

CALL TO ARTISTS

Public Art Opportunity WATERFRONT DRIVE

OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS:

Deadline:

Budget:

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

13 October 2006

\$200,000 all-inclusive

ART OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The City of Winnipeg's Planning, Property and Development Department is seeking artists to submit letters of interest to develop a permanent art installation in the area of Waterfront Drive in downtown Winnipeg.



**WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL**

This project is being managed through the Winnipeg Arts Council.
The Winnipeg Arts Council is an arms-length agency of the City of Winnipeg.





WATERFRONT DRIVE: PUBLIC ART PROJECT

PUBLIC ART POLICY

This project is being developed through the Planning, Property and Development Department of the City of Winnipeg, in accordance with the City's public art policy. The project will be administered through the Winnipeg Arts Council.

PROJECT INTENT

The selected artist will engage with community stakeholders, City and WAC staff and technical advisors to develop a permanent artwork proposal that is sensitive to the site and context and which meets standards of public safety, accessibility and maintenance. Since applicants are not required to submit a proposal at this initial stage, the finalist will be selected on the basis of his or her artistic practice and past experience (see Selection Process and Criteria below). The project will occur in phases; the selected artist will receive a design proposal fee for the development phase of the project.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Waterfront Drive, located along the Red River north of the Forks, is a historically, culturally and environmentally significant site. Just north of the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, this scenic drive is a site of natural beauty and burgeoning development. Pedestrian footpaths wind along the river and artist-designed elements are located throughout Waterfront Drive which includes Stephen Juba Park to the north. Also located in Stephen Juba Park is the Winnipeg Aqueduct, built between 1913-1919, a National Historic Civil Engineering Site. Across the road new commercial and residential development is currently underway. The Drive provides a link to other existing or emerging developments such as the arts and cultural district, the historic Exchange District, Portage and Main, The Forks, CanWest Global Baseball Park, and the planned Museum of Human Rights. It is located across the Red River from the City's French Quarter, now connected by the splendid new Esplanade Riel.

History of the Surrounding Lands

The history and development of the lands surrounding Waterfront Drive have always been guided by close proximity to the rivers. Long before the imprint of modern society, the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, known today as The Forks, has been a meeting place. Aboriginal peoples from across the North American plains and eastern forests came to this spot to hunt and fish, trade and celebrate. Based upon objects unearthed during archaeological digs, Native camps flourished in this area throughout early history, and up until the point of contact with European explorers.

By the 1700s, as explorers ventured westward across the country, the area became a strategic location for trading forts and a major centre for the flourishing fur and pemmican trade. More settlers and pioneers followed, beginning what was to be more than 150 years of immigration.

By 1860, steamboats were plying the Red River, earning the nickname "Mississippi of the North". With the arrival of the first steam locomotive on the prairies in 1877 and the subsequent railway building, the area near the junction of the rivers soon became a major rail terminus and a critical link between east, south and west, and remained so into the mid 1900s.

ARTWORK GOALS

Waterfront Drive – "Winnipeg: The River"

The site of the art opportunity is thin and linear and could allow for subtle expression or a bold statement. The site follows the curve of the Red River and the proposed artwork should take the idea of the river, to which Winnipeg's history is inextricably linked, as its focal point. Explorations could consider the river in the founding of Winnipeg as a city, the problem of flooding, the interaction of early and contemporary peoples with Winnipeg's waterways, reclamation of the river, the seasonal changes, and our preoccupation as "river watchers." The final artwork should be accessible to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic and should be visually engaging at both scales.

SITE LOCATION DESCRIPTION

This linear site is approximately 150 metres long and is located on the upper bank of the Red River adjacent to the public sidewalk along Waterfront Drive. Several vertical elements surround the site, including the girders of a railway bridge still in use, a hydro tower and mature trees. Please refer to the attached site plans and photographs for further details.

BUDGET

\$200,000 is the total amount available for all related expenses of this Public Art project, including (but not limited to) artist fees, site preparation and installation, technical consultation, fabrication, materials and property insurance during fabrication and installation, shipping, travel, installation, license fees, documentation, etc.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This is a national competition open to professional Canadian artists*. Artist and/or artist-led teams are encouraged to apply.

**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.*

SELECTION PROCESS and CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee of qualified persons on the basis of the following:

- Qualifications and professional experience of the artist(s)
- Ability of the artist(s) to work collaboratively with design and construction professionals
- Sensitivity to the site and context as expressed in the letter of interest
- Demonstrated ability to execute a project of this scale

Please note that the Winnipeg Arts Council and the City of Winnipeg are not compelled to award the project based on the submissions received.

