

Light-based Public Art Project Call for Artist Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2018/2019

The Madison Arts Council (MAC), in partnership with the City of Madison, seeks an artist interested in creating a three-dimensional light-based sculpture.

Opportunity and project description:

MAC is seeking an artist to create a three-dimensional light-based sculpture for a grassy area near the VFW and the Flags of Honor monument on the corner of Highways 40 and 75 in Madison, Minnesota. We have received approval from the city council to utilize this space for a permanent work of public art.

This light-based sculpture should utilize solar power and LED technology. The sculpture should utilize light as part of the sculpture as well as be interesting during the daylight hours.

Please note that landscaping and site modifications may be considered by MAC either as part of the project or to enhance the public art or overall location.

The theme and goals of this project are:

- The art will help our community celebrate rural life. Possible themes are prairie, farming, small towns, nature and wildlife.
- The sculpture must be visually appealing and be highly visible at night.
- The work should promote a sense of calm and peacefulness.
- While a portion of the site is visited by veterans and their families (among others), we are not looking for a military or memorial project. As a placemaking opportunity, the artist should take into account this important contextual consideration.
- The project will hopefully help inspire interest in adding more art to the area in the future.

Area without flags. This will be be what the area looks like most of the year. View is from side street.



Area with flags. Flags are put up four to six times per year. View is from Highway 40.





Jubilee
Grocery Store

Veterans of
Foreign Wars
(VFW)

Hwy 75

Flags of
Honor area

Public Art

Hwy 40

Farm Service
Building

Post Office

Sculptors from throughout the United States are eligible, however there are minimal travel reimbursement funds.

We are not looking for a full proposal at this time, but a letter of interest that briefly identifies how you will meet the following project goals:

- The end project must be unique and of a high artistic quality.
- The artist chosen should have experience with multiple outdoor sculpture projects and demonstrate an ability to incorporate the themes and goals into the sculpture.
- Ideally, the project will include a community participation component. Examples include inviting the schools to come watch as artwork is being created, offering interviews while creating the project, or attending public events hosted by MAC.

Selection process

This RFQ will be reviewed by a committee made up of volunteers from MAC. A group of three finalists will be selected and each paid \$500 to prepare drawings of the proposed sculpture and provide a detailed budget.

The three finalists will have approximately seven weeks to complete drawings, budget and a full project description. The finalists will present their proposal to the committee on January 7th between 4-7 pm in Madison, either in person or via Skype/google chat. A travel stipend of \$100 is available.

One sculpture concept will be selected, and a project grant will be written by March 20, 2019 to underwrite the cost of the project. The proposed project start date is June 1, 2019, assuming funding is secured.

Our goal is to complete the sculpture by October 1, 2019. This timeline will be discussed with the selected artist.

Selection Criteria:

Our criteria in selecting an artist to create a full-scale proposal will be:

- Artistic quality of work samples submitted.
- Experience and ability to complete project based on prior projects.
- Durability of materials used.
- Cost effectiveness.

Budget:

We intend to fundraise up to \$32,000 for this light-based sculpture. We currently have funding to solicit proposals but not for implementation. The selected project proposal will allow us to fundraise and write grants. The MAC committee will be responsible for fundraising.

Submission materials:

1) Letter of interest (2-page limit)

- a) Briefly outline why you want to create a light-based sculpture for Madison.
- b) Briefly explain how you intend approach the process.
- c) Briefly outline your experience with sculpture projects.
- d) Briefly outline materials used and durability of these materials.

2) Three References (contact information only)

3) Up to 10 Work Samples in electronic format (PDF or JPEG format)

Digital images CD, DVD or via Dropbox, Dimensions: 1920 x 1920 pixels, File Format: Save all images as a Standard JPEG. File Size: JPEGs must be under 1.8 MB

4) Work Sample description (1-page limit)

Please include the following information for each piece:

Name, Title, Medium, Year, Budget information and a brief description of the project.

5) Contact information

Timeline:

October 23:	Request for Qualifications due
October 29:	Three artist selected to prepare full proposal with design concepts and budget.
October 31:	Artists notified, and contracts written
November 12:	Contracts approved by the city council
January 4:	Full proposals due
January 7:	Interviews with three artists
January 10:	Artists notified of committee decision

(all dates are subject to change)

All materials should be sent electronically to: Kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.org

Large documents can be shared via Dropbox or sent to: Kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.info

Questions: Kristi Fernholz, 320-289-1981x106 Kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.org

Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission
323 W Schlieman Ave., Appleton, MN 56208

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

