



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Public Art Project

Federal Boulevard and 25th Avenue in Denver

Budget: Estimated at \$49,000.00 USD

Eligibility: Open to artists or artist teams residing in the state of Colorado

DEADLINE: Monday, August 29, 2022, 11:59 pm MST

Introduction

The City of Denver's Public Art Program seeks to commission an artist or artist team to create original public artwork(s), for the Federal Boulevard and 25th Avenue Pedestrian Improvement, in the Jefferson Park neighborhood of Denver, CO. An 11-member selection panel of community representatives, arts and design professionals, and civic leaders has been assembled to identify art opportunities, and to select and recommend an artist or artist team for this project. The selection panel has identified multiple outdoor locations along 25th Avenue for potential artworks and will select one artist or artist team for the allocated total budget of approximately \$49,000.00 USD.

Jefferson Park Neighborhood

Jefferson Park is a neighborhood west of downtown Denver. The neighborhood is named after the 6.7-acre park located on West 23rd Avenue and Clay Street in the heart of the neighborhood. Part of the town originally called Highland (now North Denver or the Northside), the neighborhood is currently in transition due to its proximity to downtown Denver and ongoing development. Chicanos, Meicanos, Mexican Americans, Latinos*, and multigenerational families have a strong and vital presence in the region, as demonstrated through public art on nearby avenues and local events. The Jefferson Park Neighborhood contains two schools and one park. The population was estimated at 3,250 in 2017.

*Identity is expressed in many different terms. We encourage all applicants to visit [Nuestra Historias: Mexican American/Chicano/Latino Histories in Denver](#) to learn more.

Goals, Site, Media & Materials

The selection panel members have set forth specific goals and parameters for this public art project with the hope of creating unique and inspiring works of art for the diverse communities that roll, bike and walk along Federal Boulevard and 25th Avenue.

Goals:

The panel is very invested in cultural diversity and local history, and aspires to create gathering spaces that are inclusive, accessible and welcoming to all. The panel hopes to see artwork(s) that reflect the rich cultures of the area. The artwork(s) should be welcoming, interactive and culturally responsible. The works could also be playful and kid-friendly as well as functional. Artists should consider the location, accessibility issues for visitors and residents, and the possibility of incorporating a vertical element to promote visibility, while emphasizing pedestrian perspectives.

Site:

The panel has identified multiple areas as potential sites for public art that complements the overall Federal Boulevard and 25th Avenue Pedestrian Improvement. The first location is the intersection of Federal Boulevard and 25th Avenue, where there will be two bulb-outs. Other potential areas include central gathering spaces planned along 25th Avenue. Selected finalists have the opportunity for a site visit and will be able to meet with the art selection panel as well as public art staff to ask specific questions about potential sites.

Media & Materials:

Artworks could be created using diverse media including, but not limited to, reliefs, sculpture, and mosaic applications. Murals will not be considered for this project due to limited wall space. Durability and ease of maintenance are important at these locations. Works that are engaging and help to tell the story of the area are encouraged. The selection panel is open to artwork in **media and materials that are suitable for outdoor display.**

Maintenance & Durability

As this permanent artwork will be accessioned into the Denver Public Art collection, all applicants must consider the issues of long-term conservation and maintenance of public art, along with time and budget. These projects are in the public realm and may therefore be exposed to physical stresses, as well as be subject to vandalism. Public art projects should be fabricated of highly durable, low-maintenance materials. Finalists are encouraged to consult with a professional conservator prior to the submission of a final proposal. Artist proposals awarded contracts will be reviewed by the City of Denver's Public Art Committee to ensure conformity with city standards of maintenance and durability, as well as ADA standards. All finalists are expected to stay on budget and to complete work in an approved time frame.

Who May Apply

This project is open to artists that reside in the state of Colorado. The selection panel is especially interested in artists who can demonstrate a deep understanding of the neighborhood, and the area's history and urban landscape, as well as creating work(s) in context with current social, cultural and environmental events.

Can a team apply?

Applicants may apply as a single artist or multi-person collaborative group. If applying as a team, please submit one résumé for the team, with no more than one page per team member.

Applying for these opportunities

In response to this RFQ, applicants will be asked to submit the following items via www.callforentry.org (CaFÉ™).

