Call to Artists/Artist Design Teams

Request for Qualifications

Public Art Signal Cabinets and Utility Boxes

Artist Stipend: $3,000

Deadline to Submit Materials: 4:30 PM (EST) Thursday, August 8, 2019

Project Description
The City of Erie is accepting qualifications from an artist or team of artists residing in Erie County for a public art opportunity located in Downtown Erie’s Perry Square Park. Finished artwork for this project will be incorporated into vinyl wraps covering a total of six signal cabinets and utility boxes in Perry Square. Funds were made available through grants from Erie Arts and Culture and Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts as well as additional funding provided by Erie Downtown Development Corporation.

We are looking for artists with strong portfolios that are flexible and available to collaborate with project stakeholders on design and able to present their artwork in a print-ready digital format. An artist or team of artists will be selected that will create and submit a design proposal based on community and stakeholder input. The artist will be expected to lead the production of the artwork from concept to delivery. The fabrication and installation of vinyl wraps is not part of the artist’s work.

Project Budget
The selected artist or team of artists will be paid a $3,000 design fee after work has been completed.

Project Goals and Scope
The goal of this project is to beautify existing signal cabinets and utility boxes, which are often targets of graffiti and vandalism. This project will also provide the Erie community and visitors to the area with greater access to visual art. The finished design should support Mayor Joseph Schember’s vision to position Erie as a Community of Choice by being committed to celebrating, creating, or sustaining our:

- Diverse cultures
- Welcoming, vibrant neighborhoods,
- World-class Downtown and Bayfront,
- Schools of excellence, and
- Abundance of family-sustaining jobs.
The vinyl wraps have an estimated lifespan of 5 years but may be removed at any time depending on their condition and at the discretion of the City of Erie.

**Description of Location**
The utility boxes are located in Perry Square which is often referred to as the “beating heart” of Downtown, as many activities take place in and around the park. Many tourists and out-of-area visitors will be exposed to the installations due to the centralized location along the main downtown streets of the City.

A map of the signal and utility box locations can be seen [here](#).

**Application Requirements**
- Artist (or team) biography
- C.V. emphasizing relevant experience, whether in graphic design, public art, or working with public agencies or private clients. If applying as a team, please include resumes for all team members.
- Artist statement that emphasizes the nature of your work and your artistic process.
- Letter of Interest
- Examples of past work (up to 10 images)
- Work Sample Identification
- Artist website and/or social media

**Letter of interest should address the following:**

1. Why are you interested in proposing artwork for this project?
2. Why should the City of Erie choose you for this project?
3. What are some previous projects that you completed that are relatable to this project in size, scope, and budget?
4. How would you work with the community to gather stakeholder input?

**Work Sample Identification should address the following (for each item):**

1. Budget
2. Date of work
3. Client/project
4. Additional explanatory text about specific artworks may be added, although this is not required.

**Application Submission Instructions**
All materials should be submitted by August 8, 2019 by 4:30 PM EST.

Materials can be emailed to the City of Erie Traffic Engineering Department at erietrafficengineering@gmail.com.
Selection Process and Criteria
Submissions will be evaluated by the Selection Committee based upon the overall quality and merit of the artists’ past works. The committee will consist of a mix of regional art/design professionals and stakeholders.

Timeline
July 25, 2019: Distribute RFQ
August 8, 2019 (4:30 PM EST): RFQ submission deadline
August 16, 2019: Artist selected, notified, and sent a copy of contract
August 23, 2019: Contract signed
September 23-August 2, 2019: Public input gathered
September 16, 2019: Final artwork due
October 2019: Installation of vinyl wraps

Example
Artist: Karen Kurycki (cmykaren.com)
Location: Jacksonville, Florida
Installation: 2019
Concept: Celebrating Jacksonville’s contributions to the music industry