



Signature Public Art for Point Park in the Hamilton Canal District in Lowell, MA

CALL FOR ENTRIES – REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Release date: Monday, February 6, 2012

Deadline: Friday, March 9, 2012

Eligibility: This project is open to U.S. artists. Artists from Lowell and surrounding communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Budget: \$150,000-200,000. Finalists will receive a \$1,000 proposal development fee. Fundraising for this project is in progress.

Project Description and Background

Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL), Lowell National Historical Park (LNHP) and the City of Lowell invite artists to forward qualifications for a signature public art project in Point Park, located at the tip of the Hamilton Canal District (HCD) in the City of Lowell. Planning a public art program in the context of Hamilton Canal District redevelopment is understood as integral to the City of Lowell's ongoing redevelopment of its historic mill district. The renewed economic vitality of the area ties in with the commitment to civic engagement and the arts by the City, the developer, and the Lowell National Historical Park. To realize this vision the City of Lowell, Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL) and Lowell National Historical Park (LNHP) engaged UrbanArts to develop a public art master plan. The impetus for the plan are two concurrent public art initiatives:

- Point Park creative entranceway feature
- Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center creative signifier

The public art master plan offers background on both projects, now underway concurrently. The plan and both RFQs can be downloaded from the "Projects" page at www.urbanartsinstitute.org. The Urban Arts Institute at Massachusetts College of Art and Design (UrbanArts) is facilitating the artist selection process.

Point Park Site

Point Park has been selected for the development of a major public art feature that signals its importance as a creative entranceway to the City of Lowell. The artwork will be located in this newly created park, an approximately 1-acre parcel at the convergence of the Hamilton and Pawtucket Canals. The site is a highly visible as primary entry point into Historic Downtown Lowell, along the Thorndike Street exit off the Lowell Connector.

This park offers a very different experience from the urban fabric with sweeping views. It has a mediator role between the urban built environment and nature, particularly at the water's edge. This park is planned as open green space that provides opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Point Park is located next to a planned 150-160 foot tall, signature building. The remainder of buildings in the HCD will be subject to height restrictions of 50-70 feet. During the HCD planning process developer Trinity Financial added open spaces at key points in the district and canal walks along the canal edges. The developer wants to make pedestrian accessibility a focal point of the development and could

investigate comprehensive signage. Trinity envisions adding public art at key focal points within the HCD. It is anticipated that public art in this location will have great visual impact both within HCD and as urban icon at the entranceway to the City and the Lowell National Historical Park.

Schedule

Mon, Feb. 6, 2012	Release Call for Entries/RFQ
Fri, March 9, 2012	RFQ deadline (received)
Week of March 19, 2012	Art Selection Committee review of applicant pool
Mon, March 26, 2012	3 finalists announced
Mon, April 2, 2012	RFP released
Week of April 30, 2012	Finalist proposal presentations to Committee
Week of May 7, 2012	Proposals exhibited
By Tuesday, May 15, 2012	Competition winner announced

How to Apply

If you are an artist already represented in the Urban Arts Institute's Artist Registry, you may send an email to be considered or send a selection of slides as outlined below. If you have not previously entered your work in a competition managed by UrbanArts, please send the following by email:

1. Résumé with current contact information, including address, phone, email and website(s)..
2. Up to 6 clearly labeled digital images of relevant past work. Please send information formatted as follows:
 - ◆ JPGs formatted to read in Adobe Photoshop
 - ◆ 72-300dpi image resolution
 - ◆ Maximum file size per image – approx. 500 KB
 - ◆ Name each image: LastName FirstName ImageNumber Title.jpg
3. A corresponding, numbered, annotated image list with your name, title of works, media, dimensions, location, brief description and date of the work, project budget, and project partners, if applicable.

Email completed entries – up to 5MB per email only! – with the subject line “Point Park” to christina.lanzl@massart.edu

Please do not send proposals at this stage. Participants are solely responsible for the timely arrival of their entries. Participants, by virtue of entering the competition, agree to save harmless the organizers, sponsors and anyone else involved with the competition for any delay, damage or loss, real or perceived.

Contact: Christina Lanzl, Urban Arts Institute at Massachusetts College of Art and Design
christina.lanzl@massart.edu

617.879.7973

<http://www.urbanartsinstitute.org> - Call for Entries and Hamilton Canal District Public Art Plan are posted on the OPPORTUNITIES page