REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMMISSIONED ARTISTS PROJECTS AND PERMANENT PUBLIC ARTWORK

DEL RIO TRAIL – PHASES 1 & 2

Deadline: November 21, 2022
11:59 pm Pacific Time

CALL TO ARTISTS
The City of Sacramento, Office of Arts + Culture, a division of the City of Sacramento Convention and Cultural Services Department, invites professional Artists and Artist teams to submit their qualifications for two phases of creative placemaking and public art installations along the Del Rio Trail. Artists may apply separately for both phases or only one phase of the project.

The Del Rio Trail is in the City of Sacramento along a five-mile abandoned railway corridor to the west of Freeport Boulevard from approximately Sutterville Road to the north and Pocket Road to the south. To address equity for all residents of Sacramento and to support public space conditions where everyone can be healthy, the Del Rio Trail combines the creation of a trail-park infrastructure with community engaged public art along this vital pedestrian corridor. In collaboration with the City of Sacramento Department of Public Works, the Office of Arts + Culture (OAC) Art in Public Places (APP) program is tasked with management of the public art components of the project.
Art has the ability to connect people, and along a trail setting, these connections also provide a public health benefit through interactions with nature, culture, and community engagement in the design process. The project is broken into two Phases: **Phase 1** of the project will be designed to hire artists as soon as possible to create a number of smaller works and engage community through the artists’ creative process. This phase is open to artists in all disciplines who reside in Sacramento County. **Phase 2** will be to create permanent sculptures along the Del Rio Trail and will be broken into two main categories: 1) wayfinding art and 2) gathering locations. Depending on their qualifications and experience, artists may apply for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 commissions. Artists applying for Phase 2 commissions, may apply for one or both categories. Artists must apply for each phase separately on Submittable. **Artist’s applications will only be reviewed for the phase(s) and projects for which they have applied.**

**INFORMATION PACKET AND INFORMATION SESSION**

The information packet can be downloaded [here](#) and includes some basic information about the project and site along Del Rio Trail. It is expected that artists will engage in their own research and are not limited to these materials provided. During this RFQ process, the information packet includes to following although additional items may be added as they become available:

- Scoring Rubric for Applicants
- Map of Del Rio Trail (showing approximate zones and areas where Phase 2 artists will locate)
- Grant Narrative (provides project background for applicants)

An online information session will be held on **Wednesday October 19 from 530-630 pm.** The zoom link is: [https://cityofsacramento-org.zoom.us/j/97542836868](https://cityofsacramento-org.zoom.us/j/97542836868). This will be an opportunity to ask questions about both project phases, the application process, and hear more about the project from OAC and other city staff. The session will be recorded and will be uploaded to the OAC website.

**ART BUDGET**

2.5 million dollars of funding has been awarded from Cal Trans to complete both phases of the public art commissions along the Del Rio Trail. OAC will be responsible for maintenance of the permanent work and will allocate resources from an established city public art maintenance fund in order to accommodate maintenance of this work over time.

Twenty Phase 1 artists will receive $7500 each and must have their project completed to display, perform, or otherwise share by May 15, 2023. Five Phase 2 artists will receive $220,000 each to design, fabricate, and install at least 5 wayfinding sculptures along their allotted section of the trail to be installed by March 2024. Two Phase 2 artists will receive $375,000 each to design, fabricate, and install Gathering Space permanent sculptures or other permanent creative placemaking installations to be installed by March 2024.

**TYPES OF ARTWORK CONSIDERED**

**PHASE 1:** All artwork disciplines considered. This includes but is not limited to professional artists working in: poetry, music composition, performance art, photography, dance, new media, painting/drawing, and temporary sculpture.

**PHASE 2:** Exterior sculpture and permanent creative placemaking exterior installations.

**OPPORTUNITIES AND ART SITES**

**PHASE 1: ENGAGEMENT** – Open only to individual artists residing within Sacramento County. Twenty $7500 awards will be given to artists to engage with community along the trail, make art about the trail, and
create a visual dialogue of artwork that will help inform the permanent sculptures and provide additional content for trail visitors. Artists will apply for these commissions to make art about and in reaction to the Del Rio Trail. Artists will explore the theme of connectivity and may propose artwork in a variety of mediums and disciplines including but not limited to: poetry, music composition, performance art, photography, dance, new media, painting/drawing, and temporary sculpture. The artwork created will not become part of the city's permanent collection, but the city will have the right to use, display, or otherwise show the artwork created. The physical work (if a physical work is created) will remain the property of the artist. The panel will select artists for commissions from amongst the highest ranking pool of applications based upon the selection criteria, with the aim of choosing a variety of projects that offer a multiplicity of ways to engage with local communities, the trail, and senses. The panel will not be required to choose specific disciplines or award artists in each discipline or category.

