

CALL TO ARTISTS

from WINNIPEG'S PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Public Art Opportunity VIMY RIDGE MEMORIAL PARK

OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS:

Deadline:

Budget:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

15 October 2004

\$70,000 all-inclusive

ART OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The Winnipeg Arts Council is seeking artists or artist-led teams to submit first-stage proposals in a two-stage call for a permanent site-responsive art installation in Vimy Ridge Memorial Park in central Winnipeg.



**WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL**

The Winnipeg Arts Council is an arms-length agency of the City of Winnipeg.



Vimy Ridge Memorial Park: PUBLIC ART PROJECT

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Vimy Ridge Memorial Park is one of Winnipeg's oldest Parks. The City of Winnipeg purchased six acres of land in what was then the parish of St. James in the late 1890s to create the Park. Originally called St. James Park, it was renamed Vimy Ridge Memorial Park to honour the soldiers killed at the historic battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. Three monuments are dedicated to Canadian soldiers in the Park: to the 328 soldiers killed of the 44 Battalion at Vimy, erected in 1926; to the memory of all soldiers who served with the XII Manitoba Dragoons 18 Armoured Car Regiment in several wars and; erected by the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, a monument that is dedicated to the memory of those killed in action or wounded in active service in WWII and to those who were murdered while prisoners of war in France in June 1944.

The Park is adjacent to Portage Avenue, Winnipeg's major artery, and is surrounded by a mixed-use neighbourhood of businesses, residences and social services. One of the major greenspaces in Winnipeg's core area, the Park is a westerly anchor of downtown. It is located in the Wolseley area of central Winnipeg, whose residents take an active role in neighbourhood issues, especially those concerning development, safety, diversity and the environment. The gardens of Wolseley, many of which spill out from the front yards onto the boulevards, are well known to Winnipeggers.

The Park has been a vigorous public space since its inception. Activities as diverse as lawn bowling since the early twentieth century, meetings and rallies of the famous 1919 General Strike, war commemoration events and the Black-O-Rama music festival of the 1980s and 90s have been held there.

Currently Vimy Ridge Memorial Park is being refurbished to improve the Park's facilities through the Building Communities Initiative. The Park is used frequently by all ages for recreation, picnicking, public events, dog-walking and relaxing. Improved playground amenities for both very young and older children are a main component of the renovations. A large lawn bowling green, a stage, and a picnic area are located near the play areas. There are several well-used paths that criss-cross the Park. It is at the convergence of four of these paths that the site for a public art project is located.

ARTWORK GOALS

The convergence of the paths offers an opportunity to site a public artwork in a location that suggests both a physical and a metaphorical crossroads. The artwork should engage park users. The Park's long and varied history should be an important component of the artwork. The artwork should consider the memorial nature of the Park as well as the Park's diverse uses for recreation and public gathering. The artwork should demonstrate a familiarity with the Park and surrounding community. Background information on the Park and the Wolseley community is provided for this purpose.

ARTWORK DESIGN PARAMETERS

The artwork should take a form that is suitable for interaction with Park users and be constructed of permanent, durable materials that are resistant to theft, vandalism, and weathering. The installed artwork must meet the safety standards of the City of Winnipeg.

ARTWORK LOCATION DESCRIPTION

The site for the artwork is approximately 240 square metres in size and is indicated on the site map, east and slightly north of the lawn bowling green and stage area. The work of art may incorporate one or all five triangular areas defined by pathways near the convergence point. It may also engage the point of convergence but it may not block any of the five paths. Please note that a light standard currently in the area will be relocated.

SITE LOCATION PLANS and BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please refer to the attached site plan, photographs and background information.

BUDGET

\$70,000 is available for all related expenses of this Public Art project including (but not limited to) artist fees, site preparation and restoration, technical consultation, fabrication, insurance, shipping, travel, installation, license fees, documentation, etc.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This is a national competition open to professional artists* residing in Canada. Artist and/or artist-led teams are encouraged to apply. Selected artists must have/provide Workers' Compensation Board coverage and liability insurance.

**The Public Art Policy defines a professional artist as a person who is critically recognized as an artist; possesses skill, training and/or experience in his or her artistic discipline; is active in and committed to his or her art practice; and has a history of public presentation.*

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Artists wishing to be considered must submit a complete package. Artists in a team should submit their proposal as one package but should include supporting materials and a curriculum vitae for each artist. Please submit six copies of all application documents typed or written in black ink on white, **letter-sized paper (8½" X 11")** as outlined below. Please **DO NOT staple applications or bind them in any way** in folders, binders or plastic covers. Only one copy of support material is required. Applications must include the following:

1. Six copies of the completed application form (included at the end of this document).
2. Six copies of a written description of preliminary concept not more than one typewritten page in length. Proposals should outline the concept as related to the artwork goals and site context as described in this brief. The proposal should state the probable form the artwork may take including scale, format, medium, colour and surface quality.

