

I. REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS IN PUBLIC ART

West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) seeks Statements of Qualifications from professional visual artists or artist teams for the project described below. The selected artists will contract directly with Paducah Junior College Inc., the charitable foundation operating in support of WKCTC, to prepare a design proposal, plan, and budget for an interactive art park on the campus of Paducah School of Art and Design.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) provides information on the scope of the project and information to aid in preparing responses to this RFQ. All inquiries regarding this Project and RFQ must be in writing and must be submitted to the Project Manager listed below in sufficient time to allow WKCTC to respond.

WKCTC reserves the right to waive any or all formalities and to reject any or all responses if it determines it is in its best interest to do so.

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project: Paducah School of Art and Design (PSAD) Interactive Art Park

Project Description: West Kentucky Community and Technical College, in partnership with the City of Paducah, KY, has received a creative placemaking Our Town Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the design of an interactive art park on its Paducah School of Art and Design campus in downtown Paducah, Kentucky. This RFQ seeks artist qualifications to allow selection of five artists or artist teams to submit design proposals and plans for the park. In developing their proposals, selected artists will work with a regional engineering firm secured by WKCTC to create a plan and budget to include all lighting needs, signage, foundation or other structural needs, design fees, material costs, labor for fabrication and installation, and all necessary costs involving planning, completion, delivery, and installation of the project. It is the responsibility of the artist to budget accordingly. All travel costs are the responsibility of the selected artists or artist teams, including in-person presentations to be made in Paducah. Dependent upon Board approval, Paducah Junior College Foundation will seek to raise funds to award the winning artist or artist team a future contract for implementation with a maximum budget of \$325,000. A timetable for implementation has not been established.

The project site is adjacent to PSAD's 2D and Graphic Design Building (905 Harrison Street), a LEEDS Certified historic property, so considerations should be made for environmental factors and sustainability. The park should encourage gathering, communication, and occupation of exterior spaces by students and the community. The site is highly visible from Martin Luther King Boulevard and presents an opportunity to not only enhance the PSAD campus but to create a landmark point of entry for vehicle traffic heading into historic downtown Paducah. Due to its bordering a busy roadway, considerations should be made for safety along Martin Luther King Boulevard. Access to the park will be via an adjacent 60 vehicle parking lot serving the 2D and Graphic Design Building. Public restrooms and water fountains will be available within the building. Safety is imperative; durable, low-maintenance materials are recommended. Water features are highly discouraged. In order to be

considered, submissions must comply with the requirements outlined in this document. Images of the site are available online at PaducahSchoolofArtandDesign.org.

Design Proposal Stipend: Five finalists will receive a stipend of \$5,000 each, with 50% paid upon selection and the balance paid upon presentation of a design proposal, budget, fully realized plan, and a site model.

Project Managers: Paul Aho, Director of Paducah School of Art and Design, paul.aho@kctcs.edu
David Heflin, Vice President of Academic Affairs, WKCTC, david.heflin@kctcs.edu
Britton Shurley, Dean of Humanities, Fine Arts, Business and Social Science, britton.shurley@kctcs.edu

III. BACKGROUND

West Kentucky Community and Technical College's (WKCTC) Paducah School of Art and Design offers an Associate in Fine Arts degree in Visual Art and an Associate in Applied Science degree and certificate programs in Visual Communication: Multimedia, as well as studio art classes for students of all levels and disciplines. Classes are offered on WKCTC's campus; at 905 Harrison Street; and at 919 Madison Street.

WKCTC is one of sixteen community colleges within the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). WKCTC has been recognized four-consecutive times by The Aspen Institute as one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation for providing students with strong job training and continuing higher education opportunity, for achieving high completion and transfer rates, and for providing strong employment results for its graduates.

While it is certain that each of the sixteen colleges within KCTCS has a lively relationship with art and the artists within its service region, WKCTC is undeniably a flagship institution in this regard. Located in Paducah, Kentucky, the College serves a broad and diverse region that also benefits from an active and highly developed cultural infrastructure. With the 2016 completion of Paducah School of Art and Design, a \$14M, 46,300 square foot campus expansion supporting visual arts education, WKCTC not only builds on its history of offering Kentucky's first Associate in Fine Arts Degree in Visual Arts, but also significantly contributes to the region's identity and stability as an arts community and cultural destination.

Paducah itself is internationally recognized for its Artist Relocation Program, a city initiative that brought artists from across the country to Paducah and close to \$40M in capital improvements to properties in what is now the historic Lower Town Arts District. Building upon the success of the Artist Relocation Program; the presence and programs of the National Quilt Museum; and the promise of a world-class art school, Paducah also achieved international recognition as a member of UNESCO's Creative City Network through designation as a Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art, one of only three in America and seven in the world at the time of its designation in 2013.

On a national level, Paducah has also been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of its Dozen Distinctive Destinations and as a Kentucky Cultural District by the Kentucky Arts Council in 2011. It also won the National Main Street award in 2010.

These various honors reflect the importance placed upon arts and culture in the region and as an economic driver by the Paducah Economic Development (PED) agency, Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, and McCracken County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Each of these agencies has recognized the role of the arts and culture to economic development and tourism in the region. PED is finalizing *Paducah Forward*, a regional economic development plan that places the arts among other regional industries central to Paducah's success.

