

## OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC ART PROJECT FOR TOGETHER MESA

The City of Mesa is seeking artists, artist teams, or makers through this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) interested in participating in an inspiring effort to engage the citizens of Mesa in exploring and celebrating diversity in their community/city through participatory temporary public art engagements that will result in a cumulative temporary public art installation at Mesa's new City Hall.

The intention for the Together Mesa public art project is to acknowledge the cultural depth and breadth of our vibrant city. The public art for this opportunity should serve as a beacon to viewers communicating that Mesa is an innovative, welcoming community that places a high value on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

One artist or artist team will be commissioned for this opportunity. Interested artists or artist teams will submit their qualifications in response to this RFQ for review by the selection committee, which will convene to review all submissions received in response to this RFQ and establish a list of three to five finalists to create proposals for further review and consideration. No renderings or concepts are required at this time.

### CITY OF MESA and TOGETHER MESA

The City of Mesa is the third-largest city in Arizona and the 36th-largest city in the United States. The city is home to 504,258 people as of 2020 according to the Census Bureau, which makes it more populous than Minneapolis, St. Louis, or Miami. With many opportunities and settings for learning about the region's rich history or finding new discoveries, Mesa is a city with a variety of experiences to be had. From urban to rural, mountain peak to desert floor, arts and culture to wildlife and nightlife, every resident has access to experiences that take advantage of the many communities that interweave to give Mesa its vibrancy. People from different races, places of origin, languages, faiths, and identities share the values of work, prosperity, and commitment to making Mesa the thriving, growing metropolis it has become. The City's "Together Mesa" initiative sprouts from the values of respect and inclusion and blooms into celebrating our diverse heritage, flourishing present, and prosperous future. More than a program, Together Mesa seeks to collect and showcase the voices that make up our community, fostering the awareness and understanding that strengthens us as a city.

### PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY

The scope for this opportunity is to design an engaging and repeatable temporary public art experience at a city park in each of the city's six Council Districts that will generate content for a cumulative temporary public art installation to be located at Mesa City Hall. The goal for these temporary engagements/events is for Mesa residents to share their cultural diversity in their own communities. The engagement should include an aspect where participants can leave their mark – whether that be a brushstroke, a fingerprint, a word, a line of poetry, an illustration, or however their expression can be captured and used for the cumulative temporary public art installation. This cumulative public art

installation will then be displayed at the new Mesa City Hall slated to open Fall of 2024. This temporary installation at City Hall would remain on view for 6-12 months. Project budget is a maximum of \$75,000.

#### GENERAL ARTIST REQUIREMENTS & SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists or artist teams with experience designing and implementing community-based, participatory temporary public art projects are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants must demonstrate the ability to oversee the design of and provide guidance for six temporary public art engagements and to design, fabricate, install and deinstall one major temporary public art installation — a process that includes making presentations to the public, media interviews, and attending meetings with city staff. Applicants must demonstrate the knowledge of best practices for designing community events, as well as fabrication, site preparation, knowledge of materials, and requirements for installation and deinstallation of temporary artwork.

Applicants' qualifications will be reviewed based on the below evaluation criteria. Failure to include information for any of the evaluation criteria may result in disqualification from evaluation.

RFQ evaluation criteria:

- 30% Quality of art samples
- 20% Artist/Team's experience with community-based temporary public art installations as noted in bio/resume(s)
- 20% Demonstrated ability to complete similar projects on time and on budget as noted by completed projects and years of experience
- 20% Artist/Team's alignment with tenets of Together Mesa as communicated in their statement
- 10% Professional references related to public art

Artists may apply individually or as a team. If applying as a team, each team must designate a team leader who may not change after submittal of the team's response to the RFQ or otherwise during the RFQ process; team changes after selection must be approved by the selection committee.

Artists who apply as a team must demonstrate the qualifications of individual team members as well as the team's overall qualifications to work together on projects and prior experience working as a team.

#### ELIGIBILITY

This RFQ is open to artists and artist teams with experience working in the United States. Arizona artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

#### PROJECT BUDGETS

Artists/Teams selected will be compensated for their work based on a negotiated rate that considers the extent of the art and experience level of the artist/team. Once selected as a finalist, artists/teams will submit an estimate for developing, fabricating, installing, and deinstalling their temporary public art at

the designated sites. Finalists will be compensated \$1000 to develop one to three concepts. Each estimate provided by selected artists/teams must be all-inclusive, covering all expenses associated with the design, fabrication, installation, and deinstallation of the temporary artwork, including insurance, transportation, and other potential costs.

