



CALL TO ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CITY OF TACOMA MUNICIPAL ART PROGRAM

Lincoln District Revitalization, Tacoma, WA

Deadline: September 8, 2015, 11:59pm

Budget: \$210,000, all inclusive

Call Summary

The City of Tacoma is seeking an artist or artist team to participate in the revitalization of Tacoma's Lincoln Business District and Neighborhood by creating permanent public artwork(s) that will act as gateways to the main business district. In addition, the artist will work with the design team to affect the aesthetic design of the streetscape, identify opportunities for discrete or integrated artworks to be incorporated into the streetscape design, and assist in identifying additional opportunities for local artist participation. The project should be informed by a meaningful community engagement process in order to reflect the needs of the community, create identity, and communicate an authentic sense of place. The selected artist will have experience working with diverse cultural communities and demonstrated success creating aesthetically strong artwork that results from community engagement.

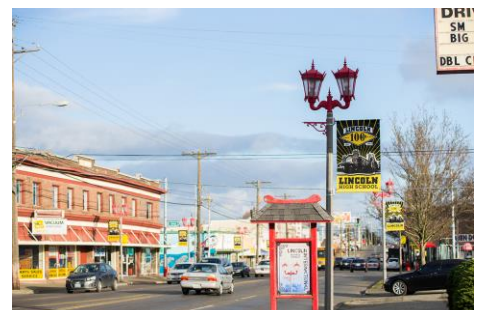
Eligibility

- Applicant(s) must live in Washington State, Oregon, or British Columbia
- Applicant(s) can apply as a single artist or as an artist team.
- Applicant(s) cannot be a member of the Tacoma Arts Commission or an employee of the City of Tacoma.
- Applicant(s) must be 18 years or older and not a full-time student.

The Lincoln Neighborhood and Lincoln International Business District

The Lincoln Neighborhood is a working class area with high homeownership rates that is anchored by the Lincoln Business District. Lincoln is a walkable, historic, and diverse business district with a high percentage of small, family-owned businesses. Also called the Lincoln International District, the area has a high concentration of Vietnamese restaurants and businesses, including the well-established East Asia Market grocery store. Lincoln is also home to Mexican, American, and Chinese restaurants (among others) and an eclectic mix of shops, including Lincoln Hardware and Lincoln Pharmacy. The District is bordered by beautiful Lincoln Park and historic Lincoln High School, and has hosted the Tet Festival in past years, celebrating the Vietnamese New Year.

The core of the business district is very culturally diverse and many of the business and commercial property owners do not speak English as a native language; however, most of the residents and public service providers in the area do speak English as their native language. As a result, community cohesion has been hard to achieve, even though there are a number of strong individual and group stakeholders in the area. In particular, the ability of businesses to access City services is compromised by the lack of community cohesion and the language barrier.



Background

In 2014, Tacoma's City Council set a strategic objective to focus on development of the Lincoln Business District and Neighborhood. As a direct result of this, the City Manager's Office is leading the Lincoln Neighborhood Revitalization Project, which is a focused effort from multiple City departments to strengthen and improve Lincoln by investing in 4 key areas: public safety; economic development, urban design, and community vitality; housing and property conditions; and code compliance and neighborhood beautification. You can find more info about the Revitalization Project here: www.cityoftacoma.org/LincolnProject.

Revitalization Project Mission: Improve the physical, environmental, social, and economic conditions of the neighborhood.

Revitalization Project Goals:

1. Improve and maintain sound infrastructure conditions.
2. Create and maintain economic stability and growth opportunities as well as improve the identity of the Lincoln District revitalization area in order to enhance its image as a desirable place to live.
3. Promote increased production and preservation of the existing housing to meet the needs of current and future residents.
4. Correct property maintenance problems where needed and sustain otherwise healthy neighborhood conditions.
5. Make the Lincoln District revitalization area a safer and more cohesive neighborhood.

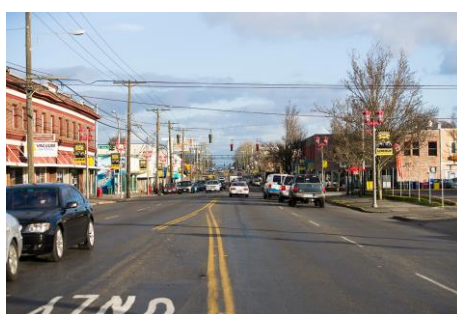
The Revitalization Project includes a streetscape project that will include neighborhood entryway, roadway, sidewalk, and pedestrian infrastructure improvements. Preliminary plans for the project include features to enhance pedestrian access, traffic calming measures, and landscaping elements.