1. Six digital images of past work
2. Résumé
3. Statement of interest no longer than 2,000 characters

From these applications, the selection panel will choose three finalists who will create site-specific proposals and be interviewed in person or virtually. Artists will be paid an honorarium for this work. Artists/teams selected as finalists will be required to submit a Diversity & Inclusiveness Form for their proposals to be considered, which will be provided upon notification. As directed by Executive Order

101, this form must be submitted for all city solicitations of proposals. Denver Arts & Venues Public Art Program staff can provide guidance on filling out this form.

Based on the interview and proposal, an artist or artist team will be selected for this commission. The selected artist or artist team will work with the Public Art Program staff and City of Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure staff when finalizing their designs for installation.

Diversity and Inclusiveness

Denver Executive Order No. 101 establishes strategies between the City and private industry to use diversity and inclusiveness to promote economic development in the City and County of Denver and to encourage more businesses to compete for City contracts and procurements. The Executive Order requires, among other things, the collection of certain information regarding the practices of the City's contractors and consultants toward diversity and inclusiveness and encourages/requires City agencies to include diversity and inclusiveness policies in selection criteria in solicitations for City services or goods where legally permitted. Diversity and Inclusiveness means inviting values, perspectives and contributions of people from diverse backgrounds, and integrates diversity into its hiring and retention policies, training opportunities and business development methods to provide an equal opportunity for each person to participate, contribute and succeed within the organization's workplace. "Diversity" encompasses a wide variety of human differences, including differences such as race, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, physical disabilities, appearance, and historically underutilized and disadvantaged persons, as well as social identities such as religion, marital status, socio-economic status, lifestyle, education, parental status, geographic background, language ability and veteran status.

Budget

The budget for this commission is approximately \$49,000.00 USD which will be allocated to the artist/team selected. These funds come from the City of Denver's 1% Percent for Public Art Ordinance resulting from improvements made to the Federal Boulevard and 25th Avenue Project. This contract amount is inclusive of all costs associated with the project including, but not limited to: the artist's design fee, other consultation fees such as structural engineering consultation, insurance (including Colorado Workers Compensation), tools, materials, fabrication, transportation, installation, any building or site modification required, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected expenses, and any other costs. For all work done on city property, prevailing wage requirements will be applied.

Timeline

(Except for online application deadline, timeline is subject to adjustments)

Monday, August 29, 2022, 11:59 pm MST	Deadline for entry (via CaFÉ™ system)
September 2022	Finalist Selection
October 2022	Selected Artist or Artist Team Notification

Project Selection Panel

According to Denver's Public Art policy, the project selection panel plays an active role in the commission and acquisition of public art for Denver. The Federal and 25th Avenue art selection panel is comprised of 11 voting members and additional non-voting advisors. The selection panel is responsible for reviewing the site, establishing criteria for a request for qualifications, reviewing applications, selecting and interviewing finalists, and finally for selecting an artist or artist team for the commission.

Selection Process

1. Three artists/artist teams will be selected as finalists. Those selected will receive more specific information regarding the sites and have the opportunity to meet with community members from the art selection panel, Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure representatives and Public Art Program staff. The finalists will receive an honorarium to prepare the proposal and present it in person or virtually.
2. The selection panel will review the proposals, interview the finalists and recommend an artist/artist team for the commission.
3. The final recommendation of the selection panel will be presented to the Public Art Committee, the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs, and the mayor of Denver for final approval.

*All decisions of the City and County of Denver are final.

Materials to be Submitted

Please read this section carefully. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered. The applicant's name must appear on all materials submitted.

All materials must be submitted online, via the CaFÉ™ website (www.callforentry.org). There is no application fee to apply or to use the CaFÉ™ online application system.

Digital Images—In order to be considered for this project, the applicant must electronically submit six digital images of **previously completed** artworks through the online CaFÉ™ system. Artists who wish to submit kinetic, sound or media works must submit a complete CaFÉ™ application and will have the opportunity to upload one video file.

IMPORTANT: if submitting audio or video files, do not use them as your very first image. They must be submitted last in your image sequence.

Instructions on how to format images to CaFÉ™ specifications can be found at <https://www.callforentry.org/uploading-images-audio-and-video-files/>.

Assistance in using the CaFÉ™ system is available here: <https://www.callforentry.org/artist-help-cafe/>.

