

# CALL TO ARTISTS

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: South Tacoma Public Artwork



### APPLICATION DEADLINE

April 11, 2016, 11:59pm

### BUDGET

\$111,000, all inclusive (artist fees, materials, equipment, insurance, installation, travel, taxes, engineering, etc)

### CALL SUMMARY

The City of Tacoma, in collaboration with State Farm, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the South Tacoma Business District, is seeking an artist or artist team to create a permanent public artwork or series of artworks along and adjacent to South Tacoma Way between S. 47<sup>th</sup> and S. 58<sup>th</sup>. The selected artist or team will be encouraged to explore connections, enhance the Business District, contribute to a sense of identity in the area, and value community involvement in the research and concept development process. This public art project is the result of a comprehensive community planning process in South Tacoma and is generously funded by State Farm as part of their community revitalization efforts in addition to support from a City of Tacoma Innovative Grant.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant(s) must live in Washington State.
- 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, State Farm, or LISC.

### TIMELINE\*

April 11, 2016, 11:59pm

Week of April 18, 2016

Week of April 25, 2016

Week of May 2, 2016

By July, 2017

Deadline for submissions

Finalist selection

Optional site visit for finalists

Interviews with finalists and selection of artist or artist team

Artwork installation deadline

*\*All dates subject to change.*

### 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

## **ART OPPORTUNITY/CONSIDERATIONS**

The selected artist or team should create an artwork that will enhance the South Tacoma Business District. The artist will be encouraged to explore connections between nearby trails, neighborhoods, and the Business District; highlight and/or enhance the Business District's unique role as a hub for transportation; contribute to a sense of identity for the District; and value community involvement and ownership in the research and design process. The selected artist(s) will have an opportunity to engage with the surrounding community, study the site, and propose a location(s) for permanent public art within the Business District. Proposed artwork should:

- Be site-responsive
- Explore connections between South Tacoma Business District and surrounding assets, including trails, neighborhoods, and the Business District
- Highlight and/or enhance the District's role as a hub for transportation
- Be informed by a research and concept development process informed by the community
- Enhance the identity of the District
- Relate to a diverse group of people and transportation modes
- Be long-lasting, durable, and require little maintenance
- Be appropriately scaled for the streetscape

## **ABOUT THE SOUTH TACOMA BUSINESS DISTRICT AND NEIGHBORHOOD**

Beginning in the 1890's, South Tacoma 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, followed by a second boom during the era of the automobile, when South Tacoma Way was part of Highway 99 (the West Coast's main north-south highway). It is still home to many car-centered businesses, and is known for its auto row and specialty automotive shops. South Tacoma is one of the city's most intact historic business districts, with a mix of regional and national chains and a tradition of small businesses, including 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation family-owned shops. Recent investments in the Sounder Train and the Water Flume Line Trail are creating an area that is, once again, experiencing a mobility boom. Upcoming streetscape and environmental projects will enhance the experience by adding rain gardens and green areas with trees. Today, the business and property owners are experiencing a renaissance led by public and private investments.

## **ABOUT STATE FARM**

State Farm is a U.S. insurance company whose mission is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams. State Farm is committed to maintaining the vibrancy of the communities it works in by assisting nonprofits that support community revitalization. Through community outreach and community development investments, State Farm gives back to the neighborhoods it serves and helps develop stronger neighborhoods by reinvesting in the community. This project is supported by State Farm's philanthropic efforts, which are focused on: auto and home safety programs and activities that help people manage the risks of everyday life; disaster preparedness and recovery programs and services that help people recover from the unexpected; and education, job training, financial literacy and community development programs, projects, and services that help people realize their dreams.

## **ABOUT LISC**

Founded in 1980, LISC equips struggling communities with the capital, strategy, and know-how to become places where every family can thrive. Working with local leaders, LISC invests in housing, health, education, public safety, and employment - all basic needs that must be tackled at once so that progress in one is not undermined by neglect in another. LISC's toolkit includes loans, grants, equity investments, and on-the-ground technical expertise, which they deploy to some of America's most under-resourced neighborhoods. Since 1980, LISC has raised and invested \$14.7 billion in communities across the U.S., leveraging \$44.1 billion from public and private sources and helping to produce 330,000 affordable homes and 53 million square feet of commercial and community space, including charter schools, recreation facilities, health centers, grocery stores, and other retail projects.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist, at 253-591-5564 or [rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org)

## **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Please note that this is a request for qualifications. Do not submit proposals for this opportunity. 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/SouthTacomaArt> 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 collaboratively with community? (250 words or less)
4. How has your work contributed to the revitalization of a community? (250 words or less)

