National Call to Artists:
Southeast Davidson Regional Park (Metro Parks)

Call Summary
Metro Nashville Arts Commission is issuing a national Call to Artists for a public artist to be a part of the design team for Metro Parks’ Southeast Regional Park. The project is being developed on a 600 acre property in Southeast Davidson County, which is economically and culturally diverse and has the largest percentage of new Americans in the entire county. The project creates a distinctive opportunity to create a regional park designed specifically as a welcoming and inclusive space for all Nashvillians. With a budget of $250,000, the selected artist (or artist team) will collaborate with the Park’s design team on the design of the Park. The artist will participate in public meetings and engagement (minimum of three meetings) with residents and stakeholders to inform the design of the park and public art for the park. Following the engagement process, the selected artist will be expected to design, fabricate and install at least one permanent public artwork, either free-standing or integrated into the infrastructure of Phase I of the Park. The selected artist is also expected to serve a mentorship role to a local artist interested in expanding their knowledge and experience in public art.
Deadline
All submissions of qualifications must be submitted through the Metro Arts Submittable page by:
February 5, 2018 (by midnight/11:59 p.m.).

Artist Eligibility
Submissions will be accepted from professional artists working or living in the United States; professional artists as defined by the Public Art Guidelines:

Professional artist**. An artist of least 18 years of age with the following qualifications:

1. at least two years of visual art exhibition history, or
2. at least two years of commissioned visual or public art.

Architects, landscape architects and other design professionals are not considered professional artists under this definition, unless they meet the criteria. Exhibitions, commissions or public art created during or as part of an artist’s undergraduate education shall not count towards these criteria.

Artist team.
1. Two or more professional artists working collaboratively on a public art project.
2. A collaborative team led by a professional artist.*

*Team may include design professionals or consultants.

**These qualifications must be demonstrated in submitted artist resume**

Artists with conflicts of interest as outlined in the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County’s Public Art Guidelines are ineligible for public art commissions or projects. Artists may reference section VII of the Public Art Guidelines online at http://publicart.nashville.gov.

Budget
The project budget allocates up to $250,000 for community engagement processes, work done in collaboration with the project design team, development of permanent public artwork for Metro Parks’ Southeast Park, and compensation for selected artist’s mentorship role. (The mentee artist will be compensated from a separate budget.) This figure represents the total artist’s budget, and includes artist’s fees for community engagement and design development, overhead and operating costs, fabrication costs, all project-related travel, installation costs, insurance, contingency and any other project-related costs the artist may incur.

Project Description
The selected artist will participate on the Park’s design team and collaborate with the design process for the Park. Artists will be asked to make technical recommendations during the design process for public art opportunities within the Park. The selected artist will also design, fabricate and install at least one permanent public artwork for Phase I of the Park. During the course of the design and community engagement process, the artist may discover and make technical recommendations for future public art in subsequent phases of the Park.
Mentorship Role: Throughout the project, the selected artist will work with a local, associate artist as part of a mentorship initiative recommended in the Metro Arts Public Art Community Investment Plan. The goal of the mentorship initiative is to provide opportunities for artists who are new to the field of public art to gain technical and administrative experience needed to compete within the field of public art locally, regionally and nationally.

Metro Arts will work with the selected artist to identify a local, emerging public artist and establish a scope of work for that artist. The responsibilities of the associate artist will be determined by the selected, lead artist and may include attending local planning and community meetings; project documentation; conducting research regarding the local community, materials, design and building codes; and other duties that relate to the community engagement, design, fabrication and installation of the artwork.

Community Outreach

The lead artist or artist team will be expected to attend a minimum of three (3) community meetings and/or public engagements in Nashville near the project site. Meetings and engagements will be promoted and coordinated by Metro Parks and Metro Arts. The lead artist is encouraged to contribute their own research approaches to help identify assets and needs in the community in collaboration with the design team.

Project Goals & Vision

Project Goals

- Create a welcoming and inclusive space for all Nashvillians.
- Involve the diverse, international community in the development of this Park.
- Create welcoming community spaces that invite and exalt the natural setting.
- Ensure public artwork is integrated into the design of the park.
- Create public art for the Park and make recommendations for future public art in this Park.

Metro Public Art Goals

- Create opportunities for deeper cultural and civic participation. Drive the support and development of vibrant, creative neighborhoods.
- Bring creativity to planning processes by ensuring artists participate in or lead planning teams.
- Strengthen the public art ecosystem in Nashville.
- Prioritize projects in areas that are underserved with public art.
- Commission public art at park and recreation facilities; strengthen their role as welcoming and functional places for gathering.
- Launch a public artist mentorship program that provides relevant experience for emerging local public artists.

Artwork Site Location Description

The Southeast Davidson County Park will be located on Metro Parks’ 600-acre property located near Cane Ridge High school off Old Hickory Blvd. Southeast Davidson County is the last quadrant of the county in need of a large acreage anchor park; Southeast Park will serve this community with much needed trails, park facilities and public art.
The design process and artist’s scope for this project will be focused within the Phase I area of the park, which includes a community lawn, pavilion and band shell and a destination regional playground. (area notated in diagram: 1)

Other planned Park amenities include greenways, walk/bike trails, trailhead pavilions and shelters, as well as community gardens and farming areas.

Background of Site

In Metro Park’s 2017 county-wide master plan, Plan to Play, Southeast Davidson County was identified as the area of the county most underserved by parks. With a large, growing community, the need for a large regional park with sufficient recreation facilities became clear.

