Call to Artists/Artist Design Teams

Request for Qualifications

Public Art Gateway Project

Budget Range: $75,000 - $120,000

Deadline to Submit Materials: 5:00 PM (EST) Friday, May 31, 2019

Project Description
The Erie Downtown Partnership and Erie Arts & Culture are accepting qualifications from artists (or artist teams) for a public art opportunity along State Street in Downtown Erie. It is desired that the finished artwork for this project be incorporated into the intersection of State Street and both East and West 3rd Street.

We are looking for artists (or artist teams) with strong portfolios of past work who demonstrate a proven track record of large-scale public art projects and experience in environmental, iconographic, and conceptual solutions for public art. Artists (or artist teams) will electronically submit their applications for consideration. From this, the Selection Committee will select semi-finalists who are most qualified for this project. The semi-finalists will be paid a modest design fee to conduct a site visit and then create and submit conceptual design proposals.

Using these proposals, one artist (or artist team) will be selected as the finalist and will be expected to lead the production of the artwork from concept to delivery.

Project Budget
Semi-finalists will be paid a $1,500 stipend for travel expenses related to site visits and all expenses related to the creation and submission of conceptual design proposals. The budget for the artwork design, fabrication, and installation is a maximum of $120,000, including but not limited to, site preparation, design fees, materials, fabrication costs, documentation, transportation, installation, and travel expenses.

Monies in the budget are able to be allocated to address all the necessary design components to achieve the desired transformation of the site. Budgeted amounts are projections only and may change at the discretion of Erie Downtown Partnership. The final design will be subject to the engineering limitations of the site.
**Project Goals and Scope**
Per our most recent Downtown Master Plan the Downtown is being branded into four distinct districts to include the Bayfront District, Perry Square District, Renaissance District, and Union Square District.

This gateway will be the first in a series of gateways to be placed at major entrance points throughout Downtown Erie to give a sense of arrival and place by celebrating what is unique to each district of Downtown.

The goal of this project is to create an iconic gateway that connects Erie’s Bayfront to its Downtown. The gateway should welcome and energize visitors with a sense of Downtown’s robust character and celebrate Downtown’s focus on its future as a world-class Downtown and a city of choice.

This installation must be able to endure weather associated with all four seasons in the Great Lakes region, including harsh winters that can bring below zero temperatures, strong winds, up to six feet of snow, and prolonged freezing temperatures.

**Description of Location**
The physical location of the first gateway will be at the intersection of 3rd Street and State Street at the northern end of Downtown Erie, just before the iconic Bayfront. This intersection sits in the middle of the UPMC Hamot hospital and medical campus, with State Street being the main artery of Downtown Erie. This location resides in what has been deemed the “Bayfront District” of Downtown Erie and is two short blocks away from the “Perry Square District”, which is known as the historic area of Downtown with eds and meds, restaurants, and Perry Square Park.

The 3rd and State Street gateway is in between two Downtown icons--the Centennial Tower at Dobbins Landing, the most northern point of Downtown, and Perry Square Park, which is Downtown’s largest public park. Perry Square Park is often referred to as the “beating heart” of Downtown, as many activities take place in and around the park.

A link to the street view for West/East 3rd Street and State Street is [here](#).
Application Requirements

- Artist (or team) biography
- C.V. emphasizing experience in public art and 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 (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 Erie Downtown Partnership and Erie Arts & Culture 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 May 31, 2019 by 5 PM EST.

Materials can be emailed to Emily Fetcko, Assistant Director of Erie Downtown Partnership, at emily.fetcko@eriedowntown.com. If an applicant desires to send hard copies they can do so using the following mailing address:

Erie Downtown Partnership
% Emily Fetcko
RE: Public Art Gateway Project
140 E 5th Street
Erie, PA 16507
**Selection Process and Criteria**

The Selection Committee will work with the artist (or team) to finalize the schematic design and integration of artwork with the site. Submissions will be evaluated by the Selection Committee based upon the overall quality and merit of the artists’ past works. The Selection Committee will screen the artists’ applications and may select up to five finalists who will be paid a modest design fee for an interview with the Selection Committee and presentation of conceptual design proposals. Contracts and final budgets will also be discussed at that time.

Proposals will be selected by a committee consisting of regional art professionals and community members. Criteria for jurying proposals may include, but are not limited to:

1. Detail and completeness of proposal
2. Overall aesthetic of proposed artwork
3. Does it embody the vision?
4. Is it highly visible?
5. Does it enhance the connection between Erie’s Bayfront and Downtown?
6. Does it invoke a sense of place?
7. Tourism and marketing potential
8. Suitability for outdoor permanent installation
9. Artist demonstrates/provides evidence of ability to follow through and meet deadlines
10. Media
11. Subject matter

**Timeline**

2019---

**April 18, 2019:** Distribute RFQ
**May 31, 2019 (5:00 PM EST):** RFQ submission deadline
**July 1, 2019:** Finalists selected, notified, and sent a copy of RFQ
**July 8, 2019:** Artist concept and stipend agreement signed
**September 6, 2019:** RFP and concept submission deadline
**September 17-27, 2019:** Public input on concepts gathered
**October 1, 2019:** Artist selected and notified
**October 10, 2019:** Artist agreement/contract signed
**October - December, 2019:** Concept revisions/finalization
**November 1, 2019:** Timeline updated per concept

2020---

**January 10, 2020:** Concept finalized and approved
**April/May 2020:** Earliest preferred installation
Commitment to Equity
Erie Downtown Partnership is committed to championing policies and practices of equity that empower a just, inclusive, and equitable region. We recognize that many existing systems of power grant privilege and access unequally, and that equity is crucial to the long-term viability of both the arts and culture sector and communities-at-large.

Local Preference
To the extent possible, final proposals should include opportunities to work with Erie-based service providers.

It will also be attractive to the selection committee if proposals also include opportunities for local artist understudies to assist with project installation.

About Erie Downtown Partnership
The Erie Downtown Partnership, established in 2004, is the local Downtown Improvement District and Main Street organization serving 70 blocks within downtown Erie’s core to improve the downtown experience for all. Strategically focused on placemaking, advocacy and marketing the Erie Downtown Partnership provides programs and services that contribute to downtown Erie’s economic vitality.

About Erie Arts & Culture
Founded in 1960 as the Arts Council of Erie, Erie Arts & Culture is the Local Arts Agency (LAA) for Northwest Pennsylvania and partner of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA). Our role is to promote, support, and develop arts and culture at the regional level; ensuring broad opportunities for residents and tourists throughout communities in Erie, Crawford, Venango, Warren, Mercer, and Lawrence counties to engage with the sector educationally, socially, and economically. Our presence ensures that all communities - regardless of their geographic location or economic status - are systematically and equitably served.

In support of our mission, Erie Arts & Culture:

- Provides tools, resources, and financial support to individuals and organizations that specifically utilize arts and culture as a platform to engage the broader community.
- Grows the capacity of our sector to ensure extraordinary arts and cultural experiences.
- Creates an environment in which artists and creative industries, representing a wide variety of disciplines, can thrive.
- Funds opportunities for lifelong learning through arts and culture experiences in classrooms, institutions, and public spaces.
- Consults on how arts and culture can be a component in any development or redevelopment project.