The selected artist or artist team will enter into an artist services agreement with the City of Mesa for the specific project(s) to be completed. Following the execution of a services agreement with the City, which an artist/team must sign after they are selected for a project, the artist or artist team will receive 30% payment up front for their public art, 50% at halfway point, and the remaining balance of 20% once the artwork is completed in accordance with the services agreement and signed off by the City.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The selection committee and City management will have final artist selection and design approval of all public art. Once selected, the selected artist or artist team will meet with the selection committee to discuss expectations, contracts, designs, and compensation for the project.

Proposed Schedule (subject to change):

- Call for Responses opens: March 23, 2023
- Request for Qualifications Responses due: May 15, 2023
- Finalist artists notified by: May 30, 2023
- Concept meetings with artists: Week of June 5, 2023
- Artist concept(s) due: June 30, 2023
- Final decision and notification: July 14, 2023
- Contract finalization, signatures: July 31, 2023
- Design Process: August – September 2023
- Fabrication for Engagements/Events for City Council Districts: September – October 2023
- Approximate Community Event Schedule for City Council Districts:
  - November 9, 2023
  - December 7, 2023
  - February 1, 2024
  - February 15, 2024
  - March 7, 2024
  - March 28, 2024
- Fabrication for Temporary Installation at City Hall: April – August 2024
- Installation of Temporary Project at City Hall: September 2024

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

All artist qualifications must be submitted electronically via Dropbox by Monday, May 15, 2023, at 11:59 PM (Arizona time). Incomplete and late submissions will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered.

Please save your submission as a single PDF (LastName\_FirstInitial.pdf or TeamName.pdf) in the following order:

1. Cover sheet: providing Artist/Team Lead's name and contact information
2. Artist/Team Lead Biography/Resume (Two page maximum) that includes experiences completing temporary public art events/installations in the appropriate medium.
3. Provide a statement (One page maximum) describing why you want to be a part of this project and what you believe to be the hallmarks of a successful project.
4. If applicable, team member names and biographies/resumes (One page maximum for each non-lead member).
5. Examples or samples of previous work: Provide a minimum of seven (7) and maximum of twelve (12) work samples or links to images or videos, as applicable, with a one-page list and description of the examples, including artist name(s), names of artworks or projects, dates, locations, dimensions, and commissioning body.
6. References: Provide a minimum of two (2) professional references from clients involving commissioned installations or related projects. Please include clients' email and phone contacts.
7. OPTIONAL: Artist/Team may include social media handles, websites, video links, or other demonstrated work for additional support.

Submissions should be sent to this electronic mailbox:

Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/re2auy32q94jx7cvfgotu/h?dl=0&rlkey=sloemwlf4uev0mvtcw7kf1gkk>

Applicants are strongly encouraged to retain a complete copy of their submission for their records.

#### OTHER DETAILS

The selected artist/maker/team will be required to show proof of insurance - worker's compensation (if applicable), commercial general liability and automobile - as outlined by the City prior to the execution of the artist services agreement. Image rights will be retained by the artist or artist team with a non-exclusive use agreement granted to the City of Mesa for an unlimited term. The selected artist/maker/team who complete their project will receive marketing exposure in the form of the City's social media and a promotional campaign for Together Mesa.

Commissioned artists, makers, and artist teams must attend meetings with the selection committee and staff involved in Together Mesa to discuss the overall design and timetable for the events and final temporary installation.

Additionally, the artist/maker/team selected may be listed on the city's website, which will highlight public artworks that can be found around the City.

## QUESTIONS

Please contact Kevin Vaughan-Brubaker, Mesa Arts Center, 480-644-6540 or kevin.vaughan-brubaker@mesaaz.gov.

NOTE: As the project is funded by the City of Mesa, the City, independently or through the selection committee, reserves the right to reject any or all submissions or any part thereof; to cancel the RFQ at any time, without notice; to re-issue the RFQ; and to waive minor irregularities, defects, or omissions in a submission. All decisions on compliance, evaluation, terms, and conditions shall be made solely at the selection committee's discretion. Submission of artist/team qualifications does not guarantee a contract with the City nor confer any right to an award. No agreement exists between any person and the city for any material or service until an agreement is executed between the City and the artist.