The number of cultural institutions providing exceptional year-round programs in Paducah is truly remarkable for a city of its size. Among them are the Carson Center for the Performing Arts; Market House Theatre; National Quilt Museum; Yeiser Art Center; River Discovery Center; Maiden Alley Cinema; and the College's own Clemens Fine Art Center and Paducah School of Art and Design. Also based in Paducah are the Paducah Symphony Orchestra and American Quilter's Society. Paducah's riverfront boasts a collection of 50 flood wall murals by muralist Robert Dafford, and the historic Lower Town Arts District hosts a collection of studios and galleries open to the public.

IV. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS For RFQ

Any response received after the closing time will be disqualified. All materials required for the Request for Qualifications should be submitted online at publicartist.org. No mailed submissions will be accepted.

Schedule Information: All inquiries must be in writing and received by December 14, 2018. Responses to Inquiries will be made individually in writing by December 19, 2018. Qualifications are due by 3:00 PM, CDT, January 3, 2019. Finalist(s) will be selected and notified in February 2019. Finalist(s) design presentations will be hosted May 2019. The date of commission award to begin implementation is yet to be determined. WKCTC reserves the right to modify this schedule as required.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All artists responding to this Request for Qualifications must submit complete responses to the information required in this section and make note of any exceptions to any information required in the RFQ. **Submit all required materials by email via wettransfer.com to paul.aho@kctcs.edu, no later than 3:00 p.m., January 3, 2019.**

Responses will be evaluated based upon the selection criteria listed below. Respondents should present the required information in a clear and concise manner in the following order and format:

- Artist Resume (2 pages) • Include degrees held, a summary list of exhibitions/public art projects completed, awards, catalogues, current gallery affiliations, and grants/fellowships.
- Digital Images of previous work featuring select examples of public art projects with particular emphasis on works of a similar scope or utilizing similar techniques (5 – 15). Please closely observe the following guidelines for the submittal of digital images:. Include the artist name, the year, location, media, and budget of featured artwork. Describe the project concept in one to two sentences maximum.

- Artist Statement (limit 500 words): Please describe the conceptual basis for your body of work as a whole. In a separate paragraph, please explain your experience working with architectural, engineering, and design specifications and drawings (limit to 500 words).
- Letter of Interest (limit 500 words): Please describe your initial impressions of and projected approach to this public art project, including any projects for which you created works similar in scope and context.
- References (3 required): Include phone numbers and email addresses for at least three (3) professional references.

Each of the five selected artists or artist teams shall be responsible for the following:

1. Submitting to WKCTC detailed working drawings, a project budget, and a site model of the proposed design plan in order to permit WKCTC to carry out architectural and engineering design reviews and to certify the compliance of the plan with applicable statutes and ordinances.
2. Making in-person presentations to the PSAD Art Park Selection Committee.
3. The artists' designs should enhance the site's identity and use as a community asset.

V. EVALUATION CRITERIA

WKCTC will select five artists or artist teams who best meet the stated requirements, based on the information contained in their response to the Request for Qualifications, any reference checks conducted, and the information presented during any interviews conducted as part of the selection process.

Specifically, in the selection of finalists, West Kentucky Community and Technical College will review and consider the following:

1. The conceptual basis for the artist's or artist team's body of work as defined in the written statement.
2. The quality – technical and aesthetic – of past work as represented in the image submissions.
3. The experience of the artist, or artist team, in successfully designing, fabricating, administering, and completing public art projects and/or custom architectural elements on time and in budget.
4. The artist's or artist teams, training and education.
5. The quality and comprehensiveness of the submission package.

After evaluating the submissions, WKCTC will narrow the pool of applicants to five finalists to develop a design, budget, and model for presentation to the PSAD Art Park Selection Committee. Each finalist will be paid a stipend of \$5000 (50% upon selection and the balance upon presentation as stated above under Design Proposal Stipend) for the development of their design proposal and to facilitate travel for the presentation. The model will not be returned to the artist if they are selected. The Design

Proposals will be subject to review and acceptance by the President of WKCTC and the Paducah Junior College Foundation.

VI. PROCUREMENT PROCESS

This RFQ complies with all state rules and Paducah Junior College Inc. policies. Address any questions and/or concerns about the process or any awards made from it to: Mr. Shay Nolan, vice-president of operations, West Kentucky Community and Technical College,
Phone: (270) 534-3089,
E-mail: shay.nolan@kctcs.edu

VII. THE COMMITTEE

Artists' submissions will be reviewed and final selections will be made by a committee appointed by West Kentucky Community and Technical College. The committee for this project will include WKCTC faculty and staff, including those who will be using the building, community members, artists, architecture and construction project managers, a City of Paducah representative, and a Paducah Junior College Foundation Board Member.

If you have any questions about the project or need more information on the selection process, please contact: Paul Aho, Director of Paducah School of Art and Design. 270.534.3902; paul.aho@kctcs.edu

Finalist application materials will become the property of West Kentucky Community and Technical College.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident and a minimum of 18 years of age.
- Applicant must demonstrate previous experience and expertise through a supporting portfolio submission (resume and images of current or previous work).
- Applicant must be willing to meet project deadlines.
- Applicant must be willing to travel to Paducah for presentations if selected as a finalist.