



Project Description

Plymouth Housing and the Rainier & King Plaza Committee invite artists to submit qualifications to develop a site-integrated, community-based public art piece to be located in the plaza at the southwest corner of Rainier and King Street, outside 501 Rainier Ave South, Seattle WA 98144. This 3D art piece will sit at the edge of the plaza at the front entry of the future apartment building, which will therefore benefit residents of the building as well as the surrounding neighborhood and passersby. The committee hopes that this art piece will serve as a welcoming element to both the plaza itself and the entrance to the Little Saigon neighborhood from the East.

The committee is interested in proposals that include and are not limited to: 3D installation, sculpture, and kinetic elements.

Project Background

Plymouth Housing builds and manages permanent supportive housing for individuals who have experienced long-term homelessness. Plymouth is invested in not only serving the individuals who live in our housing, but also being an asset to the community surrounding our buildings. The plaza on the corner provides one opportunity to engage with the neighborhood by creating a welcoming space enlivened by art chosen by a community committee and by an artist who is connected to the Little Saigon/CID neighborhood.

The Plaza Design Committee is interested in art that complements existing neighborhood art pieces:



We are also interested in incorporating the surrounding environment through elements such as wind or sound. Some examples include wind chimes, bells, or other pieces that have moving parts. The intention of this priority is to allow for interaction both with the environment and with passersby in the community.

Specific goals of the committee include:

- A welcoming environment
- Connection to the natural world
- Connection to the history of the area

Some themes of interest to the committee:

- Animal imagery (see above images)
- Water imagery
- Historical images (references to relevant people and/or places)

Cultural and Historical Significance of the Site

As mentioned above, the site is on the border of the Little Saigon neighborhood, part of the Chinatown-International District of Seattle. The site is also the former location of Linc's Tackle Shop, a Japanese family-owned business for over 60 years. It is important to the design committee that artists submitting qualifications can demonstrate a connection to the Vietnamese and/or Japanese heritage associated with the area, or connection to the greater Chinatown-International District area.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

We are seeking a person or team who meet the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience with public art.
- Aesthetic excellence in the design and execution of completed projects.
- Ability to design, fabricate, install and/or oversee the fabrication and installation of commissioned work.
- Ability to understand and incorporate the cultural and historical context of the Chinatown-International District neighborhood.

- Experience with kinetic or interactive design and construction.
- Consider the physical constraints of the site, installation permitting requirements, and resistance to vandalism.
- Engage community at least in the conceptual phase of the design.
- Ability to work with an existing steering committee comprised of community stakeholders.

Selection Process

- Plymouth will review qualifications to ensure they meet the above criteria.
- Relevant qualifications will be passed on to the design committee for ranking & selection.
- Up to three artists will be chosen to participate in a design proposal for the site.

Project Timeline

Phase 1 – Artist Search

Jan. 31: Deadline for submission of artist qualifications

Feb. 15: Steering Committee selects 2-3 finalists

Mar. 15: Finalists submit design proposals to Steering Committee for review

Apr. 1: Final artist selected via evaluation rubric; artists notified with committee and public feedback

Phase 2 – Design Development: Spring 2019

Phase 3 – Production and Installation: Summer 2019 – Early 2020

Phase 4 – Unveiling/Opening Celebration: At building opening, April 2020

How to Apply

This is a request for qualifications. No specific proposals for artwork will be accepted at this time. Applications must include all of the following for consideration:

- Artist’s statement of interest, considering the cultural and historical context of the site (1 page)
- Digital materials of previous artworks, as a pdf attachment via e-mail or provide link to website or portfolio (5 to 10 images with a max size of 2MB 72dpi)
- Resume(s) of artist(s)
- Three professional references
- Self-addressed stamped envelope for return of materials (if sending physical materials)

Email qualifications to Bo Scarim at bscarim@plymouthhousing.org using subject line, “Rainier & King Plaza RFQ.”

Mail qualifications to:

Plymouth Housing
 Attn: Bo Scarim
 2113 3rd Avenue
 Seattle, WA 98121