

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CITY OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Project: Jefferson Avenue Infrastructure Improvements – Public Art

Budget: \$250,000.00

RFQ Deadline: May 24, 2024

Description: The goal of this public artwork is to create a photo-worthy destination point representative of the Jefferson Avenue section of Buffalo.

Questions: Emerson Barr
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PROJECT SUMMARY

This combination of Locally Administered Federal Aid (LAFAs) projects for the City of Buffalo stretches along Jefferson Avenue between Main and Swan Streets. While challenged with high vacancy rates and outdated infrastructure, Jefferson Avenue has a number of community resources, entrepreneurial strengths and stable businesses. Additionally, Canisius University, a 150-year-old institution and major employer with nearly 4,000 graduate and undergraduate students is located at the project's northern boundary; a public elementary school and an amateur athletic sports pavilion are also in the project area. The goal of the streetscape improvements is to reestablish the corridor as a vibrant, walkable and safe corridor for residents and businesses.

The project includes traffic calming and streetscape enhancements to improve the safety and mobility for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Specific improvements include milling and overlay of the roadway; new sidewalk and ADA ramps; enhanced pedestrian elements including high-visibility crosswalks and pedestrian signal upgrades; traffic calming measures including curb bump-outs, raised crosswalks and additional street trees; new bicycle facilities; green infrastructure; new landscape and hardscape elements; and public art. Several alternative cross-sections were developed to accommodate pedestrians, public transit facilities, on-street parking, and bike lanes and/or a separated cycle track within the existing right-of-way. These concepts were evaluated with input from the public and stakeholders.

The City of Buffalo is seeking qualifications from artists that can produce artwork that:

1. Is culturally appropriate.
2. Represents the pride and heritage of the neighborhoods along Jefferson Avenue.

Artists should be advised that art representing or associated with the May 14 tragedy is being coordinated under a separate process by the Governor and Mayor’s 5/14 commission.

The City of Buffalo will supply a stipend to the two or three artists whose qualifications match the project to complete an art installation proposal as a submission for selection.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

This is a multi-year timeline from RFQ to art installation. Funding for this installation is directly tied to the schedule of the streetscape project, with full funding for installation not available until approximately 2026.

Submit Questions about the RFQ **May 17, 2024**

Submission of Qualifications	May 24, 2024
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Future Timeline:

Request for Proposals to 2 or 3 Qualified Artists **July 2024**

Proposals Due from Qualified Artists **August 2024**

Artist Selected **September 2024**

Art Installation (tied to construction of streetscape project)

Phase 1 – Jefferson Avenue: Main to Best Construction 2025-2026

Phase 2 – Jefferson Avenue: Best to Swan Construction 2026-2027

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Any artist, architect, or designer may submit their qualifications for consideration. Also welcomed are collaborative “team” submissions. Excluded from consideration are employees of the City of Buffalo. A complete submission must include:

1. **Résumé** – A current professional resume for the artist(s) submitting, emphasizing public art experience and information regarding any other installations which may have been completed. Résumé(s) must include contact information such as mailing address, phone number, and email.
2. **Past Work** – Photos of five (5) relevant pieces of artwork that were created by the artist(s) applying. Photos must be clearly labeled with the artist’s name, artwork title, completion date, current location, artwork media, and the dimensions of the artwork with the “top” indicated.

Qualification packages will be screened for artistic excellence, originality, and ability to produce a consistent body of work; experience with projects of a similar scale and scope; good work habits, including the ability to meet deadlines, experience with budgeting, good communication skills, and good problem-solving abilities.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Art in Public Places Committee for the Jefferson Avenue Streetscape project will select two or three qualified artists, based on the qualification packages received, to submit a proposal. Artists advancing into the proposal stage of the process will be paid an honorarium upon acceptance of a complete proposal package, which will be further outlined in a Request for Proposals and provided to the two to three selected qualified artists.

Submitted qualifications will be screened for completeness to the specifications outlined in this Request for Qualifications. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. The City of Buffalo is not required to select any artist as a result of this Request for Qualifications and reserves the right to reject any and all submissions.

