

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE SEEKS AN ARTIST(S) TO CREATE ARTWORK FOR THE SOFFIT WALL AT THE LOBBY ENTRANCE OF VERMONT CORRIDOR BUILDING

Project Budget: \$125,000
Project Location: 510 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020-1912

DATE ISSUED: July 25, 2019

DUE DATE: September 20, 2019



Figure 1: 510 South Vermont Entrance View

OVERVIEW

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture Civic Art Program seeks artist(s) or artist team(s) to design an indoor two-dimensional artwork for the entrance lobby of the Vermont Corridor Building, a new facility for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS). The artwork will be located on the soffit wall [Figure 2] located at the Vermont Avenue entrance to the building, which measures 12'8" high x 54' wide.

This civic art project coincides with a series of structural and architectural transformations of several County buildings and properties into modern facilities that will serve the public in ways that revitalize communities, improve services, and support a welcoming environment for a department whose core mission centers around hope, recovery, and well-being.

Civic Art Program

The Vermont Corridor is a major project which spans 5 County-owned properties in the Koreatown area of LA. The purpose of this project is to expedite the elimination of blight, provide DMH and WDACS with a new headquarters facility, offer job opportunities for residents, and provide expansion opportunities for local and/or small businesses.

Project completion is anticipated for June 2021.

GOALS OF THE ARTWORK

Both visitors and staff will utilize the Vermont Avenue entrance, which is the main presence along Vermont Avenue. The lobby will serve as both a lobby entrance with a hospitality feel and as a respite for the homeless population by offering a resting place access to resources and specialists, etc. The area will be equipped with tables and chairs, a small reception area and adjacent rooms for some support services. The artwork should add to a safe and therapeutic environment, a welcoming harbor. The artwork design should be site-specific informed by the nature of the neighborhood, facility and specifically with the services that this facility provides.

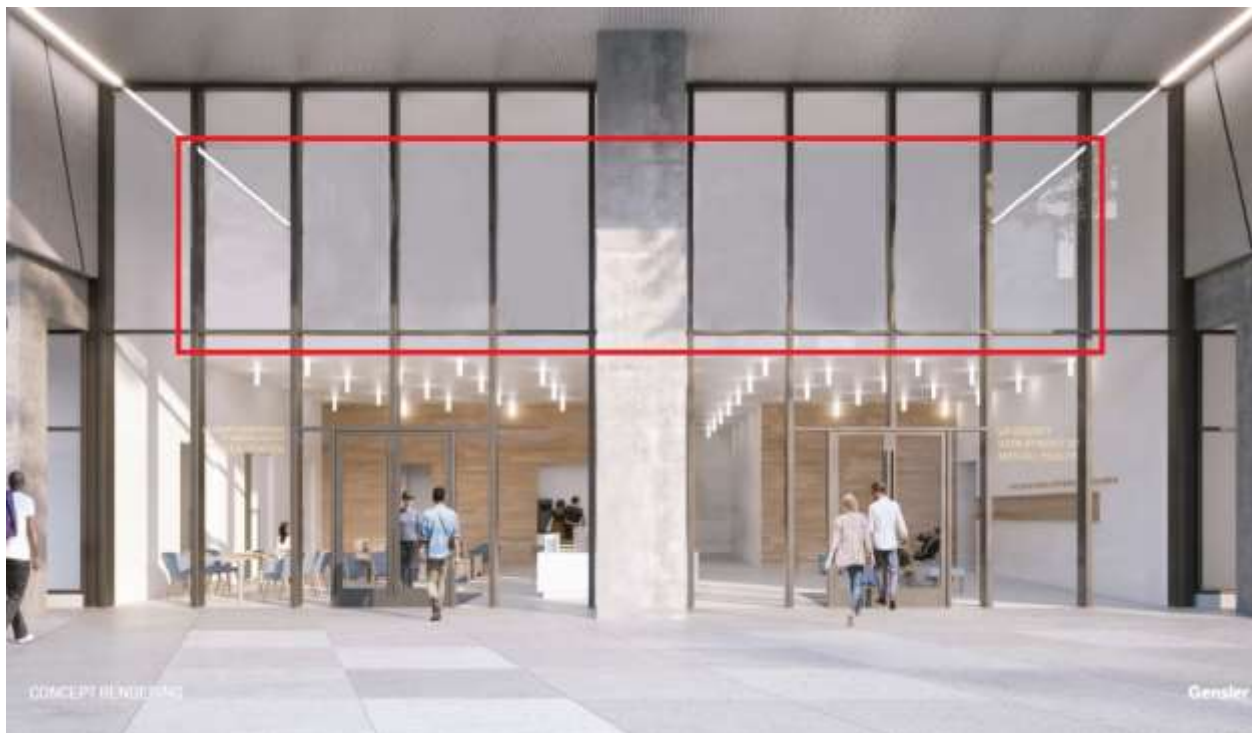


Figure 2: Soffit Wall at 510 South Vermont entrance

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Mission

The mission of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health is to optimize the hope, wellbeing and life trajectory of Los Angeles County's most vulnerable through access to care and resources that promote not only independence and personal recovery but also connectedness and community reintegration.



