



CALL TO ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

METRO PARKS TACOMA

CITY OF TACOMA MUNICIPAL ART PROGRAM

Water Flume Line Trail and Oak Tree Park

APPLICATION DEADLINE

January 11, 2015, midnight

BUDGET

\$95,000, all inclusive (artist fees, materials, equipment, insurance, installation, travel, taxes, engineering, etc.)

CALL SUMMARY

The City of Tacoma, WA in partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma is seeking an artist or artist team to create a permanent public artwork or series of artworks for the Water Flume Line Trail and Oak Tree Park (two adjoining facilities). The Water Flume Line Trail is a historic corridor that is being rebuilt into a six-and-a-half mile long path for bicyclists and pedestrians that will connect South Tacoma to downtown Tacoma and the waterfront, starting at the south end of Oak Tree Park. The selected artist or team will help increase visibility for Oak Tree Park and the Water Flume Line Trail (between S. 80th and S. 47th), connect both assets to the surrounding community, and enhance the user experience.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant(s) must live in Washington or Oregon.
- Applicant(s) can apply as a single artist or as an artist team.
- Applicant(s) must be 18 years or older and not a full-time student.
- Applicant(s) must be a professional artist.
- Applicant(s) cannot be a member of the Tacoma Arts Commission or an employee of the City of Tacoma or Metro Parks Tacoma.

BACKGROUND

This public art project is part of two capital improvement projects in South Tacoma: The City of Tacoma's restoration of the Water Flume Line Trail, and Metro Parks Tacoma's improvements of Oak Tree Park. The two projects are geographically connected, and are both part of a larger effort to restore and reclaim green space and public trails in and around Tacoma. The final artwork or series must be a permanent public artwork or series, and should help increase the visibility of the park and trail, connect both assets to the surrounding community, and enhance the user experience. The location of the artwork(s) must relate to both the Water Flume Line Trail and Oak Tree Park (see maps at the end of this document), but the selected artist or team will be encouraged to study the site and make suggestions as to the exact location of the final artwork(s).

ABOUT OAK TREE PARK

Oak Tree Park is a 25 acre park that comprises one of the last remnants of the native Garry oak habitat in the area. The park was established in 1996 and was a pilot project of the Green Tacoma Partnership, a collaborative effort to inventory and assess Tacoma's green spaces and develop a plan for their protection and restoration. The Green Tacoma Partnership is coordinated by Tahoma Audubon and Forterra. Oak Tree Park is a natural refuge tucked away in an otherwise busy residential and commercial area. With its small system of trails and the newly developed Water Flume Line Trail running through it, the park is a pleasant retreat from the surrounding development.

ABOUT THE WATER FLUME LINE TRAIL

The Water Flume Line Trail follows the path where a wooden structure, or flume, carried water from Spanaway Lake into Tacoma over a century ago. The water carried through the flume supplemented a collection of existing wells, springs, and small communal water supplies to serve the early citizens of Tacoma and settled areas of Rigney Hill, Edison, and Fern Hill.

The water right of way also included a trail that commenced construction in 1898. Much of the old trail was built of wooden planks and iron straps to hold it in place. A bicycle bridge 12 feet wide by 405 feet long was built 110 feet over a gulch in Tacoma, near the Holy Rosary Church (at S. 30th & S. Delin Street), to improve access for early bicyclists, known locally as “The Wheelmen.” The trail eventually stretched southeast from Tacoma to Eatonville and the foothills of Mount Rainier.

In time, the water flume line was decommissioned and replaced by pipelines, wells, and pump houses. However, the pump houses seen along the new Water Flume Line Trail are still operational and provide water during periods of high demand or low river water. The Water Flume Line Trail restoration is part of a larger effort to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout the city. Once completed, it will connect South Tacoma with downtown and will be part of an important trail system that is being built and reclaimed in and around Tacoma. Nearby and connecting trails include: Prairie Line Trail, Pipeline Road Trail, Scott Pierson Trail, Ruston Way Waterfront, and Thea Foss Waterfront.



SOUTH TACOMA NEIGHBORHOOD

Beginning in the 1890's, the South Tacoma Neighborhood has been built around transportation and a strong working-class neighborhood. The first major development in the area was ushered in by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1890, when it re-located its train maintenance shop to S. 56th Street from downtown Tacoma. At its busiest, the shop was the headquarters for repairing railcars west of the Mississippi and employed around 1,000 Tacomans. The surrounding area, which had been primarily dairy farms and open prairie, quickly developed into a thriving business district and residential area. Most of the houses in the neighborhood were built between 1919 and the late 1920's for railroad employees and their families who, at one time, occupied 4 out of 5 homes.

A second transportation-led building boom came during the era of the automobile, when South Tacoma Way was part of Federal Highway 99 (the main north-south highway on the West Coast). The area experienced substantial growth during this time and became a hub for the automobile industry. Today, it is still home to many car-centered businesses, and is regionally known for its auto row and specialty automotive shops.

