REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
Temporary Public Art Project in Celebration of the 2014 International Bluegrass Music Association's World of Bluegrass Week, Raleigh, NC

Summary
The Office of Raleigh Arts invites artists or artist teams to submit qualifications for a temporary public art opportunity in celebration of bluegrass music and the 2014 World of Bluegrass Week. Artists must have demonstrated experience in producing public art events or installations in an outdoor setting. The artist/team fee is $25,000, inclusive of all expenses including design, fabrication, installation, travel, taxes and fees. Qualifications must be submitted by 5pm EST on Friday, January 17, 2014. There is no fee to submit qualifications.

Background Information
World of Bluegrass Week is the annual homecoming for the bluegrass music community, taking place September 30 - October 4, 2014 in downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. World of Bluegrass features three separate events: the IBMA Business Conference (September 30 – October 2) focusing on development and networking for bluegrass professionals; the International Bluegrass Music Awards (October 2); and Wide Open Bluegrass (October 3-4), which will host the best in bluegrass music as well as multiple workshops, jam sessions and activities.

The International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA.org) is the professional trade organization for the global bluegrass music community. The organization’s three-year stay in Raleigh is the result of a partnership with The Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau, PineCone (the Piedmont Council of Traditional Music), the City of Raleigh and a local organizing committee. 2014 will be the second year of World of Bluegrass Week in Raleigh.

The Main Stages at the Raleigh Convention Center and Red Hat Amphitheater will host one of the nation's best bluegrass lineups of the fall. Performers in 2013 included Steve Martin & The Steep Canyon Rangers, The Gibson Brothers, Punch Brothers, The Infamous Stringdusters and many more. The street festival will include 50+ bands, three music stages, a high-energy dance tent, art vendors, food vendors, youth performances and activities. The street festival will also feature the North Carolina Whole Hog Barbecue State Championship.

In 2013, nearly 150,000 attendees participated over five days of bluegrass festivities, with an estimated local/regional economic impact of $10 million in direct visitor spending for Raleigh and Wake County.

The selected artist/team will design, fabricate and install a temporary work of art that will engage residents and visitors in the celebration of bluegrass music, its importance as a cultural mainstay of American history, and the festivities associated with the World of Bluegrass Week.

Eligibility
The project is open to United States citizens or permanent residents who have demonstrated experience with projects of similar scope and scale. Selection panelists, City of Raleigh employees, Raleigh Arts Commission and Public Art and Design Board members and their immediate family members are excluded from participating in this project.

Budget
The budget is $25,000, including the cost of purchasing materials and the artist’s/team’s time for design, fabrication, installation, and de-installation. The budget also includes travel, taxes, insurance and permits if required.
Temporary Public Art Project Scope
The temporary public art project must utilize and enhance the space adjacent to and surrounding the iconic Bruno Lucchesi sculpture Sir Walter Raleigh, as outlined in the map below. The location is a busy pedestrian corridor during Bluegrass Week as it is the main passageway between the conference hotels, the Raleigh Convention Center and Red Hat Amphitheater. The location spans the length of Cabarrus Street between McDowell and Salisbury Streets and includes the passage between the Marriott Hotel and the BB&T building as well as the northeast corner of the Convention Center's plaza (where Sir Walter Raleigh is located):
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See the accompanying PDF for additional images of the site.

The temporary public art project can respectfully use the Sir Walter Raleigh sculpture both as an inspiration and a setting, but must not permanently alter its appearance.

The target date to inaugurate the temporary project can be as early as the week of September 8, 2014. The artwork must remain in place through October 5, 2014 but could be extended for several months, depending upon the nature and quality of the installation and maintenance needs for the artwork.

A successful temporary public art project in this setting will have both a daytime and nighttime presence, will engage audiences as they journey to multiple locations for the scheduled events, and will add an element of excitement to the location. The project will draw motorists, but will mainly hold the interest of pedestrians. The artwork cannot obstruct pedestrian traffic. The passage between the Marriott Hotel and the BB&T building is an active pedestrian corridor that is subject to gusty winds, depending upon weather conditions, and public art in this site must be able to withstand strong wind gusts.