Civic Art Program

Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) Mission

The mission of the Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services (WDACS) is to connect communities and improve the lives of all generations in Los Angeles County. We achieve our mission through effective, partnership-driven services and initiatives that:

- Connect individuals to careers and employers to a skilled workforce
- Ensure the well-being of older and dependent adults in the community
- Resolve conflict and improve human relations in our diverse County

BUDGET

Artists must create the artwork within an all-inclusive budget of \$125,000, which includes all costs associated with the design, fabrication, delivery, and installation of the artwork. The artist fee includes design, fabrication supervision, installation verification, artist travel, administration, and liability insurance.

ELIGIBILITY

This commission is open to all professional artists residing or working in the United States. To grow a diverse collection, artists who have artwork in the Los Angeles County’s Civic Art Collection will not be eligible unless this project has a higher budget than the previously commissioned project.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| July 25, 2019 | RFQ Issued |
| August 14, 2019, 6:30pm | Optional Technical Assistance Workshop |
| September 20, 2019 | Deadline for RFQ Submissions 5:00 pm PST/ 6:00 MST |
| October, 2019 | PCC Meeting, (3-4) Artists Shortlisted to Develop Proposal |
| January, 2020 | PCC Meeting to select Finalists/Proposal |
| February, 2019-March, 2020 | Artwork Design |
| May, 2020-January, 2021 | Fabrication |
| April, 2021 | Artwork Installation Complete |

RFQ PROCESS WORKSHOP (OPTIONAL)

Potential applicants are invited to discuss the RFQ opportunity and process with the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture Civic Art Program at the August 14th Artists’ Technical Assistance Workshop. This workshop will cover the application process and specific questions about this and other current Arts and Culture RFQs. Questions and answers discussed in the workshop will be posted publicly on the Department of Arts and Culture website.

Date and time: AUGUST 14, 2019, 6:30-7:30pm

Location: Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture
1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 800, LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

RSVP: Workshop RSVP required by AUGUST 12 at 5:00 pm
Please RSVP to CivicArt@arts.lacounty.gov

SUBJECT LINE: Artists’ Civic Art Application Process Workshop RSVP



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TO APPLY

Applications must be received via Dropbox **link** (not shared files or folders) to clerch@arts.lacounty.gov no later than **Friday, September 20, 2019, 5:00PM PST**. Any application materials received after this date and time will be rejected and considered non-responsive.

Dropbox Link Instructions:

1. Sign in to dropbox.com, or sign up for an account if this is your first time using Dropbox.
2. Create a folder using the following naming convention "FirstInitialLastName-Application" (example: CLerch-Application). If you are applying as a firm, use your firm's design instead of FirstInitialLastName (example: Arts&Culture-Application).
3. Upload the files per our application materials guidelines.
4. Once you have created your folder and uploaded your application materials, share viewing privileges with the Department of Arts and Culture by hovering your cursor over the folder you want to share and click "Share."
5. The next prompt or pop up screen will ask if you want to create a link (if you haven't already designated your folder from the start as a "Shared Folder"). If a link hasn't been created, click "Create a link." If a link was already created click "Copy link."
6. The link will be copied to your clipboard. You can then paste it to the body of an email addressed to civicart@arts.lacounty.gov.

Include in your application packet the following:

1. A Letter of Interest stating:

- Why this project interests you.
- How will you be able to engage and welcome different audiences, such as facility users, visitors and staff?
- Briefly describe your artistic practice, your sources of inspiration and your methods for developing high quality, innovative and timelessly meaningful artwork.
- What is your experience in managing budget of similar scale and working within time constraints?

Only applications that specifically address these points will be considered.

2. Résumé including name, mailing address, phone number(s), fax, email and web page (if applicable). Résumé should not exceed three (3) pages.

3. Provide Five (5) to ten (10) images or video clips of your work – maximum of ten (10) work examples allowed:

- Submit digital images in JPEG format, PC compatible no larger than 1920 X 1920 pixel resolution (do not zip or stuff your files).
- Title each image with artist's name and a number – for example 01JaneJones, 02JaneJones.
- Do not insert multiple photos into one image.

Only five (5) to ten (10) examples of your work are allowed. Anything that exceeds this amount will not be reviewed.

4. Include a list of images submitted, with thumbnails of each image that includes:

- Title, date, medium and dimension;
- Location of artwork;



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- Brief description (maximum 100 characters);
- Budget; and
- Commissioning agency or client, and project manager, if applicable.