3. Six copies of a preliminary budget and implementation plan that demonstrates the feasibility of the project. Budget details will be refined in the second stage of the competition.
4. Six copies of a curriculum vitae that includes a brief statement of artistic activities for the past twelve to eighteen months. Please limit the CV to a maximum length of three pages.
5. Optional: Six copies of two-dimensional materials, such as drawings or renderings that will describe or bring clarity to the proposal may be submitted. The material should be limited to two pieces, be no larger than 8½" X 11" in size, and should not be mounted. **Please send copies only, not original artwork.** Models, maquettes and other three-dimensional materials **will not be accepted** at this stage.
6. Support Material: Up to twenty (20) slides (per artist) of representative work. Slides of works that are site-specific, use similar forms, materials or techniques relating to the artist's concept would be most helpful to the committee. The slides must be in 35mm format with 2" X 2" paper or plastic mounts labeled in ink with artist's name, title of work, date and identification number. Please put an arrow to indicate the top of the image. If your work cannot be adequately documented with slides only, CD-ROMS, DVDs, VHS tapes, and audio tapes, appropriately cued, and up to ten minutes in length will be accepted. **All support materials must be accompanied by six copies of a typewritten documentation list with artist's name, title of work, medium, dimensions and date. If site-specific, the location should also be indicated.**
7. An addressed and stamped envelope with sufficient postage for return of support material.

DEADLINE

Complete proposal packages must be received on or before **15 October 2004** by 5:00 pm. (This is not a postmark deadline). All supporting materials must accompany application. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. The Winnipeg Arts Council will not be responsible for applications lost in transit. While all reasonable care will be taken in the handling of materials, the Winnipeg Arts Council cannot take responsibility for lost or damaged materials.

Please send complete proposal packages to:

Tricia Wasney, Manager-Public Art
Re: Vimy Ridge Project
Winnipeg Arts Council
102-555 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1C3

SELECTION PROCESS and CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee of qualified persons. The committee will review proposals on the basis of:

- Outstanding potential of the artwork concept
- Qualifications and professional experience of the artist(s)
- Ability of the artist(s) to work collaboratively with design and construction professionals

- Quality of work, originality, excellence and appropriateness of artistic expression to the proposed project
- Fulfillment of artwork goals as described in this brief
- Sensitivity to the site and context of proposed artwork
- Demonstrated and assessed ability to successfully execute the project under the criteria developed and with the budget and timeline set out
- Durability of materials and ability to meet all safety requirements.

The proposals will also be reviewed by a committee of technical experts who will advise the selection committee, when needed, on matters related to financial feasibility, durability, structural integrity, safety and maintenance.

The selection committee may recommend a short-list of artists who may be invited to present a more in-depth proposal for further review. An honorarium of \$2000 for proposal development, plus any travel arrangements necessary to meet with the committee, would be extended to the finalists. A final recommendation would then be made from the short-listed artists, if appropriate. Entrants will not be reimbursed for any costs relating to Stage One submissions.

The artist(s) selected for the final commission will be required to enter into an agreement with the City of Winnipeg which will contain provisions including but not limited to right of ownership and use, warranty and insurance.

Please note that the Winnipeg Arts Council is not compelled to award the project based on the submissions.

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE

October 15:	Deadline for receipt of completed proposals
October 26 – November 7:	Selection Committee and Technical Review of first-stage proposals
November 12:	Short-listed artists contacted
January 14:	Short-listed artists' second stage submissions due
January 17-28:	Selection Committee and Technical Review of short listed artist submissions
February 1:	Announcement of selected proposal
February-September 2005:	Detailed design, fabrication and installation period
October 2005:	Artwork opening.

For additional information or questions please call:

Tricia Wasney, Winnipeg Arts Council, (204)943-7668 or e-mail at twasney@winnipegarts.ca.

Art Selection Committee:

Aganetha Dyck, visual artist

Tracy Hucul, member of Vimy Ridge Building Communities Working committee & area resident

Alex Poruchnyk, visual artist & art professor

Alan Tate, landscape architect, professor & author of *Great City Parks*

Diane Whitehouse, visual artist & area resident

The Winnipeg Arts Council reserves the right to choose to not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project.

For any Call To Artists updates please check the web site at www.winnipegarts.ca.

Public Art Opportunity: VIMY RIDGE MEMORIAL PARK Call to Artists APPLICATION FORM: First Stage

Attach one copy of this form to the top of each application copy.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Signature of applicant _____

Checklist:

- Application form (this page) – six copies
- Written concept description – six copies
- Budget and draft implementation plan – six copies
- Curriculum vitae and statement of artistic activities – six copies
- Two-dimensional drawings to support proposal (optional) – six copies
- Support material of representative work (slides, etc.) – one set
- Support material documentation list – six copies
- Self-addressed stamped envelope for return of support materials

Send submissions to: Tricia Wasney, Manager-Public Art
Re: Vimy Ridge Project
Winnipeg Arts Council
102-555 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1C3

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Please let us know how you found out about this opportunity _____

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