



**Request for Qualifications
Public Art for Rainier Avenue Improvements Project**

INTRODUCTION

The Renton Municipal Arts Commission (RMAC), in collaboration with the City's Public Works Department – Transportation Division, seeks to commission an artist or artist team to create public art to enhance the Rainier Avenue corridor. The City is making improvements for transit mobility and traffic and pedestrian safety from South Grady Way to South 2nd Street.

BACKGROUND

Rainier Ave South is a critical transportation and business corridor in Renton which carries over 45,000 – 50,000 vehicles per day. The congestion experience at certain points along the corridor has significant impact on vehicle and transit service. The businesses along the corridor range from automobile dealerships to ethnic grocery stores. This construction project will create roadway, transit and pedestrian improvements to enhance transit mobility, enhance pedestrian mobility, improve safety, and reduce traffic congestion. The project will construct or install landscaped medians, widen sidewalks with streetscaping, add pedestrian-scale lighting, install BAT (Business Access and Transit) lanes, and improve transit stops. This project will not only address current needs but also address future needs, including enhanced transit services and economic activities.

Visit the City's website for more information on the construction project at:

<http://rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=8042>

ELIGIBILITY

Artists may apply as a team, but the application should clearly describe the contribution of each collaborator.

SCOPE OF WORK

The selected artist will work with the RMAC and the City's Public Works Department – Transportation Division to create and design public art to be integrated with the project construction within the budget. The selected artist will work with representatives from RMAC and the City's Community & Economic Development and Public Works Departments to better understand the context of the project and community to develop the proposal for integrated art.

Arts Commissioners have prioritized the "Welcome to Renton" signage at the corner of Rainier Ave South and South Grady Way for the public art investment in the corridor given the limited budget. The following additional public art opportunities have been identified by the Arts Commission:

- Public art installed within four plazas on the corners of Rainier Avenue South and South 3rd Street/SW Sunset Boulevard
- Designs incorporated into concrete at key intersections
- Artistic elements added to bus shelters
- Pedestrian elements embedded in the sidewalks

This list of potential art opportunities is not all-inclusive; the selected artist has the opportunity to help redefine the best placement for the corridor's public art. The City is exploring the potential for additional funds that may become available through construction project savings or grants. This would allow additional investment in public art along the corridor.

Once the proposal is approved by the City, the selected artist will be responsible to implement the project, including installation, within the project budget. Depending on the type of art identified, the installation could be coordinated with the corridor contractors, thus potentially providing a cost savings opportunity.

BUDGET

\$50,000, all inclusive. Additional funds could come available through construction project savings or grants.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, December 3, 2010, 4:00 pm (Pacific Time)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Letter of interest (not to exceed 2,000 characters): Please write a statement about your approach to making art, a description of your related experience, and its relevancy to the project. Your contact information, including e-mail, should be included in this letter.
2. Résumé
3. Three (3) references: Names, phone numbers and email addresses of three references who can speak to your experience as an artist.
4. Work samples: Submit at least 15 images. Each should include the following information: title, date, media and short description. If submitting a portion of a larger work, please identify the context in the description. If multiple disks are submitted, please provide instructions on the order in which the samples should be played. Titles in the work sample description should correspond to labels on the disks submitted.

Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope: Applicants who want their work samples returned by mail must include a self-addressed envelope with adequate postage. Applicants may also pick up work samples at the Renton City Hall after receiving notification of the application results. Work samples without

postage will be discarded 60 days after the notice of funding is sent. Every effort will be made to ensure safe handling of work samples, but the City of Renton cannot assume responsibility for loss or damage.

Mail or hand-deliver to:

Renton Municipal Arts Commission
Rainier Avenue Improvement Project Public Art Submittal
Community & Economic Development
Renton City Hall
1055 S Grady Way, 6th Floor
Renton, WA 98057

SELECTION CRITERIA

The artist or artist team will be selected on the basis of the following criteria: strength and artistic merit of past works, experience and approach as evidenced in the written materials, ability to complete a project of this nature on time and within budget, and the contribution of the artist's work to the diversity of the City's art collection. The City of Renton is committed to reflecting the diversity and cultural richness of our city in the selection of artists and artworks. References provided as part of this application will be contacted prior to artist interviews.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process will occur in two phases: 1) A selection panel will review all applications and select finalist(s) or finalist team(s). 2) The selection panel may meet a second time to interview finalists/finalist teams and select one artist/artist team for the project.

TIMELINE

Applications are due Friday, December 3, 2010 by 4:00 pm. If necessary, finalist interviews for this project will be tentatively scheduled for mid-December 2010. The project is projected to start construction in summer 2011 and continue for 18-months. The selected artist(s) must be available to work on this project to install in conjunction with the corridor construction in fall 2012.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

The selected artist/artist team will be notified at the conclusion of interviews and panel deliberations. Applicants will receive notification of the panel's decision by e-mail. The City of Renton reserves the right not to select any of the applicants.

QUESTIONS

Please contact Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community Development Project Manager, at jdavishayes@rentonwa.gov or 425-430-6589.



Preferred location of Public Art addition: Welcome Sign Design at Rainier Ave S and S Grady Way (as of November 2010)