

## Oklahoma Centennial Commemoration Commission

**Request for Qualifications** from artists for art for an Oklahoma African-American History Plaza at the Oklahoma State Capitol Complex in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

### **Project Description:**

The Oklahoma Centennial Commemoration Commission is overseeing development of an Oklahoma African-American History Plaza at the Oklahoma State Capitol Park in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The proposed plaza site is in a highly visible location on a 2.03 acre site at 18<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln Boulevard on the North median of 18<sup>th</sup> Street. The Oklahoma State Capitol is at 2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard. The plaza will be a focal point of the main boulevard as you approach the Capitol Complex from the South and is adjacent to the South parking lot of the State Capitol.

The artistic component(s) of the plaza should be permanent art reflecting the contributions and significant roles that African-Americans have played in Oklahoma history. Themes include Oklahoma's African-American military history such as Black Civil War soldiers in Indian Territory and Buffalo Soldiers and Oklahoma land runs and allotments that led to the founding and development of the historically all-black towns.

The goal of this project is to create an environment of respect, contemplation and education. Because of the high visibility of the location, it is vitally important for there to be unity within the site among the plaza, landscaping and artwork.

Site maps, photos and plaza themes can be found at [www.dcs.ok.gov](http://www.dcs.ok.gov).

The Oklahoma Centennial Commission is simultaneously conducting a Request for Qualifications for an architectural firm for professional landscape architect services.

**Artist Eligibility:** Open to all artists

### **Timeline**

**Application Deadline:** March 3, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

**Notification Letters to Artists Mailed:** By March 15, 2006

**Interviews with Finalists:** By March 24, 2006

**Artists' Presentation of Models:** End of April 2006

**Selection of Artist:** End of April 2006

**Completion of Plaza:** May 2007

**Budget:** The total plaza budget is estimated at \$4 million (including all costs for art and architecture design, fabrication, installation, landscaping and construction). The budget is contingent on state appropriations and private fund raising and will be adjusted, as necessary.

The selected artist will work with the Oklahoma Centennial Commission, Oklahoma Department of Central Services, Oklahoma African-American History Plaza Steering Committee, selected architectural firm and plaza contractors.

### **Selection Panel and Selection Criteria**

The artist will be selected based on the materials submitted---please see the Application Guidelines below. Selection for this project will be made by a panel of representatives of the Oklahoma Centennial Commission, Oklahoma Department of Central Services, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma Arts Council, the arts community and the community at-large. The panel will be looking at the merit of the artist's work, past experience at completing projects on time and within budget, and appropriateness and maintenance requirements of the proposed concept. The finalists will be invited to Oklahoma City for interviews and will, as part of the selection process, be paid a stipend to develop a small scale model.

### **Selection Process**

At this stage of the selection process, specific concepts are not required; however, the selection panel would like a general idea of your approach to this project. Please see the questions listed in the guidelines to help you develop your letter of interest. You are welcome to submit drawings, but they should not be larger than 8.5 x 11 inches and should not be originals.

Please note that the guidelines are geared for artists with experience in public art commissions. Artists who are unable to submit slides or a CD documenting their previous work should submit a detailed proposal.

The Selection Committee will review applicants' submissions and then select up to five finalists. Each finalist will be awarded an honorarium to create a site specific design proposal that will include a scale model, an itemized budget, a project timeline and a project narrative. Out-of-area artists will receive a moderate allowance for transportation and per diem expenses. Finalists will be required to present their proposals in person to the Selection Committee and a wide spectrum of community members. The Selection Committee will make the final decision on the artist awarded the project.

### **Application Guidelines:**

Submissions for this project must contain the following materials:

- A typed letter of interest outlining your qualifications for and interest in the project, as well as the general idea for your approach. Submit (5) five copies.

Please consider the following questions when developing your letter of interest:

- Why do you want to work on this project?
- How would you approach this project?
- What materials do you work with that would be appropriate for outdoor use?

- Have you worked on similar projects? If not, what relevant experiences do you have?
  - How does the project relate to your current work?
- A sketch may be included but must be no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches. **Do not send original work.**
- Resume (not to exceed three pages). Submit (5) five copies
- 10 to 20 labeled color slides of recent work and/or work related to this project. In lieu of slides, the same number of digital images in JPEG format may be submitted on a CD.
- Slide identification sheet that lists:
  - The title of the work
  - The date it was completed
  - The dimensions of the work (H x W x D)
  - Materials that were used
  - Location, if permanently sited
  - The budget of the project (if applicable)
- A list of three references including current telephone number and/or email address.
- A self-addressed, stamped envelope with postage sufficient for the return of your materials. Materials and slides will not be returned unless a SASE is included.

Send applications to:                   Oklahoma Centennial Commission  
   Attn: African-American History Plaza Project  
   133 W. Main, Suite 100  
   Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

- **All applications must be RECEIVED by 4:00 p.m. March 3, 2006**
- To ensure fairness, there are no extensions or waivers of deadlines.
- Applicants will be notified by letter no later than March 15, 2006, as to the status of their application.
- Questions or for more information: Amy Weaver, Director of Education and Cultural Affairs, 405-228-2003, [aweaver@oklahomacentennial.com](mailto:aweaver@oklahomacentennial.com).

Artist selection will be made in accordance with Title 61, Oklahoma Statutes, Section 62. Commissioning of artists by the State of Oklahoma is implemented without preference to racial or ethnic origins, sex, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, disability or age.

The Oklahoma Centennial Commission reserves the right to modify this solicitation and to request additional information or proposals from any or all participating artists. The Centennial Commission reserves the right to accept or reject, at any time prior to the commissioning of a work, any or all proposals when the acceptance, rejection, waiver or advertisement would be in the best interest of the project. In addition, the Oklahoma Centennial Commission may solicit proposals from artists not responding to this call and reserves the right to select an artist outside of the pool of artists responding to this call.

