



CALL TO ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CITY OF TACOMA MUNICIPAL ART PROGRAM

MURRAY MORGAN BRIDGE MURAL

The Tacoma Arts Commission is seeking an artist or artist team to design and paint a site-responsive mural on the concrete walls of the stormwater collection system sited underneath the western side of the Murray Morgan Bridge in Tacoma, WA.

BUDGET: \$10,000 (all inclusive of artist fees, materials, supplies, equipment, insurance, travel, taxes, etc.)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 14, 2014, midnight

ELIGIBILITY

Artist(s) must reside in the South Sound, defined as the following counties of Washington State: Pierce, Kitsap, or Thurston. Applicant may apply as a single artist or as an artist team. Applicant must be professional artist, 18 years or older and not a full-time student.

LOCATION

The Murray Morgan Bridge is located at S. 11st Street in downtown Tacoma and spans the Thea Foss Waterway between A Street on the west side and East F Street on the east side. A stormwater collection system is located under the west side of the bridge at Dock Street and S. 11th Street. This call to artists is to paint a mural on the west wall (facing Dock Street) and south wall of the stormwater collection system.

BACKGROUND

The Murray Morgan Bridge, also known as the 11th Street Bridge, is a vertical-lift bridge that connects downtown Tacoma with the tideflats, spanning the Thea Foss Waterway. Designed for the City of Tacoma in 1911 by noted bridge engineering firm Waddell & Harrington, the bridge originally opened on Feb. 15, 1913. The structure was unique for lift bridges due to its sloping grade, the high clearance above the water, and the truss between the towers that was designed to carry a water line to the Port.

During the 1930s the bridge became a demonstration center for longshoremen and lumber mill workers seeking union recognition and better wages as well as working conditions.

The Washington State Department of Transportation acquired the bridge in 1957 when 11th Street became State Route 509. Then, in 1982, the bridge was placed in the National Register of Historic Places both because of its designers, Waddell and Harrington of Kansas City, and because it was a unique and early example of a vertical lift bridge.

In 1997, the bridge was named after local author, historian, and journalist Murray Morgan who worked on his book, *Skid Road*, while working as a tender in the operator's house on top of the bridge in the 1950s.

After the construction of the new State Route 509 in 1997, the bridge was heading towards demolition until a group of citizens called Save Our Bridge convinced City officials and the State in 2003 to save the bridge.

In 2007, the bridge closed to traffic due to safety concerns and general wear-and-tear the bridge had suffered in its near 100-year lifespan. Then, in 2010, ownership of the bridge was returned to the City and the City began planning the rehabilitation of the bridge. On February 15, 2013, the 100-year anniversary of the bridge's original opening, the Murray Morgan Bridge was rededicated.

More detailed information about the history of the Murray Morgan Bridge is available on the [website of the Northwest Room](#) at the Tacoma Public Library.

The \$57 million rehabilitation of the bridge included a new deck, steel repairs and replacement, new mechanical and electrical systems to raise and lower the lift span, a new elevator and stairs to connect downtown to the west side of the Foss Waterway, and a new coat of black paint, the original color of the bridge.

Original gears that were used to raise and lower the bridge are mounted on top of the west wall of the stormwater collection system. The original capstan, which was used to manually raise and lower the lift span during power outages, is mounted in front of the west wall of the stormwater collection system.

The mural that is completed through this call to artists will become part of the City of Tacoma's Municipal Art Collection. The City of Tacoma's Arts Commission will have approving authority over the proposed design of the mural.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Wall dimensions:
 - West Wall: 72" high on north side, 65" high on south side, 258" long
 - South Wall: 64" high on west side, 68" high on east side, 448" long
- Substrate is unsealed poured concrete
- Artist must clean and seal concrete substrate before painting
- Mural must be painted directly on the concrete wall
- Artist must coat completed mural with 6 coats of Rainguard's Vandl-Guard VG7000 non-sacrificial anti-graffiti coating according to manufacturer's specifications

CONSIDERATIONS

- Artwork should be site-responsive
- Artwork should reflect the history and/or architecture of the bridge and/or area
- Artwork should be long-lasting, durable, and require little maintenance

SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists will be selected based on:

- Artistic quality as exemplified in past work
- Ability to think and work in a scale and with materials appropriate to this project
- Ability to think conceptually and create artwork responsive to the site
- Ability to propose a design appropriate for the site
- Ability to reflect the unique nature of this commission

TIMELINE

March 14, 2014, midnight	Deadline for submissions
by March 28, 2014	Selection of finalists
to be determined	Interviews with finalists and selection of artist or artist team
October 31, 2014	Deadline for completion of mural

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Eligible artists interested in this opportunity must submit the following four items by email to tacoma.submissions@cityoftacoma.org. Please include “MurrayMorgan_Your Last Name” in the subject line. We suggest sending the Letter of Interest, Resume, and Work Sample Description sheet as PDF documents; Word documents are also acceptable. If your email is over 10 MB in size, you may need to send attachments in several batches; do not send .ZIP files.

1. Letter of Interest

- Letter should not exceed 1 page and should include artist’s name, address, phone, and email address in the upper right corner
- Letter should describe your approach to creating a mural, your relevant experience, and your interest in this opportunity.
- Name the file with the applicant’s last name: “Smith Letter”.

2. 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, in the upper right corner of every page.
- List most recent public art and/or art experience first.
- Name the resume file with the applicant’s last name: “Smith Resume”.

3. Work Samples

15 digital images of the artist's completed work. If available, work samples should include documentation of similar public 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 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, 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.

4. Work Sample Description Sheet including:

- Name, address, phone, and email address in the upper right corner of every page
- Images numbered consecutively and listed in the order in which they are to be viewed
- Title of each artwork represented in the image
- Location of work (City, State, Neighborhood, if relevant), funding agency or owner/collection, budget
- Date work was completed
- Dimensions (H" x W" x D"), if applicable
- Medium
- Short description of artwork or activity
- 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)
- Name the file with the applicant's last name: "Smith WSDS".

QUESTIONS

Contact Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist, at 253-591-5191 or email nstrom-avila@cityoftacoma.org.



The Murray Morgan Bridge is located at S. 11st Street in downtown Tacoma and spans the Thea Foss Waterway between A Street on the west side and East F Street on the east side.





The Murray Morgan Bridge as viewed from the Foss Harbor Marina.



The red oval indicates the location of the stormwater collection system, located under the west side of the Murray Morgan Bridge at Dock Street and S. 11th Street.



The west wall of the stormwater collection system (facing Dock Street). Mounted on top of the wall are the original gears that were used to raise and lower the bridge. The original capstan, which was used to manually raise and lower the lift span during power outages, is mounted in front of the wall.



The south wall of the stormwater collection system.