Share the following three items via a link to Dropbox or another file transfer service with [tacoma.submissions@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:tacoma.submissions@cityoftacoma.org). Email or call Rebecca Solverson ([rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org](mailto: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 do not have a joint resume 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**

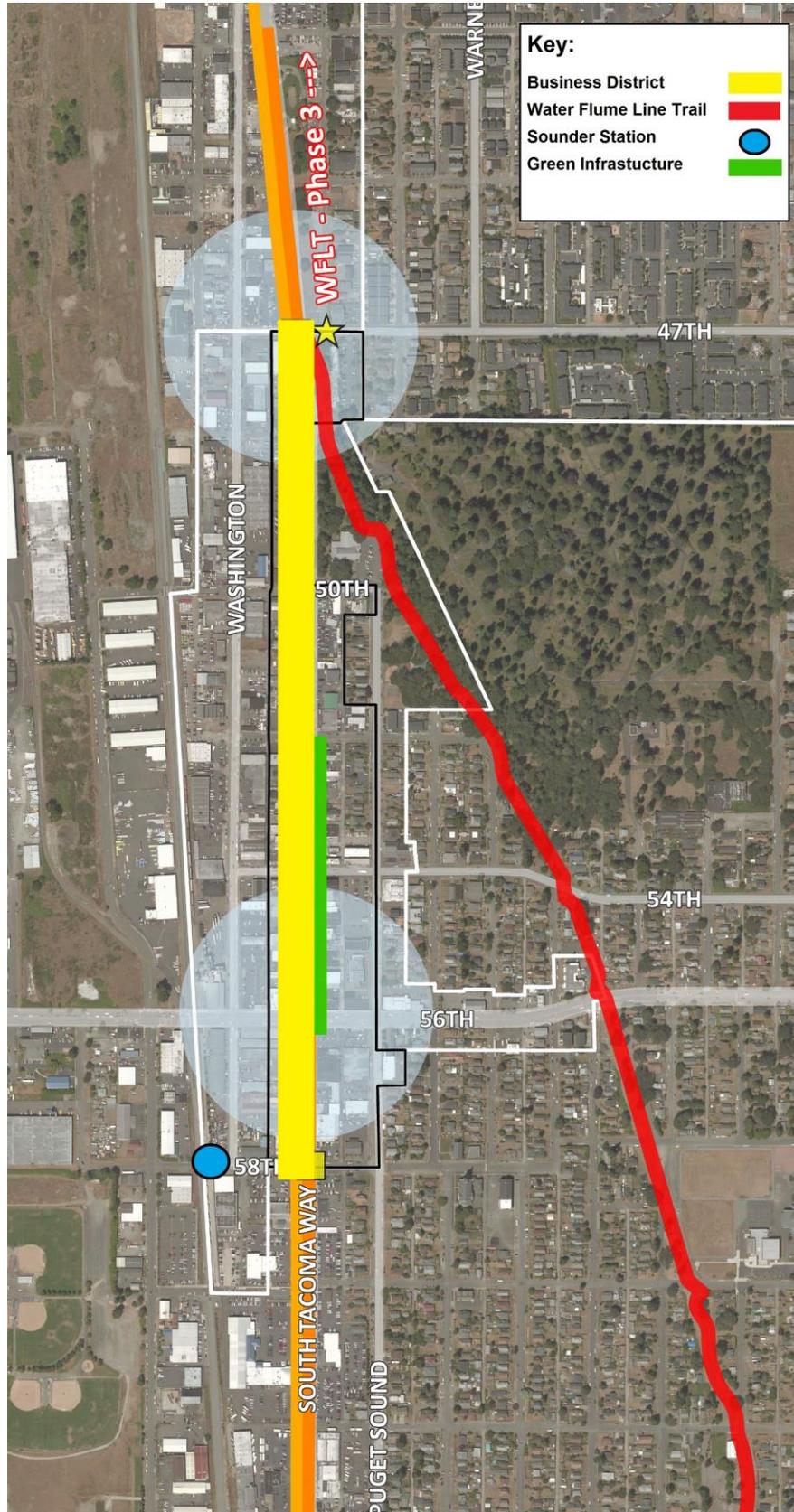
10 digital images of the artist's completed work. If available, work samples should include documentation of similar past public projects. Artist teams are encouraged to submit work that was previously completed as a team. Image Submission Standards:

- File format: JPEG only
- File dimensions: No smaller than 1920 pixels on the longest side
- File resolution: 72 ppi/dpi minimum (standard web resolution)
- File size: 5 MB maximum
- File names: Lastname\_# (e.g. "Smith\_01")

### **4. Work Sample Description Sheet** including:

- Work 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"

# Map of the South Tacoma Business District



Photos of the South Tacoma Business District