All of the commissioned artwork completed must be displayed or somehow presented to the public. OAC will create a website for the Del Rio Trail artwork that artists will be able to contribute to. Along with utilizing the website for online interaction, for example, a poet might produce a small-printed collection of poems that could be displayed via the Del Rio Trail website and in a printed version. A composer might compose a musical work that is then performed in an area along the trail, recorded, and accessible via a QR code interface on the website or even on the trail. The website will grow and evolve as the projects evolve.

A key component of these commissions is for artists to work with local communities to drive conversations and engagement. These artworks and the conversations generated through their making and display are meant to help inform the Phase 2 artists in creating wayfinding and gathering location designs.

The OAC will assist in organizing a series of community gatherings with Phase 1 commissioned artists and local communities in order to provide initial forums for meeting and discussion. Artists will be encouraged to lead art workshops or experiences that actively engage community to brainstorm and generate thoughts and ideas around connectivity and the Del Rio Trail.

PHASE 2: WAYFINDING SCULPTURES AND GATHERING SPACES – Artists in this phase of the project will be creating permanent sculptures that will be placed throughout the Del Rio Trail approximately from Freeport Blvd to Pocket Rd. Artists applying for Phase 2 commissions, may apply for one or both categories. Artists should have experience in working with durable materials and be willing to be inspired by and participate in (where possible) community engagement opportunities with Phase 1 artists and community members.

A. WAYFINDING SCULPTURES: Five Phase 2 artists will receive $220,000 each to design, fabricate, and install at least 5 wayfinding sculptures along their allotted section of the trail to be installed by March 2024. As a wayfinding element, public art operates through visual stimulation and symbols. The project (along the entire trail) will include up to twenty sculptures on posts or other artistic designs that help guide people along the trail. The trail will be broken into up to five zones with each zone provided to an artist to design wayfinding elements along their zone. These wayfinding elements are particularly important at the entrance and end of the trail zones along the river but will be continuous throughout the length of the pathway.

Artists will be encouraged to create wayfinding sculpture designs on standard poles that can be easily installed and provide visible wayfinding elements. Along this five-mile stretch of trail, the pole sculptures will serve as visual markers and lead path goers forward to the next section of trail.

OAC will hire a fabrication company, structural engineer, and general contractor to be a resource to assist artists in realizing, fabricating, and installing their sculptural work for these wayfinding
sculptures. Costs will come out of the artist's commission award budget. Artists may elect to perform all aspects of design and fabrication on their own. However, unless the artist has a CA General Contractor’s License, all artists must work with the contracted structural engineer to produce structural engineering calculations and drawings for permitting and work with the contracted general contractor to perform the installation of the artwork. All costs will be charged to the artist’s commission award budget.

B. GATHERING SPACES: Two Phase 2 artists will receive $375,000 each to design, fabricate, and install Gathering Space permanent sculptures or other permanent creative placemaking installations to be installed by March 2024. Two locations in existing city parks along the trail will also be identified as gathering spaces. Distinguished from the wayfinding projects, these gathering spaces are a place of rest, contemplation, or exploration along the trail. Sculptures or designed spaces may be interactive and invite visitors to rest and enjoy the surroundings of the trail environment.

To build content for the artists to develop their designs, artists will have the opportunity to work with local community stakeholders and Phase 1 artists to discuss themes and concepts important to these local neighborhoods. These concepts provide creative ideas and direction for the artists’ creative process. The final gathering location projects will celebrate connectivity through sculpture and creative placemaking.

These gathering spaces must be fabricated with durable materials, must be permanent, and must conform with all permitting and construction requirements for outdoor public use. Selected artists will work with a Parks landscape architect to ensure the location, design, and materials are acceptable for the existing city park environment. Selected artists should have experience in creating permanent exterior artwork. OAC will hire and manage a general contractor (in cooperation with the selected artist) to perform all installation of these sculptural works in city parks. All costs for installation will be charged to the artist’s commission award budget.

OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE SELECTION PROCESS
Artists may apply for the Del Rio Trial Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects by filling out the online application on Submittable and submitting it with required supporting materials. City staff will review the applications for eligibility and advance eligible applications to a diverse panel of community members, artists, art administrators and curators who will review all complete submissions. Staff will facilitate the panel’s review. APP will work to engage with local communities and artists through Information Session Events in order to encourage participation from a wide-ranging group of artists and community members. Within the application materials, artists will be required to submit up to 250 words about the Phase and specific commission opportunity they are applying for. Artists will submit up to 10 image files, text in PDF format, or video/audio files of their past work. APP staff are available to assist artists with the application process and will provide applicants with access to advisors as well.

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA
The selection panel will review applications based on a series of criteria that will help the panel decide which artists will receive specific commissions. Panelists will evaluate artists based on the discipline and Phase they have applied under using prescribed evaluation rubrics. The following rubrics will be used throughout the evaluation process and may be weighted differently for specific commission opportunities and phases (see Information Packet for detailed information about the scoring rubrics):

- Originality
- Technical Skill
- Community Impact
• Public Art Experience (For Phase 2 artists)

ELIGIBILITY
All eligible applicants must be 18 years old or older and experienced professional artists within their field of specialty. Phase 1 is open to individual artists (of any discipline) who reside within the County of Sacramento and can demonstrate at least 5 years professional experience in their area of practice. Phase 2 is open to individual artists or teams nationally. However, for Phase 2, additional considerations and points will be added to artists residing within 100 miles of the City of Sacramento. For Phase 2 artists, the final commission will be awarded based on experience in the design, fabrication, and installation of major artworks as well as strength of community collaboration and participation within the artist’s professional practice. Artists Teams should have proven experience that demonstrates design team and community outreach experience.

PROJECT TIMELINE
October 2022 Launch Phase 1 and Phase 2 RFQs
October 19, 2022 Information Session via Zoom – 5:30pm – 6:30pm PST (Recorded)
November 21, 2022 Deadline for Phase 1 and Phase 2 RFQ Submissions
December 2022 Selection Panel meets to select Phase 1 and Phase 2 Artists
January 2023 Phase 1 and Phase 2 Artists notified and under contract
February 2023 Phase 1 Artists begin commissioned projects
March 2023 Community Engagement with communities and artists
April - May 2023 Phase 1 Artists present completed projects
June 2023 Phase 2 Artists present proposed designs
January 2024 Phase 2 Artists begin installations of sculptures along Del Rio Trail
March 2024 Phase 2 Artists complete installations of sculptures along Del Rio Trail
May 2024 Final Project Celebration Event along Del Rio Trail

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
The entire submission must be completed on Submittable at https://sacmetroarts.submittable.com/submit. There is no application fee to apply or to use Submittable. To apply register a username and password and follow the instructions. The call is listed as Del Rio Trail - Phase 1 and Del Rio Trail - Phase 2. Each Phase has a separate application form on Submittable that must be filled out entirely. Along with any form specific requirements, all requirements listed below must be met or the application will not be considered:

• Artist Statement: Each phase has a slightly different statement requirement. Please see Submittable application for specific requirements. The statement provides a general introduction to your work. You should discuss the concepts and ideas you explore in your artwork and how these ideas and issues are presented. If you are applying as a team in Phase 2, the statement should clearly describe the contribution of each collaborator.

• Resume: (Maximum 2 pages) Outline your recent experience and accomplishments as an artist. If applying as a team in Phase 2, each member may submit a separate one-page resume.

• Samples of your work - a maximum of ten (10) files: digital images, video, and audio files are all acceptable with corresponding titles to match the Support Description list. Each file should highlight only one project. It is recommended that artists show professional quality documentation of their work. Photos of artists standing next to their work is not recommended, but if included should be limited to one or two files shown for scale or some other specific purpose.
• **Support Description list:** (Maximum 2 pages) For each image/file submitted, include relevant project information. For example, list the title, date, size, and medium for studio work. For public art projects include a description, location, budget and commissioning organization. For work in other disciplines, include performance dates and other relevant information so that the panel may better understand the artwork presented.

• **References:** Include name, phone number, and email for three professional references.

• **Application Questions:** Phase 1 artists should generally describe their artwork, discipline they will work in, and proposed project or the type of project they anticipate creating. Phase 2 artists will be asked to describe their past work, general design process, and interest in working with Phase 1 artists and community stakeholders. If applying as a Team for Phase 2, only one application should be submitted.

**QUESTIONS**
Donald Gensler, Project Manager, Office of Arts + Culture, Art in Public Places, dgensler@cityofsacramento.org or call 916-808-8493.