Art Opportunity

The intent of this project is to engage an artist or artist team in the revitalization of the Lincoln District, take full advantage of the City's investment in the area, and help create a unique sense of place through the core of the business district. The project must deliver the following elements:

1. Artwork(s) that act as gateways to the business district
2. Work with the design team to affect the aesthetic design of the streetscape, including identifying opportunities for artwork to be incorporated into the design and/or construction
3. Work with the design team to implement integrated and/or discrete artworks along the business district either as part of construction, or as part of the larger artwork(s)
4. Help identify opportunities for local artists to design or create elements in the business district (these projects will be managed and funded separately from this project)
5. Meaningful community engagement process led by the artist (with support from the City), that informs the artwork

The selected artist will have experience working with diverse cultural communities and be successful creating aesthetically strong artwork that results from meaningful community engagement. There will be an opportunity to leverage construction and the City's community engagement effort for this project – the successful artist or team will take full advantage of investments in the neighborhood (especially streetscape improvements) and will be flexible, creative, and motivated by these opportunities.



A successful project will:

- Act as a visible marker for the Lincoln District
- Relate to different types of viewers (especially pedestrians and motorists)
- Be informed by a process that engages the Lincoln community in a meaningful way
- Help create a visually cohesive and unique sense of place in the core of the business district
- Help define Lincoln as a destination
- Contribute to creating a more welcoming environment for pedestrians, and encouraging motorists to slow down when passing through the business district
- Leverage other City of Tacoma investments in Lincoln, especially streetscape improvements

Selection Criteria

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Artistic quality as exemplified in past work
- Exhibited ability to work across cultures and within diverse communities to inform aesthetically strong artwork
- Experience working collaboratively with architects and engineers to influence overall project design
- Ability to work with durable, low-maintenance materials
- Ability to think and work in a scale and with materials appropriate to the site
- Ability to think conceptually and create artwork responsive to the site
- Ability to relate to multiple types of viewers (especially pedestrians and motorists)
- Ability to meet project timelines

Timeline*

September 8, 2015, midnight
Week of September 14, 2015
Week of September 21, 2015
Week of September 28, 2015
Week of October 5, 2014
October – December 2015
December 2015
March 2016
Fall 2016

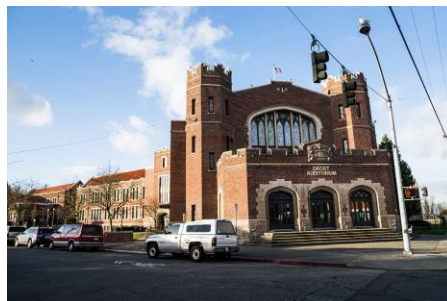
Deadline for submissions
Review of submissions and selection of finalists
Site visit with finalists
Interviews with finalists and selection of artist/artist team
Contracting
Work with the community and design team
Initial concept(s) due
Final design(s) due
Installation of artwork

**All dates subject to change*

Questions? Contact Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist, 253-591-5564, rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Please email all submission materials (listed on the next page) via a link to Dropbox or another file transfer service to rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org. Email or call Rebecca Solverson at the City of Tacoma (rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org or 253-591-5564) to make arrangements to transfer your materials if you do not have access to such a service. We suggest sending items 1, 2, 4, and 5 as PDF documents; Word documents are also acceptable. **It is important to note that this is a request for qualifications, not proposals – please do not submit proposals for this opportunity.**



Submission Materials

1. Short Written Responses

- Please submit responses to the following 5 questions, in one page or less (combined). Include artist's name in the upper right corner. Name the file with the applicant's last name: "Smith_Responses":
 1. What is your approach to public art?
 2. Why are you interested in this project?
 3. What is your experience working with design teams? If you have not worked with a design team, what skills or experience do you have to successfully complete this part of the project?
 4. What is your experience working with diverse communities?
 5. How have you successfully engaged community to influence your work?

2. Professional Resume and References

- Resume should not exceed 3 pages and should include the names, titles, addresses, emails and phone numbers of three professional references. Artist teams who have not worked together in the past should submit a resume for each artist.
- List most recent public art and/or art experience first.
- Name the resume file with the applicant's last name: "Smith_Resume".

3. 10 Work Samples of Completed Artworks

- 10 digital images of the artist's completed work. Use your work samples to show us your aesthetic and the artistic quality of your work. If available, work samples should include documentation of similar past public projects. Artist teams are encouraged to submit work that was previously completed as a team.
Image Submission Standards:
 - File format: JPEG only
 - File dimensions: No smaller than 1920 pixels on the longest side
 - File resolution: 72 ppi/dpi (standard web resolution)
 - File size: 5 MB maximum
 - File names: Lastname_# (e.g. "Smith_01")

4. 2 Samples of Community Engaged Process

- 2 samples of the artist's community engaged process. Samples can be videos, articles, images, marketing materials, project webpages – anything that helps tell the story of a relevant past project that engaged community in a meaningful way.
- Samples can be submitted as:
 - JPEG images
 - PDF or Word documents
 - URL links to webpages or videos (please provide us with the exact URL address that links to the video in your work sample description sheet)
- File names: Lastname_Community_# (e.g. "Smith_Community_01")



