



DEADLINE EXTENDED: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from interested artists

Images: Minimum 5; Maximum 10

Entry Deadline: June 15, 2023

Budget: \$14,500

The Mount Vernon Area Arts Council (MVAAC) is seeking qualifications from artists for a three-dimensional artwork to be installed as the first step in the creation of a sculpture trail.

Background: The Mount Vernon Area Arts Council is partnering with the City of Mount Vernon, IA, to create a sculpture trail along an existing walking path in Mount Vernon. The trail runs along Hahn Creek for approximately a quarter mile and intersects the route of the old Lincoln Highway. The path is concrete and lighted by reproductions of old-fashioned streetlamps. The land is owned by the City of Mount Vernon and is part of its park system.

Description of Opportunity Project Goals: The selected artist(s) will create or offer a three-dimensional piece which will serve as the anchor of a multi-piece, multi-year installation.

The artwork will be site specific but is not limited to a particular medium. Artwork will be installed outside and must be able to withstand the elements for years to come. Prospective artists are encouraged to view the space. The initial sculpture site is visible from the city's main street. Foot traffic visitors can park adjacent to the trail for easy access from either Nature Park or the First Street Community Center.

The artwork must follow city ordinances. Most notably, any lighting must be downward direction. If the artwork requires site preparation (concrete base, etc.), the artist will work with the City of Mount Vernon to ensure proper installation.

Budget: The budget for the artwork may not exceed \$14,500, including design, fabrication, transportation and installation.

Process: A selection panel will review qualifications for the project and select two (2) finalists to illustrate their concepts through drawings and/or images of existing pieces as well as an interview. Selected artists will receive \$250 for concepts and presentations. The concept fee is waived for artists offering only existing sculptures.

The final selected artist or artist team will be asked to fully develop the concept and present their idea or existing pieces(s) to a selection panel.

Selection Criteria

- Artistic excellence as demonstrated by past work
- Understanding of the project and ability to create artwork that responds to the goals of the project
- Ability to meet the project timeline



Anticipated Timeline:

- Deadline for submittal of qualifications: Midnight, June 15, 2023
- Review applications and select two (2) finalists: July 1, 2023
- Finalists' concepts, interviews and presentations: August 1, 2023
- Approval of artist proposal: August 15, 2023
- Completion of installation: by May 1, 2024

Artist or artist team must submit the following:

- Typed letter of interest
- Current artistic resume, no longer than two (2) pages
- At least five (5) but no more than ten (10) digital images of previous artwork
- Names & contact information of two (2) references
- Deadline: Artists must submit their applications by midnight, June 15, 2023 via email mvcouncil@gmail.com or by USPS to MVAAC, Box 297, Mount Vernon, IA 52314
- For questions about this project or the application process: mvcouncil@gmail.com and include *Sculpture Trail* in the subject line