5. Three professional references, with title, phone and email addresses included.

As an alternative, you may send materials to the address listed below:

Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture
 Civic Art Program
 ATTN: VERMONT CORRIDOR PROJECT/Caroline Lerch
 1055 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800
 Los Angeles, CA 90017

For questions, please contact Caroline Lerch, Senior Project Manager of Civic Art, at 213-202-5941 or at clerch@arts.lacounty.gov with subject: VERMONT CORRIDOR. For additional information about the Civic Art Program, please visit the Civic Art Program online at www.lacountyarts.org/civicart.htm.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture Civic Art program strives to create artworks which reflect aesthetic and technical quality, innovation, site-specificity and civic engagement. To ensure that the artwork meets the expectations of staff, neighborhood residents, and other stakeholders, the selected artist or artist team will be required to participate in a rigorous design process. This process includes place-based research through creative public engagement, regular site visits and design meetings, conservator review, structural engineering, budget tracking and timeline management.

Artists will be selected on the basis of their qualifications, as demonstrated by the quality of their past work and suitability of their artistic expression for this particular site. Artist applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

| Artwork & Design Criteria | |
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| Form | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually engaging, contextually responsive to the community and timeless. • Ability to develop high quality, innovative and meaningful artwork. • Creates a sense of “place.” • Design which connects/articulates architectural form, massing and detailing. • Integrate art in the fabric of the design. |
| Function | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the programmatic requirements efficiently and creatively. • Adds value beyond the expectations of the program without increase in cost. • Provides a safe and productive workplace • Artwork that is durable, operationally efficient, easily maintainable and has low operational cost. |
| Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate impacts to surrounding environment. • Artwork which contextually responds positively to the site conditions and to environmental policies. |
| Technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artist has demonstrated ability to quickly ascertain project requirements, work with difficult materials, restricted site conditions and strict technical constraints. |
| Process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability of the artist or artist team to successfully execute the project within the project timeline and budget. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability of the artist or artist team to manage the design phase effectively to assure high quality design. • Artist or artist team has demonstrated ability to work with a government agency, designers, and technical staff. |
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Only artists who meet these criteria should apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

Up to four artists will be short-listed for interviews (and to develop paid proposals) based on the qualifications and criteria listed in this artist call. A finalist/artwork proposal will be selected from a short presentation and interview. A unique Project Coordination Committee (PCC) has been assembled for this civic art commission. The PCC reviews artist applications, conducts finalist interviews, selects the artist (or artist team), and reviews the project from design development through artwork installation. The PCC is composed of three to five representatives from applicable County departments and arts professionals. The Civic Art program staff serves as non-voting advisors to the PCC and facilitates the selection process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions about the Vermont Corridor RFQ please contact Caroline Lerch, Civic Art Project Manager, at 213-202-5941 or clerch@arts.lacounty.gov. For additional information about the Civic Art Program, please visit the Civic Art Program online at www.lacountyarts.org/civkart.htm.

- *Do not send original artwork.*
- *Late applications will not be considered.*
- *If artists are applying as a team, the team must be declared at the time of application in the letter of interest. Include resumes for all team members with application. Please submit up to 5 images per team, not per artist.*
- *While every effort will be made to carefully handle applications, the Department of Arts and Culture cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged materials.*
- *The Department of Arts and Culture reserves the right to accept or reject any and all responses received, or commission an artist through another process.*
- *All artists who submit their materials for review will receive written notification of the results of the selection process, including identification of the selected artist(s).*
- *The Department of Arts and Culture on occasion shares mailing lists with other public art agencies.*
- *This Request for Qualifications does not constitute an offer to contract or a promise for remuneration, recognition, or any other thing. Submission of any materials in response to this request for qualifications will not constitute an express or implied contract. The information contained and/or any program or event described herein may be changed, amended, modified, canceled, revoked or abandoned without notice at any time and for any reason in the sole discretion of the Department of Arts and Culture or the County of Los Angeles.*
- *Artists will not be eligible for more than two county projects at any given time.*
- *Priority will be given to artists who have no prior commission of relative or greater budget with the Los Angeles County Civic Art Program.*
- *If artwork proposal and/or design are selected, artist will be required to enter into a contract with the County of Los Angeles. Because the artwork will be located on public property, and because the County of Los Angeles is a public entity subject to laws, rules and regulations which are not necessarily applicable to private persons or companies, the Department of Arts and Culture has prepared a form agreement for use in connection with artwork commissioned for the Civic Art Program. A copy of the form agreement can be found on the Department of Arts and Culture's website, at www.lacountyarts.org/civkart_opportunities.htm. If artist is selected, the artist*



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acknowledges that he/she is willing and able to enter into a contract in the form made available on the Department of Arts and Culture website. The Department of Arts and Culture reserves the right to revise or change its form agreement at any time, for any reason, and to require artists to use the revised form for contracting purposes.