5. Work Sample Description Sheet including:

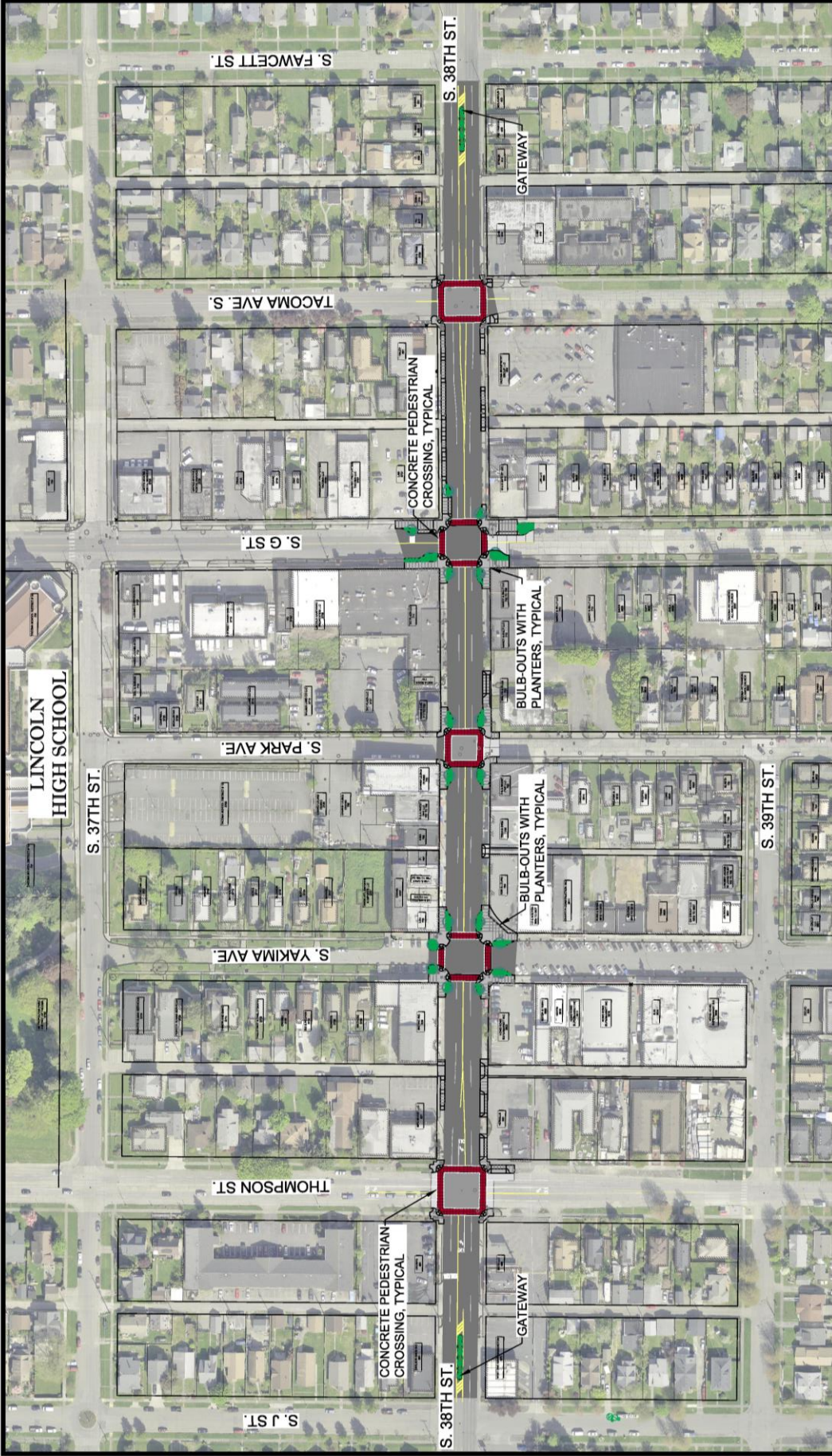
- Samples numbered consecutively and listed in the order in which they are to be viewed. 10 Images of completed artworks should be listed before samples of community engaged process.
- Title of each artwork or project represented in the image
- Location, funding agency or owner/collection, budget
- Date completed, dimensions (H" x W" x D"), Medium
- Short description of artwork or activity including main concept or idea
- If your work sample is a URL link to a video or webpage, please provide us with the exact link
- For videos, the panel will view a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes. If you want the panel to view a specific portion of a video, indicate the exact time at which they should start viewing.
- If work is presented as part of a collaboration, explain your role in the larger project and credit design team or individual collaborators by name and role (e.g. landscape architect)
- Name the file with the applicant's last name: "Smith WSDS"

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- A small map showing the location of the study area within a larger geographical context, with a red box indicating the specific area of interest.

400 0 400 800 1200
Feet

This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. It is to be used for reference purposes only.





June 30, 2015

SOUTH 38TH STREET STREETSCAPE PROJECT OVERVIEW