If an artist does not have access to a computer, s/he/they may call 720-865-5575 to make arrangements to use a computer at Denver Arts & Venues.

To request this RFQ in an alternate format (such as Braille, large print, or accessible electronic format) please contact DisabilityAccess@denvergov.org

Statement of Interest—Please submit a brief statement (2,000-character maximum) outlining the following:

- Your interest in Federal Boulevard and 25th Avenue project
- Your design approach and experience working on projects of this kind
- Please also include information on your experience working with diverse communities and stakeholders

Résumé—Submit a one to two-page current résumé via CaFÉ™ that highlights your professional accomplishments as an artist. Please name your résumé file accordingly: *Last name.First initial* (i.e.

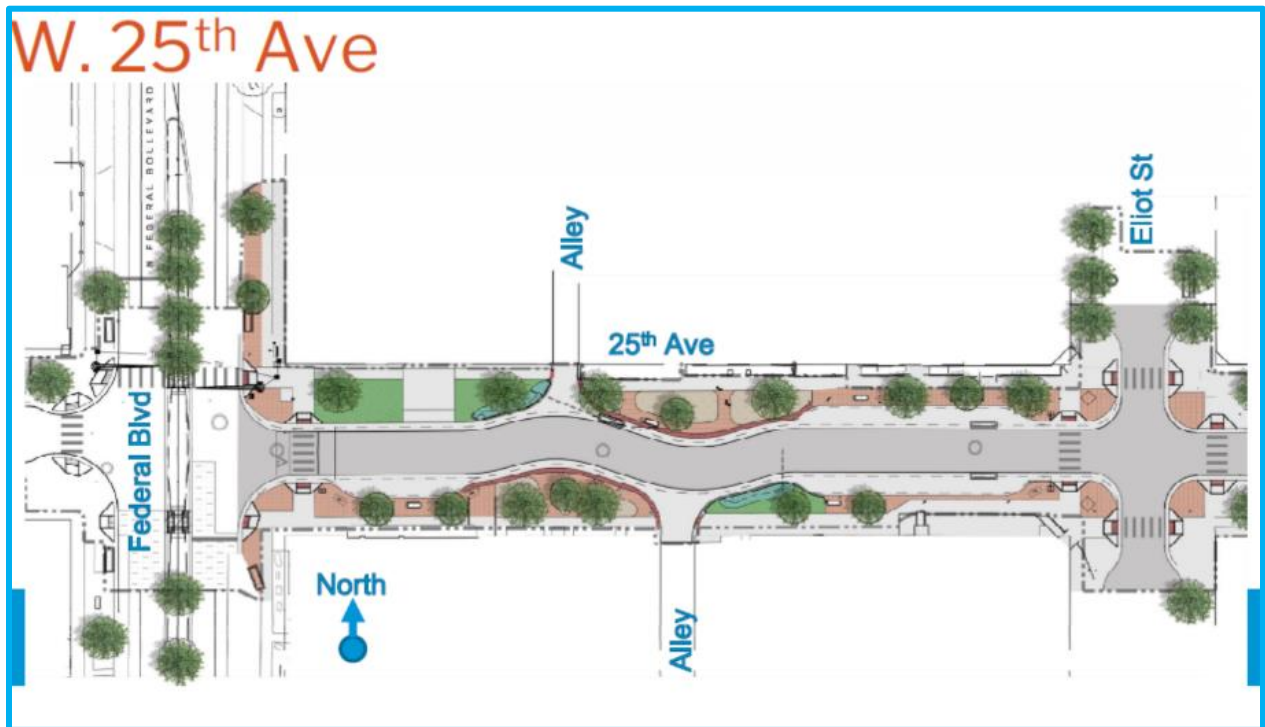
Smith.J.pdf). Résumés that are more than two pages will not be downloaded. If applying as a team, please submit one résumé with no more than one page per team member.

Survey – Applicants will also be required to fill out a short demographic survey that will be sent to the email on file from the CaFÉ™ application.

References – Applicants who are selected to be finalists will be required to provide three professional references.

Please direct all questions about the project to:

Meg Pursell, Public Art Program Administrator, meg.pursell@denvergov.org, 720-865-5576.



Proposed redesign of West 25th Ave between Federal Boulevard and Eliot Street.