Selection Criteria and Process
Applications submitted in response to this RFQ will be reviewed by the City of Raleigh Public Art Coordinator, who will then forward all complete and eligible applications received by the deadline to an artist selection panel. The panel will convene to evaluate the submissions and up to three artists will be invited for interviews, where they will have the opportunity to further discuss their proposals.

The selection process will have two stages. During the first round, the artist selection panel will evaluate qualifications of artists based on five criteria:

- Artistic merit and innovation as evidenced by the submitted materials;
- Professional qualifications as demonstrated by experience with temporary projects of similar scale and scope;
- Demonstrated experience working with government agencies;
- Appropriateness of style as related to this project; and
- Ability to work within the project timeline, budget and technical capabilities.

For the interview, panelists will be reviewing qualifications and previous experience in detail as well as hearing from finalists in detail regarding their conceptual inspiration for public art at the site. Finalists will receive a $500 stipend to cover travel and related expenses associated with their visit.

The artist selection panel will choose the artist/team for the project and forward their recommendation to the City of Raleigh Arts Commission for approval, after which a scope of services and budget will be developed based on the artist’s/team’s approach to the project.

Project Timeline
This project requires commitment to the following timetable:

- RFQ Application Deadline: January 17, 2014, 5pm EST
- Finalists Selected and Notified: February 2014
- Finalists Interviewed: March 2014
- Project Awarded: March 2014
- Installation of Project: September – October 2014
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Submission and Deadline
All RFQ materials must be received no later than Friday, January 17, 2014 at 5pm EST. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

How to Apply
As a part of the City of Raleigh’s sustainability initiative, we encourage the reduction of paper use. To that end, RFQ submissions must be submitted in one of the following ways:

1. Email documents to catherine.hofmann@raleighnc.gov. The subject line for submissions must read: IBMA Temporary Public Art

2. Upload files to the Raleigh Arts Commission’s ftp site. For access, please email catherine.hofmann@raleighnc.gov for instructions.

Artist/teams wishing to be considered for this RFQ must submit the following materials. Pages should have a vertical orientation, have margins no smaller than 0.5 inches each side, and font size no smaller than 11 point.

1. Statement of Interest
   A one-page statement outlining your interest in this project, experience working on comparable projects, and preliminary ideas for how you would approach this project, including any technical requirements. Submitted in .doc or .pdf format; titled Lastname_Firstname_statement

2. Professional Résumé
   A résumé of one to two pages highlighting professional accomplishments. Résumés over two pages will not be accepted. If applying as a team, submit a one to two page résumé for each team member. The résumé must also list three professional references who can speak to your experiences doing a similar scope of project. Submitted in .doc or .pdf format; titled Lastname_Firstname_resume

3. Digital Images
   Up to ten digital images of previously completed public art projects. Ten images maximum per application, not per team member. You may include one video to substitute for one of the still images. Each image should be no larger than 1MB. Videos must be in .avi or .mp4 format, and no longer than 3 minutes. Submitted in JPEG format, images must be 7” on the longest side and at least 72 dpi; titled Lastname_Firstname_image #(01-10)

4. Image Identification List
   An image list corresponding to the submitted digital images and video. Each image description should include: photo number, title, date of completion, media, dimensions (height x width x depth, in feet), location, project budget and a brief description of the artwork. The list must be labeled with the artist’s name. Submitted in .doc or .pdf format; titled Lastname_Firstname_list

Do not provide or submit any other materials with your application. They will not be reviewed by the panel and will not be returned.
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Additional Information
For questions, contact Catherine Hofmann, Public Art Assistant, at the Office of Raleigh Arts, 919.996.4682, or catherine.hofmann@raleighnc.gov.

For information regarding the project, visit the Office of Raleigh Arts website at http://www.raleighnc.gov/arts/content/Arts/Articles/RaleighArts.html and select Artist Calls in the right sidebar.