REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS & PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS
“Eye On Art” Window Installations for The Ion District

Artwork Commission Budget: $20,000 per commission (2 total awarded)
Deadline: Monday, June 20, 2022 at 5:00pm CST
Location: The Ion, 4201 Main Street, Houston, TX 77004
Eligibility: Open to Artists or Artist Teams residing in the Greater Houston Area
Apply: http://www.publicartist.org
Contact: piper@piperfaustpublicart.com

The Ion and Rice Management Company request qualifications and preliminary installation proposals from artists or artist teams for the “Eye On Art” display windows located at The Ion, the newly renovated historic Sears building that is the hub of Houston’s innovation economy. Two artists/teams will be selected to create site-specific installations in each of the display window banks to be exhibited for 6 months.

Ion District is a new kind of urban district to Houston initiated by Rice Management Company that prioritizes street life, public space, and a mix of uses that embrace technology, community, and sustainability. It is a centrally located at the heart of innovation activity in Houston, encompassing over 16 acres in the Midtown. At the center of the district is The Ion, a 266,000-square foot structure designed to bring Houston’s entrepreneurial, corporate, and academic communities together into collaborative spaces and programs.

The “Eye On Art” program pays homage to the original department window store displays of the beloved Sears building on which The Ion was built by engaging local artists to create site-specific art installations. Strategically placed, as the entry points and eyes of the building, the two highly visible display windows facing Fannin and Main Streets serve as beacons to draw the community in. The display windows are a unique opportunity to reimagine Sears' store windows and build on the collective memory of the space’s past, present, and future through the lens of artistic and creative expression. The Ion is committed to creating opportunities for Houston-based artists by providing long-term platforms to create, innovate, and collaborate.

For more information, visit:
https://www.ionhouston.com
https://iondistrict.com

Recent Press:
Glasstire
Houston CityBook
CultureMap Houston

Scope of Work
We are seeking the creation of site-specific art installations for two showcase display windows at The Ion, facing Fannin and Main streets respectively. The displays are highly visible from the streets and will ideally engage and attract visitors from the community and beyond. Each installation will be on display for six months according to the following exhibition schedule and is subject to change:

Fannin Window Installation 1: November 2022 – May 2023
Main Street Window Installation 1: November 2022 – May 2023
Interdisciplinary teams, innovative partnerships, new media, digital art, interactive installation concepts are all encouraged and welcome. Each art installation must be site-specific and created for the context of The Ion District.

Power and lighting are available in the displays.

Elevations, dimensions and site images can be found here.

Budget
Commission budget is $20,000.00 per window display inclusive of all work including, but not limited to, artists’ fees, final design, wall prep, engineering, permitting, insurance costs for the project, lighting (if necessary), software, studio and project administration, travel, fabrication, all materials, installation, de-installation, maintenance and required documentation.

Criteria
- Artwork should consider The Ion and The Ion District's vision and mission of accelerating innovation, connecting communities and facilitating partnerships to create growth and opportunity in Houston.
- Artworks should be sensitive and/or responsive to the diverse history, culture, and identity of the surrounding community.
- Artworks should invite passersby to pause, reflect, play and engage in unexpected and innovative ways. Thinking outside the box (figurately and literally) is encouraged.
- Artworks must be family friendly, suitable for public display, and free of safety hazards.
- Artworks should be resistant to graffiti and vandalism and require minimal maintenance.

Eligibility
Open to all artists and artist-teams over 18 years of age residing and working the Greater Houston Area, which encompasses Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Brazoria, Galveston, Liberty, Waller, Chambers and Austin counties.

The Ion District is committed to providing opportunities that advance Houston’s economy by not only seeking to involve local businesses, but also for those who are racially and ethnically underrepresented. Creatives and artists are a vital part of a complete community, and it is our goal to foster inclusivity and diversity with all our partners. We encourage non-local applicants to team with local partners whenever possible.

Application Requirements
Please submit the following to http://publicartist.org by Monday, June 20, 2022 at 5:00pm CST:
1. Resume or CV (2 pages max)
2. Up to 10 digital images of past work demonstrating ability to complete the project.
3. A brief artist statement highlighting your practice (300 words max).
4. A letter of intent describing a method of approach, which may include a narrative, suggested materials, installation details and any other relevant information. Include up to 5 sketches, mock-ups, illustrations, or other reference images demonstrating your preliminary design concept (PDF upload).
5. Two (2) academic or professional references
Selection Process
- Piper Faust Public Art, Rice Management Company and The Ion District Art Advisory Council consisting of art experts, community members and stakeholders will review the applications.
- Two artists will be awarded the commission.

Contracting
The final commissions for this project will be a professional services contract with Rice Management Company. The selected artists must be able and willing to sign the contract for design and commission and will be provided the draft for review.

Timeline
All dates are subject to change.
- RFP release: Wednesday, May 18, 2022
- RFP deadline: Monday, June 20, 2022 at 5:00pm CST
- Selected artists notified: Friday, July 1, 2022
- Contract finalized: July 15, 2022
- Project design, fabrication, and installation: July - October 2022
- Final Completion: Monday, October 31, 2022
- Eye On Art Opening: Thursday, November 3, 2022
- Fannin Window Installation: November 2022 – May 2023
- Main Street Window Installation: November 2022 – May 2023

Contact
For questions and/or more information, please contact:
Piper Faust
piper@piperfaustpublicart.com