The following four (4) criteria will be considered in the selection process:

1. **Artist(s) Availability** – Commitment of the artist(s) to work within project deadlines; ability to work and coordinate installation/fabrication with project construction; availability to attend meetings if requested by the Arts Commission or Department of Public Works, Parks & Streets.

2. **Artwork Design** – The successful submission in this Request for Qualifications; approach and style to the intent; quality of the past works aesthetic design; consideration of scale, form, and content with respect to immediate and general, social, and physical environment.
3. **Artwork Feasibility** – Achievability of past successful completions within given timeframes; durability of the materials and construction; maintenance requirements; public access; safety and security; installation requirements; engineering limitations; location; issues impacting technical feasibility.
4. **Budget** – Evidence that the past budgets were met; cost and current market value of artwork in relation to the scope and value contemplated for this commission.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submissions must be received by **May 24, 2024**

The City of Buffalo is not responsible in the case of lost, misdirected, or incomplete submissions.

To Submit By Mail:

Place all required materials in a full-size envelope with correct postage and mail to:

Emerson Barr
Executive Director, Buffalo Arts Commission
City Hall, Rm 201
65 Niagara Square
Buffalo, New York 14202

To Submit By Email:

Insert all materials as email attachment(s) that are collectively no greater than ten (10) MB in size.

Label the subject line of the email:
Submission of Artist Qualifications – Jefferson Avenue

Send to:
ebarr@buffalony.gov

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This art installation is made possible under Article XIV of Chapter VIII of the City of Buffalo Charter. Any artwork subsequently purchased becomes the sole property of the City of Buffalo. Those whose submission is selected will be required to enter into a contract with the City of Buffalo that includes the waiver of copyright permissions.

The City of Buffalo reserves the right to withdraw, amend, and/or reissue the Request for Qualifications at any time and for any or no reason. Receipt of submission entries by the City of Buffalo or submission of the selection of an artist for purposes of negotiating a contract confers no rights to any artist nor obligates the City of Buffalo in any manner. The City of Buffalo reserves the right at its sole discretion and for any reason, to reject all submission entries and not award any contract and to solicit additional or different submission entries at a later time. The City incurs no obligation regarding this Request for Qualifications, or any contract resulting from, until a contract is fully completed, and documents properly submitted and executed by all parties. The City of Buffalo also reserves the right to extend the dates in the timeline set forth in this Request for Qualifications.

The City of Buffalo may, in the event the selected artist fails to negotiate a satisfactory contract or fails to perform, and the contract is terminated within forty-five (45) days of its initiation, request the artist submitting the next best submission of qualifications honor their submission entry. Costs of developing a submission entry are solely the responsibility of the artist. The City of Buffalo shall not provide reimbursement for such costs. The City of Buffalo shall not be liable for any artist's preparation costs for any reason. Submission of an entry shall constitute acceptance of the terms, conditions, criteria, requirements, and evaluations set forth in this Request for Qualifications and operates as an offer and a waiver of any and all objections and Proposer originated modifications to the contents of this Request for Qualifications.

The City of Buffalo reserves the right to reject any submission deemed to be non-responsive for failure to comply fully with the terms of the Request for Qualifications. However, the City of Buffalo reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request clarifications, corrections, or additional information and to waive Irregularities in execution or delivery of the submission provided it is in the best interest of the City of Buffalo. The City of Buffalo reserves the right to amend this "Request for Qualifications" at any time.

RFQ SUBMISSION FORM

CITY OF BUFFALO

Project: Jefferson Avenue Infrastructure Improvements – Public Art

Submission Deadline: May 24, 2024

Section 1. Instructions

1. Fill out this Submission Form for each proposal you are submitting.
2. Attach the following items to the completed Form along with your proposal. See “Request for Qualifications Requirements” page for requirements on the items below:
 - Artist Résumé(s)
 - Past Work
 - Biographical Artwork Statement
3. Submit all materials above according to the directions on the “Submission Instructions” page.

Section 2. Artist/Team Contact Information

Name of Lead Artist: _____

Names of Other Team Members (if applicable): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number: _____ Alt Phone (Optional): _____

Email Address: _____

Would you like to receive communication about future public art opportunities? Yes / No