

PUBLIC ART PROSPECTUS-RFP

A Percent for Art ad hoc committee
of the Athens Municipal Art Commission
Public Art Project

Project Name: Richland Avenue Roundabout DEADLINE : MARCH 9, 2009

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I. ELIGIBILITY:

This Request for Proposals (RFP) project competition is open to all professional public artists or artist teams, including those who are new to the field of public art, working within Athens (defined as: within reasonable distance from the city ~30 mi in radius)

II. RFP PROJECT SUMMARY:

The City of Athens will receive nearly \$4.2 million in grants from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to improve traffic safety at the intersection of Richland Avenue and State Route (SR) 682, and to improve the bridge over the Hocking River. In 2003, this intersection was identified 78th on Ohio's high crash list. As a result, an intersection safety study was funded by ODOT in 2005 that identified the need for safety improvements. The City of Athens, cooperatively with ODOT, has now entered the process of developing a plan for the construction of such improvements. The alternative selected includes a roundabout intersection to replace the current signal, a complete redecking of the bridge, and a shared-use path that conveys bikes and pedestrians through the intersection and across the river completely separated from traffic. As part of this project enhancement funds can be allocated for the creation and installation of public art.

Art as defined by the Percent for Art committee: At its core art is a product of human creativity that is aesthetically pleasing and can encompass diverse methodologies and mediums. Art can refer to the visual arts including: Painting, sculpture, architecture, photography and can encompass applied arts that may include architecture and landscaping and decorative arts that may be functional in nature. Above all any work that falls within the definition of Art as the committee must exhibit quality of concept, execution and craftsmanship.

RFP SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MONDAY MARCH 9, 2009

hand-delivered or received no later than 4:00 PM

III. PERCENT FOR ART COMMITTEE BACKGROUND:

In December of 2007, Athens City Council passed Ordinance # 138-07 requiring a percent of costs for public projects be set aside for public art. The Athens Municipal Arts Commission voted in August of 2008 to establish an ad hoc committee to facilitate selection of an art inclusion in the Richland Ave roundabout project, the first city project that might be considered under percent for art. It was later recommended that the committee be expanded to consider all percent for art projects. The committee had its first meeting September 2, 2008. The committee will make recommendations to the Athens Municipal Arts Commission, who will present these recommendations to Athens City Council.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

A. OVERVIEW

The %FA committee prospectus is centered around one artwork project: an exterior piece: incorporated into the landscape design

B. SPECIFICATIONS

Artwork must satisfy reasonable standards of permanence and safety, meeting all relevant codes required for public places, and offering reasonable proof of soundness against theft, vandalism or excessive maintenance and repair.

Artwork for any project must meet the following specifications:

- All work must be safe, tamper-resistant, and easily maintained, regardless of ease of public reach.
- Artists should approach the project as a permanent installation when considering materials.
- All work must be of an appropriate size and design so that it will not create a hazard for impaired pedestrians or use of maintenance equipment.

C. SITE

The site of this project is located at the intersection of Richland Ave. and State Route 682, and the Richland Ave. Bridge over the Hocking River, in Athens, OH.

The artist will work with the landscape architect to ensure a successful project. concept design. This work must fit and be secured within the project right-of-way. Additionally the artist should identify the projected weight of the final work to determine if additional site footings will be required prior to installation.



BUDGET: ~\$30,000 The project budget consists of approximately \$30,000 for the design, fabrication, associated shipping costs, and installation of the final artwork

V. SELECTION PROCESS

Selections will be made by the Percent for Art Selection Committee, composed of Percent for Art ad-hoc committee members, in consultation with the Athens Municipal Arts Commission. The committee will review submissions from this RFP and either select an artist based on preliminary submission materials, interview short-listed applicants, or seek more detailed proposals. The Selection Committee reserves the right to issue a second call to artists if the proposals submitted do not demonstrate the factors listed below.

The following factors will be considered when reviewing submissions:

- Quality of work
- Appropriateness of subject/concept for the site
- Past exhibition/public art record
- Previous commission experience, including evidence that past commissions were produced in accordance with agreed-upon timelines and within budget
- Permanence and safety, meeting all relevant codes required for public places, and offering reasonable proof of soundness against theft, vandalism or excessive maintenance and repair

VI. PROJECTED TIMELINE (The Percent for Art ad-hoc Committee reserves the right to change timeline without notice):

February 13, 2009: RFP Public Notification/Announcement

March 9, 2009: Letter of Intent (Receipt Deadline)

March 10-13, 2009: Percent for Art Selection Committee Review

March 13, 2009: Review Results Announced

Pending outcome of Review:

March 15-20, 2009: Required participation in 1 day Aesthetics Workshop (Specific Date/Time TBD)

June 1, 2009: Final Detailed Concept of Project Due

January 2010: Commencement of Work

NLT September 1st, 2010: Artwork Delivery and Installation

VII. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Delivery

Mail/Hand Deliver Applications to:

“Richland Avenue Art Project”

Attn: Andy Stone

City Hall

8 E Washington Street

Athens, Ohio 45701

RFP SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 4 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2009

Note: This is an receipt and/or hand delivery deadline, not the postmarked deadline, please allow adequate time for mailing if using the USPS.