The artist(s) selected for the final commission will be required to enter into an agreement with the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Arts Council which will contain provisions including but not limited to right of ownership and use, warranty and insurance. Selected artists must have/provide Workers' Compensation Board coverage and insurance.

INTERVIEW PROCESS

After reviewing the applicants' materials, the selection committee may recommend a short-list of artists to be interviewed. A final recommendation would then be made from the short-listed artists, if appropriate. WAC will cover reasonable travel expenses related to interviews with selected artist(s).

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Lee Caldwell, Senior Urban Designer, City of Winnipeg
Toby Chase, Manager, Corporate Affairs, The Forks North Portage Partnership
Colleen Cutschall, Artist; Professor of Visual Art, Brandon University
Simon Hughes, Visual Artist
Steven Matijicio, Curator, Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art
David Penner, Principal, David Penner Architect

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE

October:	Receipt of qualifications
November:	Review by Selection Committee; interviews with selected artists; finalist notified
Dec 06-Feb 07:	Project research, design proposal phase
March-September:	Detailed design, fabrication and installation period
October 2007:	Artwork opening.

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 curriculum vitae for each artist. Please submit seven 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. *Seven copies* of the completed application form (included at the end of this document).
2. *Seven copies* of a one to two page letter of interest in the public art opportunity at this site. Please include a description of how your past work and current art practice may demonstrate an ability to execute a project of this scale.
3. *Seven 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.
4. Contact information for two people who know the artist's work professionally.
5. Support materials: Please submit **one** of the following as documentation of your artwork and please ensure that your name is identified on all support materials:
(PLEASE NOTE that digital images are preferred but slides will be accepted.)

- a pc compatible CD-ROM with up to **20 jpeg image files** (** please see below for digital specifications*)

or

- up to **20 slides**, each numbered and identified with artist's name

or if your work is best demonstrated in other forms:

- CD-ROMs, DVDs, VHS tapes, and audio tapes, appropriately cued. Please select a five-minute section most representative of the work you wish to present.
(maximum of two five-minute selections)

and you also may include:

- recent reviews and news clippings (*please submit copies on **letter-sized white bond paper, 8½" X 11"***)
- programs, catalogues and other publications that include examples of your work (*please highlight information specifically related to your work*).

Please note that original art work or framed reproductions will not be accepted.

*** Digital support materials specifications:**

- 72 DPI to a maximum of 768 pixels in height
- Title each image with your initials and the number that corresponds to your documentation list (for example: TW01, TW02...TW20).
- Don't submit compressed files (WinZip, Stuffit, etc).
- Don't submit materials that require software, plug-ins, extensions or other executables that need to be downloaded or installed.
- For video files, submit files that can be accessed with one of the following plug-ins: QuickTime, RealPlayer or Windows Media Player.

6. Documentation list - All audio visual support materials must be accompanied by *seven copies* of a typewritten documentation list with artist's name, title of work, medium, dimensions (if applicable), location and date.

7. A self-addressed and stamped envelope (SASE) **with sufficient postage and packing for safe return of support material (this is very important)**. If you do not wish return of your support materials please check the "I do not want my support materials returned" box on the attached application form. Please note that only support materials will be returned with a SASE, not the written application documents.

APPLICATION TRANSIT AND RECEIPT

All supporting materials must accompany the 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.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application package reaches the WAC office by the deadline. All applicants will receive a notice by mail or e-mail that their application has been received. If you have submitted an application and do not receive notification within two weeks, please contact the WAC office.

DEADLINE

Complete proposal packages must be received on or before **13 October 2006 by 4:00 pm**. (This is not a postmark deadline).

Please send complete application packages to:

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

*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.*

For additional information or questions please call:

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

Public Art Opportunity:
Waterfront Drive
Call to Artists APPLICATION FORM: Request For Qualifications

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

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

Checklist of materials included in application:

- Application form (this page) – seven copies
- Letter of interest – seven copies
- Curriculum vitae and statement of artistic activities – seven copies
- Support material of representative work (slides, etc.) – one set
- Support material documentation list – seven copies

And:

- I have included a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of support materials.
- or*
- I do not want my support materials returned.

Send submissions to: Tricia Wasney, Manager-Public Art
Re: Waterfront Drive Project
Winnipeg Arts Council
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Please let us know how you found out about this opportunity _____

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