Artist teams are encouraged to submit work that was previously completed as a team. 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 the Image List. 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, be sure to include a “.jpg” extension at the end of each image title
- Do not embed the images into PowerPoint or submit moving image or audio files

**Image List**

- Name, address, phone, and email address at the top of every page
- A PDF file is recommended; a Word document is acceptable
- Name the file with the applicant’s last name: “Smith\_List”
- Images should be numbered consecutively, listed in the order in which they are to be viewed, and include:
  - Title of artwork
  - Medium
  - Date work was completed
  - Dimensions (H” x W” x D”)
  - Location of work (City, State. Neighborhood, if relevant), funding agency or owner/collection
  - Budget
  - Brief and succinct description of artwork
  - If work is presented as part of a collaboration, explain your role in the larger project and credit design team or individual collaborators by name and role (e.g. landscape architect)

**QUESTIONS**

Contact Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator, at (253) 591-5192 or email [amcbride@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:amcbride@cityoftacoma.org).

## PACIFIC AVENUE UNDERPASS



Southwest corner of South Tacoma Way and Pacific Avenue. View of the berm area to the left and right of the Pacific Avenue Underpass. Port of Tacoma in the background.



View of the northwest corner of South Tacoma Way and Pacific Avenue, facing west toward the Brewery District. Berm area to the left and Pacific Avenue Underpass to the right.



View of the Pacific Avenue Underpass from the 'A' Street Passageway, facing west toward the Brewery District.



Sounder Commuter Rail on the Pacific Avenue Bridge, indicating the possible views from the train.