

Request for Qualifications SOUTH GRAND GREAT STREETS SIDEWALK ART

Project Budget: \$30,000
Deadline: April 9, 2010

The City of St. Louis Board of Public Service (BPS), as a result of the South Grand Great Streets Initiative, is seeking an artist or artist team to develop a permanent two-dimensional art project that can be inserted into the reconstructed sidewalk along South Grand Boulevard in St. Louis. The selected artist team may include, but is not limited to, visual artists, graphic designers, writers, and poets. Prior public art experience is helpful, but not required.

The artwork will need to fit into discrete sections of the reconstructed sidewalk. The size, location and dimensions of these sections can be determined by the artist, and will need to be coordinated and finalized prior to construction. The artist will be responsible for the final design, fabrication and installation of the artwork into these discrete sections. Final design specifications will be reviewed by members of the project design team and/or City officials.

The new sidewalks will be constructed with pervious concrete. The artwork inserts can be a non-pervious material, but must be durable and approved by the project team. Possible materials may include colored and/or textured concrete, lithocrete, lithomosaic, mosaic, stone, brick, metal, terrazzo or other materials. The inserts could include imagery, text, poetry and/or designs that reflect life on South Grand. The inserts need to comply with the following:

- Department of Justice Code of Federal Regulations Americans with Disabilities Act Access Guidelines – ADAAG <http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm>
- Public Right-of-Way Access Guidelines – PROWAG (Best Practices) Draft Guidelines - <http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/draft.htm>

The artwork should be designed to have elements on each of the 5+ blocks of the project area, between Arsenal Street on the north and Utah Street on the south.

The goals for the project are to:

- Raise the creative profile of South Grand as viewed by residents and by outsiders.
- Attract visitors to South Grand.
- Reinforce South Grand as a cultural destination by highlighting its distinct identity with a unique and memorable work of art.

Description of South Grand Great Streets Project

The City of St. Louis, as part of the East-West Gateway Council of Governments' Great Streets Initiative, will be converting South Grand Boulevard, between Arsenal and Utah, from four lanes of traffic to three lanes of traffic. The goal of the project is to calm traffic, create a more pedestrian-friendly environment, encourage continued economic development, and incorporate environmentally sound construction approaches.

For more information see www.ewgateway.org/greatstreets/greatstreets.htm.

About the South Grand Neighborhood

The eclectic area between Arsenal and Utah along South Grand has been dubbed the "International Community" of St. Louis. Home to cultural events, convenient services and flourishing shops, South Grand is an affordable, safe and fun place to play, work or live. Where else in the city can you find a vegetarian-friendly café, an award-winning Vietnamese restaurant, a hip wine bar and neighborhood pharmacy all in the same block?

For more information see <http://www.southgrand.org/>.

Scope of Services

The selected artist will work under a design contract with the City of St. Louis Board of Public Service to develop Final designs for sidewalk inserts. Upon approval of the designs, the artist, the Great Streets design team (led by Design Workshop), the selected contractor and BPS will determine the timeline for fabrication and installation of the artwork.

Specifically, the **scope of services** for the selected artist will include but not be limited to:

1. Meet as necessary with design team members and the selected contractor, to understand the scope of the construction project and explore the best approach for installation in regards to timing and method.
2. Based on the outcome of those meetings, prepare a Conceptual Design for public review. The Conceptual Design submission shall include a budget and a schedule for integration with the new sidewalk.
3. Present Conceptual Design to stakeholders and community for review.
4. Revise Conceptual Design as necessary and present Final Conceptual Design to artist selection jury for recommendation to BPS for final approval.
5. Continue to meet with the contractor and construction manager to finalize drawings necessary for work that will be incorporated into the sidewalk.
6. Prepare a Final Design, identify fabricators, and prepare a budget and fabrication schedule adequate for obtaining any necessary permits. Make presentations as necessary to the City and neighborhood stakeholders.

Budget

\$30,000 for the overall project budget, which must include all artists' fees and costs associated with design, fabrication, transportation, insurance, permits, installation and documentation of the artwork.

The three finalists will receive \$500 to develop a proposal for review by the selection committee.

Artist Identification and Selection Approach

This is an open call to artists limited to practicing artists in Missouri and Illinois.

A selection committee consisting of 5-7 South Grand stakeholders including representatives from the Community Improvement District, residents, and local artists and arts professionals will be convened to select an artist for the project. Representatives from the Great Streets project team, from the City's Board of Public Service and East-West Gateway will be invited to participate as non-voting members.

The committee will review qualifications and select up to three artists as finalists. The three finalists will be paid a \$500 honorarium to develop a design concept. The committee will reconvene to review the finalist's concepts and select one for the corridor. The committee's recommendation will go to BPS for approval.

The selected artist will hold a contract with BPS for the Conceptual Design, Final Schematic Design, fabrication and installation of the artwork.

Selection Criteria

The selection committee will review artist qualifications and make selections based upon the following criteria:

- Quality and originality of completed art projects as shown in examples, including ability to develop a project that is site-specific.
- Demonstrated understanding of the project and ability to create an artwork that responds to the goals of the project.
- Ability to collaborate with other design professions in an efficient and effective manner, particularly in regard to fixed budgets and tight timelines.
- Ability to engage a wide audience through the visual integrity of the work.
- Proven ability to create works of art that meet the goals of the project.

Submission Requirements (Design proposals are NOT accepted at this stage.)

- A typed **Letter of Intent** with a brief description of how you would approach this project and an introduction of your team members, if applicable. The letter should also describe how this project relates to your past work and why you are interested in working on it. This letter should not exceed two pages.
- Current artistic **Resume**, no longer than three pages, highlighting experience with site-specific work and/or commissioned work.
- Up to **10 DIGITAL images** of previous artwork. Digital images should be submitted on a CD-R and submitted as jpgs. Submit only "High" quality jpgs (do not use gifs, tiffs or other formats). Each file must be less than 3 MB and labeled with a number indicating the viewing order, followed by the artist's last name. The numbers must correspond to the accompanying Image List. Example: 01_Jones; 02_Jones. If using Mac OS 8 or 9 include a ".jpg" extension at the end of each image. Example: 01_Jones.jpg. All images will be viewed on PCs, not Macs. Do not embed images into PowerPoint or submit moving image or audio files.
- A corresponding **Image List** with image number, title, medium, dimensions, brief description, date of work and budget or price.
- The names of three **References** with current contact information including phone numbers and email addresses.

Artist Selection Schedule (Dates to change based upon issuance of RFQ)

Issue call to artists/RFQ	March 26, 2010
Qualifications due	April 9, 2010
Committee selects finalists	April 16, 2010
Finalist proposals due	May 28, 2010
Committee selects artist	June 8, 2010
MoDOT review and approval of Artist Contract	June 30, 2010
Artist coordinates design integration with City and Contractor	July 31, 2010
Artist finalizes design	August 31, 2010
Fabrication	September - dependent on construction schedule
Installation	dependent on construction schedule

Questions?

Contact Via Partnership
art@viapartnership.com or (314) 664-5902

Mail or Hand Deliver Statement of Qualifications by April 9 to:

Bette Behan
Room 301 City Hall
1200 Market Street
Saint Louis, MO 63103