Over the past several decades, South Tacoma has changed in many ways, with the construction of the Tacoma Mall and replacement of Federal Highway 99 with Interstate 5 in the 1960s, and the closing of the railroad maintenance shops in 1974. However, transportation and a working-class residential area are still the core of the neighborhood. Recent investments in the Sounder Train (Sound Transit's regional commuter train), and the redevelopment of the Water Flume Line Trail are creating an area that is, once again, experiencing a transit-led boom. Today, the neighborhood is experiencing a renaissance, ushered in by local business and land owners, and infrastructure investments in the area. South Tacoma is one of the city's most intact historic commercial business districts, with a healthy mix of regional and national chains and a strong tradition of small businesses, including a handful of 3rd and 4th generation family-owned shops.

ART OPPORTUNITY/CONSIDERATIONS:

The City of Tacoma in partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma is seeking an artist or artist team to create an artwork that will increase visibility for Oak Tree Park and the Water Flume Line Trail; connect both assets to the surrounding community; and enhance the user experience. Though the trail and park have rich histories, many residents do not know where they are or how to access them. The selected artist(s) will have an opportunity to engage with the surrounding community, and propose a location(s) for permanent public art that relates to the trail and park.

Proposed artwork should:

- Be site-responsive
- Increase visibility of the trail and park
- Connect the trail and park to the surrounding community
- Enhance the user experience of the trail and park
- Relate to a diverse group of people and transportation modes
- Be long-lasting, durable, and require little maintenance
- Be appropriately scaled for the trail and park

In addition, a successful artwork may:

- Add to the character, texture, and interest of the trail and park
- Tell the story of the trail and park
- Create a safer, more welcoming environment for trail and park users

SELECTION CRITERIA

The artist or artist team 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 the site
- Ability to think conceptually and create artwork responsive to the site
- Ability to see and make connections
- Ability to effectively communicate
- Ability to work with community members as part of developing a public artwork

TIMELINE

January 11, 2016, midnight	Deadline for submissions
Week of February 8, 2016	Finalist Selection
Week of February 22, 2016	Optional site visit for finalists
Week of February 29, 2016	Interviews with finalists and selection of artist or artist team
Fall 2017	Artwork Installation Deadline

**All dates subject to change.*

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Eligible artists interested in this project must submit the following 4 items via an online application form (Survey Monkey) and a file sharing system (Dropbox). See the next page for detailed application directions. **It is important to note that this is a request for qualifications, not proposals – please do not submit proposals for this opportunity:**

1. Online Application and Short Written Responses (Survey Monkey)
2. Professional Resume and References (Dropbox)
3. 10 Work Samples (Dropbox)
4. Work Sample Description Sheet (Dropbox)

QUESTIONS?

Contact Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist, at 253-591-5564 or rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Eligible artists interested in this project must submit the following four items:

1. Online Application and Short Written Responses

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FlumeLineTrail> and fill out the online application form. Please be ready to enter your contact information and answer the following Short Written Responses in 250 words or less each (less is more). We suggest preparing your answers ahead of time and pasting them into the online application.

Short Written Responses:

1. What is your approach to public art? (250 words or less)
2. Why are you interested in this project? (250 words or less)
3. What is your experience working with trails and/or parks? (250 words or less)
4. How are you able to make connections with your work? (250 words or less)

Email the following three items via a link to Dropbox or another file transfer service to rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org. Email or call Rebecca Solverson (rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org or 253-591-5564) to make arrangements to transfer your materials if you do not have access to such a service. We suggest submitting the following items as PDF documents; Word documents are also acceptable.

2. Professional Resume and References

- Resume should not exceed 3 pages and should include the names, titles, addresses, emails and phone numbers of three professional references. Artist teams who have not worked together in the past should submit a resume for each artist.
- List most recent public art and/or art experience first.
- Name the resume file with the applicant's last name: "Smith_Resume".

3. 10 Work Samples of Completed Artworks

10 digital images of the artist's completed work. 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. Image Submission Standards:

- File format: JPEG only
- File dimensions: No smaller than 1920 pixels on the longest side
- File resolution: 72 ppi/dpi (standard web resolution)
- File size: 5 MB maximum
- File names: Lastname_# (e.g. "Smith_01")

4. Work Sample Description Sheet including:

- Samples numbered consecutively and listed in the order in which they are to be viewed
- Title of artwork represented in the image
- Location
- Date completed
- Budget
- Funding agency or owner/collection
- Dimensions (H" x W" x D")
- Medium
- Short description of artwork or activity including main concept or idea. 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"

Water Flume Line Trail between S. 80th and S. 47th



Map of Water Flume Line Trail between S. 80th and S. 47th, with connections to other trail systems