The Southeast Nashville community is most commonly associated with the Antioch Area. Antioch is widely known for its economically and ethnically diverse demographics. Antioch is home to the highest percentage of “new Americans” in the city and is one of most culturally rich communities in Nashville.

A historically rural area, the Southeast Nashville community saw signs of suburbanization in the 1960s and 70s. J. Percy Priest Dam was built in the 1960’s creating Percy Priest Lake, a popular reservoir which is the main attraction in the community bringing local citizens and regional guests to the neighborhood. The development of the Hickory Hollow Mall in the 1970’s also brought new citizens into the
community. With these new additions, the community experienced economic growth through the 1990s, leading to a housing boom in the 90s and early 2000s.

While new Nashvillians are finding new homes in the Southeast neighborhood, many long-time Nashvillians are being priced out of in-town neighborhoods and are contributing to the influx of new residents in the Southeast area. As open space is rapidly developing and population density increases, this project is an answer to an urgent need of park services in the Southeast community. The project is an exceptional opportunity to connect Nashvillians of all backgrounds; the park will encourage the community to get out in nature, exercise and gather to support a healthy community.

Site/Art Location Plans

Selection Process
That selection committee is proposed by Metro Arts staff for the project and recommended to the the Public Art Committee (PAC) and the Metro Arts Commission for review and approval.

The selection committee for this project will have between five and nine members including at least one visual artist, and may also include a design professional, a project architect/landscape architect, community representatives and one member representing the site sponsor. The chairperson of the
selection committee will be the Public Art Committee chair or designee, serving as an ex-officio, non-voting committee member. The Metro Purchasing Agent will assign a Contract Specialist to the project who will serve as a non-voting advisory member of the selection committee and is charged with the responsibility of monitoring the Procurement process.

Semi-Finalists
The selection panel will conduct an online review of all submissions. Following the initial online review, the panelists will meet in person to review artist submissions and determine a list of semi-finalists. The selection panel will recommend a list of semi-finalists to the Public Art Committee for review and approval. The semi-finalists will be invited to join the selection panel for either an in person or video interview. Following the interviews and further discussion, the selection panel will recommend the final artist for approval to the Public Art Committee and Arts Commission.

Selection Criteria
Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- artistic merit;
- artist’s ability to engage with, connect to and understand the community for which public artwork is intended;
- a deep understanding of public art planning, design, construction and community engagement processes;
- evidence of experience successfully working in a collaborative spirit on large-scale public projects; evidence of ability to be accountable to project partners, schedules and budgets.

Project Timeline
The following projected timetable should be used as a working guide for planning purposes. Metro reserves the right to adjust this timetable as required during the course of this Call to Artists process.

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<td>January 5</td>
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<td>Call to Artists Deadline</td>
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<td>Selection of Semi-Finalists</td>
<td>February 9-12</td>
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<td>Semi-Finalists presented to PAC for approval</td>
<td>February 13</td>
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<td>Interviews &amp; Final Artist Selection</td>
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<td>Final Artist presented to PAC for approval</td>
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<td>Commission Review</td>
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<td>Artist Contract Awarded</td>
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<td>Contract Negotiations/Vendor Registration</td>
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Submission Information (Submittable)
Metro Nashville Arts Commission uses Submittable to manage calls to artists. Visit [www.mnac.submittable.com/submit](http://www.mnac.submittable.com/submit) to review all current opportunities.
Application Requirements & Checklist

The following information must be submitted in order to be considered:

1. Letter of Interest. A brief (no more than one-page) statement, which should demonstrate your community engagement and design team experience and approach, as well as highlight your interest in the project.

2. Artwork Images: Eight (8) digital images representative of your work are required*. (File types accepted: JPG, PNG, GIF, TIFF). Images should not be composite or collages. Prior work samples are required. Artwork concepts or proposals for Southeast Park will not be reviewed by the selection panel at this time.

3. Current Artist Résumé: not to exceed four single-sided pages or 2MB. Resume must demonstrate artistic practice as defined by the Public Art Guidelines.

4. References: three artistic professional references (those who can speak to your artwork and your project experience).

Full submission instructions are available at https://mnac.submittable.com/submit. Only online submissions will be accepted. Please read through carefully before submitting. Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed. No submissions will be accepted after the deadline. Technical questions about the online submission process (i.e. image upload, Submittable account set-up, etc.) should be directed to http://help.submittable.com/

Metro Public Art

The Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission (Metro Arts) is a department of the Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County created in 1978 for the purpose of promoting, preserving and expanding the cultural and artistic interests of the general public. Metro Arts public art program was established in June 2000, with the passage of a public art ordinance. The ordinance dedicates one percent (1%) of the net proceeds of general obligation bonds issued for construction projects to fund public art. Metro Arts established guidelines, available online at http://publicart.nashville.gov, and named a Public Art Committee (PAC) as a standing committee to oversee the public art program.

Conflicts of Interest

Employees of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission or the Metro Nashville Government are ineligible to apply. Family and household members of Metro Arts employees are also ineligible. Members of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission or Public Art Committee are ineligible for public art commissions or projects.

Sources for Additional Information

- Southeast Davidson Regional Park Masterplan Document

Resources for Questions

Direct all questions related to this Call to Artists to: donald.hardin@nashville.gov with Southeast Park in the subject line or (615) 862-6739. Questions will be taken through Friday, February 2 at 4 p.m.