B. Presentation

i. Application Content:

To be effectively reviewed for consideration, the application should contain a portfolio of other completed works including but not limited to:

1. Visual Support Materials

a. Digital Still Images (10)

Ten (10) digital images, in .jpg format, sized to 700 pixels on longest side, on CD. Up to 3 detail shots may be included per artwork. (Do not exceed 30 total images for submission)

b. Video

Optional: A DVD of artworks up to 5 minutes in length; esp. for any artwork involving moving parts, video, time-based work, etc.

2. Image List

Number list to correspond with digital images and video reference: provide filename, artwork title, date created, medium, dimensions, price and any other information pertinent to the work.

3. Professional Vita/Resume

May be included as .doc or .pdf file on Image CD, note filename on Image List.

4. Three Professional References

Provide at least three professional references (commissioning agency/organization, architect, etc.) who have an intimate knowledge of your work and methods. Include complete address and phone/email for each reference.

5. *Optional* Relevant Experience and Qualifications Support Information

Up to three (3) selections of supporting materials (reviews, news articles, essays, etc).

6. Letter of Intent (LOI)

Not to exceed two pages: Describe your overall theme, outlining the relevance to the Site and to the City of Athens, and the style of art to be produced. Explain your proposed schedule, process, medium, and method by which you will create your work.

a. Fabrication and Installation

Not to exceed one page: Describe the anticipated fabrication and installation needs for the permanent art. Include information that will facilitate the artistic integrity of your work:

- i. Spatial dimensions
- ii. Mechanics of Installation
- iii. Electrical Requirements

b. Special Equipment or Needs

c. Preliminary Budget

Include a cost estimate for all facets, including but not limited to artist fees, insurance, travel expenses, , materials costs, and anticipated fabrication and installation costs.

NOTE: All documentation may be included as .doc or .pdf file on Image CD, note filename on Image List.

7. Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (S.A.S.E.)

For return of materials. Only submissions with a SASE will be returned; all others become the property of the Percent for Art ad-hoc Committee. The Art Selection Committee and its consultants assume no responsibility for loss or damage to submission.

VIII. PROJECT CONTACTS:

David Reiser: reiser@rvcarchitects.com

Gary Pettigrew: pettigre@ohio.edu

Andrea Lewis: andrea@dairybarn.org

Andy Stone: astone@ci.athens.oh.us

IX. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

All proposed public art projects must respect the primary function of the street and sidewalk, which is to enable the safe and orderly movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Streets also function as utility corridors, and access must be maintained for present and future services above and below ground. The City of Athens Streets Director is responsible for making decisions regarding the placement of public art on public streets and rights-of-way. These guidelines outline general considerations for determining the acceptability of public art installations on City streets and sidewalks.

A. Traffic Considerations:

Public Art:

- Should not be unduly distracting to motorists
- Should not interfere with driver to driver, or driver to pedestrian sightings, and should therefore generally avoid corner clearance areas
- Should not unduly obstruct sight of the curb
- Should not obstruct sighting of signal/pedestrian heads, or of any traffic control device
- Should not interfere with the entrance or egress for transit buses
- Should not unduly disrupt curb use activities, i.e. loading zones, passenger zones
- Should not interfere with the opening of car doors

B. Pedestrian Considerations:

If public art is set in a walking surface:

- The leading vertical edge should not exceed 1/8" (to avoid trip hazard)
- Interior vertical edges should not exceed 1/4"
- Skid resistance properties should be equivalent to concrete sidewalks
- Depressions in the surface should not catch the spike heels of women's shoes
- Depression in the surface should not cause water to pool
- The art must support vehicle weight (check on the vehicle weight requirements for City of Athens sidewalks)
- Maintenance of adjacent elements of the streetscape, including the sidewalk itself, should not be interfered with.

Public Art should:

- Maintain a minimum sidewalk width on pedestrian volumes
- Minimize the potential for concealment and anti-social activities
- Maintain clearance from above, and below ground utilities

Public Art should avoid:

- Sharp edges, points, projections, or pinch-points which may cut, puncture or cause injury by impact, catch passing pedestrian clothing or entrap limbs

- Obstructing the function of benches, bus shelters and crosswalk ramps
- Utility access points or valves
- Obstructing pedestrian access to traffic signal push buttons
- Overhead parts which present a hazard to pedestrian traffic (i.e. as per minimum sign height)
- Unsafe climbing opportunities for children/adults