

## OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC ART PROJECTS FOR NEW MESA CITY HALL

The City of Mesa is seeking artists or artist teams through this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) interested in participating in an exciting effort to enhance the new City Hall building to be located at Mesa City Plaza.

Plans have been developed for a new City Hall building by Mesa firm, Adaptive Architects, with completion expected in fall 2024. Multiple opportunities for public art exist in the building's plans with three of those opportunities represented in this RFQ.

The intention for the City Hall public art projects is to celebrate our vibrant city and boldly announce Mesa as a premier location for people to live, work, and visit. The public art elements of the new City Hall should serve as a beacon to viewers communicating that Mesa is an innovative, welcoming community and authentically enrich the city's sense of place.

This RFQ is for three specific opportunities:

- Vertical interior sculpture
- Outdoor sculpture or series of sculptures
- Digital art to be shown on an interior display screen

One artist or artist team will be commissioned for each of these opportunities. 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

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 its location at Mesa City Plaza, on the corner of Main St and Center St., across from a light rail station and Mesa Arts Center, the new City Hall will be a highly visible and heavily trafficked location in the heart of downtown. Downtown Mesa includes a unique mix of governmental, cultural, professional, commercial, entertainment, and residential activities and buildings. The area continues to attract high-quality professional jobs and residential density in a burgeoning downtown core that supports a combination of special events, festivals, and unique attractions. Notable attractions include cultural assets in addition to the Mesa Arts Center such as, the Arizona Museum of Natural History, the i.d.e.a. Museum, as well as Arizona State University's Sydney Poitier New American Film School and ASU's Media and Immersive eXperience Center. The public art for City Hall will be an exciting addition to the existing public art pieces in downtown consisting of bronzes, murals, and contemporary sculptures, including a Ralph Helmick piece at the Mesa City Plaza light rail station.

## PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES

### Vertical interior sculpture:

The site for this opportunity is an interior planting bed next to a sweeping staircase that rises from ground level. With 26' of available vertical space, a tall, spire-like piece is desired that will be visible at different levels from the staircase and from the outside through the building's exterior glass walls. The piece should also be up lit or contain lighting elements to give it a stunning nighttime presence. Project budget is up to \$250,000.

### Outdoor sculpture or series of sculptures:

An exterior planting bed is the site for this opportunity. The sculpture(s) should aesthetically fit into the xeriscape/native Sonoran Desert plants that will surround the piece(s). With its outdoor location, the piece(s) must be able to withstand the extreme environmental conditions of the area including gusting wind and dust, intense sunlight, and temperatures over 110 degrees Fahrenheit in summer and below freezing in winter. Project budget is up to \$250,000.

### Digital art on interior display screen:

This opportunity consists of commissioning digital content for a 16' x 8' digital LED screen located in the public waiting area of City Hall. The content will be featured as the inaugural piece when City Hall opens and should be exciting, fresh, and cutting edge, while referencing the unique urban and desert environment of Mesa. The piece could be a 15–30-minute loop or have content driven by data visualization relevant to the City of Mesa's strategic initiatives like its Climate Action Plan. Project budget is up to \$100,000 depending on length and complexity.

## GENERAL ARTIST REQUIREMENTS & SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists or artist teams working in sculpture or digital art may apply. Successful applicants must demonstrate the ability to oversee the design, fabrication, and installation of sculptural or digital public art—a process that may include making presentations to the public, media interviews, and attending select events. Sculpture-based applicants must demonstrate the technical knowledge related to best practices for fabrication, site preparation, safety requirements for installation, and durable materials for long-term maintenance. Digital-based applicants must demonstrate the technical knowledge related to best practices for designing and implementing interesting and engaging digital visual art that will have a reasonable lifespan based on current applicable technology.

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:

- 40% Quality of art samples
- 25% Artist/team experience with sculptural or digital installations as noted in bio/resume(s)
- 25% Demonstrated ability to complete projects on time and on budget as noted by completed projects and years of experience
- 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. Budgets for each project will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis based on the estimate provided. Once selected as a finalist, artists/teams will submit an estimate for developing, fabricating, and installing their public art at the designated site. Finalists will be compensated \$1500 develop one to three concepts. Each estimate provided by selected artists/teams must be all-inclusive, covering all expenses associated with the design, fabrication, and installation of the commissioned art, including design development, fabrication, execution, insurance, transportation, maintenance for the first three years after completion, and other potential costs. The estimate should also include an estimation of potential maintenance costs that may be required beyond the first three years.

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: April 18th, 2023
- Request for Qualifications Responses due: June 23rd, 2023
- Finalist artists notified by: July 3rd, 2023
- Site visit/concept meetings with artists: July 20th, 2023
- Artist concept(s) due: August 17th, 2023

- Final decision and notification: September 7th, 2023
- Selection and art direction meeting: September 2023
- Contract finalization, signatures: September 2023
- Design Process: October 2023 – January 2024
- Fabrication: February – August 2024
- Installation: Fall 2024

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

All artist qualifications must be submitted electronically via Dropbox by Friday, June 23rd, 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 – please indicate which of the three opportunities you wish to be considered for: interior sculpture, exterior sculpture, digital content. You can choose one, two, or all three if you have the capability.
2. Artist/Team Lead Biography/Resume (Two page maximum) that includes experiences completing public art in the appropriate medium.
3. Provide a statement 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/request/LhcVNPAr7rnqYE8loWR>

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

## OTHER DETAILS

Artists/Teams 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 artists/teams who complete their project will receive marketing exposure in the form of the City's social media and a promotional campaign for the new City Hall.

Commissioned artists and artist teams must attend meetings with the selection committee to discuss the overall design and timetable for the finished product. Selected artists and artist teams will be required to attend the following if they take place:

- public meetings to share designs for the public art
- unveiling event for the completed project or open house, likely in fall 2024

Additionally, artists/teams 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](mailto: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.