

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: CALL TO
ARTISTS**

**SCULPTURAL BAT HABITAT FOR BOK TOWER
GARDENS**

LAKE WALES, FLORIDA



Issued: November 30, 2022

Deadline: January 13, 2023 at 11:55PM EST

PlatformArt.org | 120 E. Pine Street #3 Lakeland, FL 33801 | 863.838.2262

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Introduction

Platform Art is seeking an artist or artist team to design, fabricate, and install a dynamic, environmental, site-specific artwork that serves as a functioning habitat for the Florida Bonneted Bat, and other native species living along the Lake Wales Ridge of Central Florida. The habitat will be designed for a specific site at the renowned Bok Tower Gardens. The artist(s) selected for the commission will conceptualize and identify appropriate aesthetic treatments for proposed project elements. The artist(s) must be able to work in collaboration with a Project Team made up of the biologists, architects and artists; and be responsive to representatives from Platform Art and Bok Tower Gardens, the organization responsible for the site, as well as the community.

Project Description and Location

Platform Art, inc. is seeking an artist or artist team with experience creating site-specific environmentally sensitive art installations. Platform Art is seeking artistic excellence and innovation in past artwork, especially in similar settings. Bok Tower Gardens is redesigning and landscaping a section of the Gardens and will incorporate the Bat Habitat as a visual and educational component to the future landscape.

Project Goals

The artwork should be a signature piece for Bok Tower and enhance the physical environment and experience of Garden visitors.

The artwork must be properly scaled to the surroundings.

The materials used must be able to withstand extreme weather.

The artwork should appeal to a mass audience.

The artwork should be structurally sound and require low upkeep and minimal maintenance costs.

Artist Eligibility

Visual, craft or design artists (or artist teams), in all media, including visual, landscape, and architects' designers, at least 18 years of age are eligible to apply with preference towards artists residing and working in Florida.

Submission Deadline & Requirements

All materials must be submitted in PDF file(s) via email to Cynthia Haffey at cynthia@PlatformArt.org no later than January 13, at 11:55 p.m. EST. Large PDFs may be sent via file sharing (Dropbox, Google Drive, etc). There is no submission fee.

Submission should include

- Resume, including any environmental design experience.
- Letter of interest in the project, not more than one page in length.
- 5 to 10 images of completed work, including examples of work similar to the scope of this project.

A list of at least three professional references that have an intimate knowledge of your work and working methods, including addresses, email and telephone.

Optional- The artist may include up to three selections of support materials such as reviews, news articles, and other related information.

Selection Process and Timeline

January 13 at 5 p.m.: Deadline for submissions

February: Finalists selected and schedule project orientation/site visit

March: Finalists present concepts to Selection Committee

March: Selection Committee forwards final artist/design recommendation for approval

To Be Determined: The fabrication and installation schedule for the work will be finalized with the selected artist to best fit their schedule and the construction schedule of the site, with final installation November 2023.

Budget

An honorarium of \$1,000 will be provided to up to 3 finalists to develop preliminary concepts. Upon selection, additional site information will be provided by the City.

The artists budget for this artwork is \$35,000 and is inclusive of all costs associated with the project, including but not limited to: artist expenses, administration, sub-consultants, travel/lodging, conservator assessment, artwork fabrication (including materials, details and specifications), storage, transportation and installation, related permits, licenses, taxes and insurance. Any expenses that exceed the contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility. The artist will be responsible for submitting an artwork maintenance manual upon completion.

Dimensions of Bat Habitat



The Habitat must be no wider than 5 linear feet (per habitat structure); and 8' to 10' high.

Selection Criteria

The artist or artist team will be selected by demonstrating:

Artistic Excellence: The aesthetic significance and quality of the artwork, including the artwork's transformative and distinctive qualities.

Context: Artwork's appropriateness to the surrounding architecture, topography, local history, and community attitudes and concerns of both the residents of the Lake Wales and the surrounding community.

Community Engagement: the ability to lead community engagement sessions during the design process to introduce the artwork.

Durability, Safety and Permanence: The artwork is resistant to weathering and high vehicular traffic as well as structural sustainable. The artwork must be examined for unsafe conditions, materials, or factors, as well as the potential for excessive maintenance.

Technical Feasibility: The artist must provide convincing evidence of his or her ability to complete the artwork as proposed.

Past Performance: The Selections Committee will consider the artist's performance under previous contracts including success in meeting established timelines and budgets.

Cost Feasibility: The Committee will consider the cost feasibility and determine if the project is realistic within the specified project budget.

Once selected, the artist must design and create artwork that:

- is of high artistic quality

- is appropriate to the project site

fits the design aesthetic of Bok Tower Gardens landscape and architectural style (Art Deco, Arts & Crafts)

- is of durable design and uses durable materials

- requires minimal maintenance

- provides maximum resistance to vandalism

- reflects one or more of the project goals identified by the Committee

Questions

Please direct questions to:

Cynthia Haffey, Platform Art, Inc.

Cynthia@PlatformArt.org; 863.838.2262

Florida Bonneted Bat Fact Sheet

- Federal Status: Endangered
- IUCN Status: CR (Critically Endangered)
- The Florida bonneted bat was listed as federally endangered in 2013 because of concerns over habitat loss, degradation, and modification caused by humans. Additional concerns include the species' small population size and restricted range, the small number of known colonies, their slow reproduction, and the relative isolation of separate populations of bonneted bats.
- State's only endemic flying mammal ("Endemic" means that it is found nowhere in the world but in Florida).
- Florida bonneted bats are thought to have a low reproductive capacity, only giving birth to one offspring per breeding season.
- This species may have two breeding seasons each year. Reproduction has been documented during the summer and also during January and February
- Florida bonneted bats have been documented using artificial roosts such as bat houses. The role of artificial roosts in the conservation of this species has not been fully explored.
- Several FWC-managed areas in south Florida have built bat houses to increase roosting site availability for this species.
- Florida bonneted bats are thought to be exceedingly rare, only occurring in a handful of counties in south Florida, and have one of the most restrictive ranges of any bat species in the U.S. To date, only a few bonneted bat nursery roosts have been documented.
- Bonneted bats have been detected foraging in a variety of habitats including semitropical forests with tropical hardwood, pineland, and mangrove habitats, as well as man-made areas such as golf courses and neighborhoods
- They are thought to have unusual roosting habits in that one male will roost with several different females at one time.
- Due to the species' small range, the greatest threats to Florida bonneted bats are loss of habitat, including the destruction of natural roost sites, and natural disasters such as hurricanes since the impact could occur throughout its entire range.
- Little is known about these rare bats. They occur only in southern Florida, with recent confirmation of presence in Miami-Dade, Broward, Collier, Hendry, Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Highlands, De Soto, and Polk Counties.
- These bats roost (sleep during the day) in cavities or beneath peeling bark of live and dead pine trees (*Pinus elliotti*, *P. palustris*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), royal palms (*Roystonea regia*), rock outcrops, bat houses, chimneys, and under barrel roof tiles. They roost alone or in groups of up to 50 individuals.



Site Map

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PROPOSED BAT HOUSE ART STRUCTURE LOCATION

BOK TOWERS • LAKE WALES, FLORIDA

