



Oklahoma Art in Public Places Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Project: Pathway to Hope Public Art Trail (Tulsa)

Deadline: November 15, 2021

Overview and Project Description

The Pathway to Hope Public Art Trail will add meaningful artwork to the underpasses of Tulsa's Interstate 244 from Main Street to Greenwood Avenue, honoring the vibrant history of the Greenwood District. The Oklahoma Arts Council, along with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, will commission public art projects that are managed through the Oklahoma Art in Public Places program. Selected artwork will be vetted in close consultation with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for strict adherence to public safety standards, impact on structural integrity of the bridges and underpasses, and long-term maintenance needs.

With an eye towards longevity, the artwork selected by the committee will have an expected lifespan exceeding fifteen years, with minimal maintenance required. Artwork can be 2D or 3D but should not consist of murals painted directly onto the concrete underpasses. Artwork can incorporate light and sound if consideration is given to minimizing long-term maintenance needs. Each underpass varies in size and design. Please reference the provided map to gain an understanding of the area the artwork will need to address.

Theme and Intent

A theme has been chosen for the underpass at each street in connection with Greenwood District historical references and in connection with the cultural landscape of the area surrounding the underpass. Artwork selected for each underpass will demonstrate connection to the theme and incorporate significant community engagement in the development of the content. A cohort of knowledge bearers with whom selected artists will interact will be assembled. Additional details will be made available to those applicants invited to submit full proposals. A list of links to educational resources pertaining to the Greenwood District and the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre are included on page 4.

Main Street – Creativity

At Main Street, the new Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP) is under construction, set to open spring 2022, directly across the street from the historic Cain's Ballroom. This area is at the north end of the Tulsa Arts District and has a long history as a hub of creativity. Greenwood District also has a long history of creative activity. Jazz clubs and performance halls were present prior to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and have continued to have a presence through the years. In the current renaissance of Black Wall Street, there are gallery spaces and musical performances.

Boston Avenue – Resilience

The area north of Interstate 244 on Boston Avenue is predominantly greenspace, primed for development as parks and other community resources. This land has seen many troubled times, yet continually recovers. The Black community of Tulsa has endured many struggles and faced unthinkable challenges. Resilience is consistently shown in meeting those problems and finding solutions. This happened in the creation of the Greenwood District and the rebuilding of the neighborhoods, and it continues today with the revival of the district.

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard – Vision

Directly west of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the north side of Interstate 244 is a high point offering a wide overlook of Tulsa. This abundance of view connects to the vision of the original developers of Greenwood District. They pooled resources to purchase land and grow the community wealth. Wealthier residents provided grants to new businesses to aid the growth of the district and to enable residents to have nearly all their needs met within the district. This vision created the vibrant and bustling Greenwood District.

Detroit Avenue – Justice

2021 marked the passing of one hundred years since the Tulsa Race Massacre, and to commemorate the tragic event, cultural activities and exhibitions of artwork were used to bring attention to its lessons and serve as a catalyst for uniting the city. Survivors and descendants gathered to mark the centennial, reflect on the history of the Greenwood District, and call for continued efforts to seek long-delayed justice for the communities of North Tulsa. While the Greenwood District was rebuilt after the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, the construction of Interstate 244 dealt another devastating blow to the development and economic prospects of the community. The public art for this underpass will present the virtues of restorative justice while projecting a future where racial inequities have been eradicated.

Elgin Avenue – Hope

The Pathway to Hope makes its way from Greenwood Cultural Center to the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park, crossing Elgin Avenue. While this street is a literal pathway growing from hope, the public art added to this underpass will speak to the hope of reconciliation, of learning from our past, and of lifting up our fellow citizens to ensure equitable resources and community support.

Greenwood Avenue – Remembrance

Greenwood Avenue is the site of the historic Black Wall Street and the center of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. This underpass is situated between the Greenwood Cultural Center and the revived Black Wall Street. This area is central to the annual Juneteenth Festival, and is the beginning point of the Pathway to Hope. It is crucial to include the Greenwood underpass in the Pathway to Hope Public Art Trail. The public art will follow the theme of remembrance, honoring the many important lives lost during the massacre and the destruction of the once thriving Greenwood District.

Project Funds

The artist or artist team selected for each underpass theme will receive \$285,000 to create the artwork. All costs associated with the public art project including, but not limited to, artist design fee, structural engineering, eligible materials, fabrication, insurance, transportation, installation, building or site modification, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected expenses, and any other costs related to the project are covered by the budget. All costs associated with the public art project are covered by this budget, and no additional funds will be available.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to all artists regardless of age, race, class, national origin, creed, gender, gender expression, religious affiliation, physical or mental ability. The Oklahoma Arts Council and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation encourage artistic diversity.

Application Requirements

Artists will complete an application at https://arts.ok.gov/Our_Programs/Art_in_Public_Places.html and provide support materials specified below. Please be sure to allow adequate time to submit your application as technical difficulties can occur. Applications that are mailed, emailed, faxed, or hand-delivered will not be considered.

Application materials include:

- a. Statement of Intent
 - i. A statement of intent will include a summary of artistic focus and professional career, especially as your background relates to this project.
 - ii. A brief description of the concept to be proposed, should the applicant be selected. Can include materials, colors, etc. Sketches are not required at this stage but can be attached to the statement.
 - iii. If applying for more than one underpass/theme, please include a separate statement of intent for each.
- b. Resume/CV
 - i. If applying as a team, please include the team/studio resume. If a team/studio resume is not available, please combine the individual resumes of each team member into one document.
- c. Five images of relevant previous work, per member of team with a maximum of fifteen images
 - i. Files can be up to 2mb. Images should be at least 72 dpi.
 - ii. Please number images 1-5, etc., in the file name using this system, #LastName,FirstName.jpg
- d. Image descriptions
 - i. Please include title, medium, dimensions, and year for each artwork. You may also include a brief statement about each work (2 sentence maximum).
 - ii. Number your descriptions, corresponding to the file names.

Selection Process

RFQ applications will be reviewed and scored by the Director of Art in Public Places to identify the short list of qualified artists to be considered for the project based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Appropriateness of artwork to the goals of the project, as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Professional experience is adequate to meet the demands of the project, including working in a large scale.
- Availability to participate in the design, approval, and implementation of the project as required.

The list of qualified artists will be presented to the Pathway to Hope Public Art Selection Committee, consisting of one representative of ODOT, one artist, one arts professional, one art educator, four to six community representatives, and the Director of Art in Public Places and the Cultural Development Director from the Oklahoma Arts Council. The selection committee will identify approximately four finalists per underpass who will be invited to develop conceptual site-specific proposals after attending a mandatory orientation session with the project team and key stakeholders. Each finalist will be paid an honorarium of \$1,000 for the development and in-person presentation of a conceptual design proposal. Artists residing greater than 60 miles from Tulsa are eligible to receive up to \$2,000 total towards the reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses, approved by the Oklahoma Arts Council prior to travel arrangements being made for the orientation session and panel interview. Receipts will be required for travel expenses to be considered. If artists or artist teams are selected as finalists for more than one theme, they will receive an honorarium for each concept proposal. The public art selection committee will submit rankings of finalist proposals and recommendation for approval to the Pathway to Hope Public Art Oversight Committee.

Timeline

Application opens September 2021

Application deadline November 15, 2021

Notification of selected finalists December 15, 2021

Mandatory finalist orientation session January 2022

Finalist presentations March 2022

Anticipated notification of selected artists April 2022

Installation of artwork fall 2022

Educational Resources

Greenwood Cultural Center Resource Portal

<https://www.greenwoodculturalcenter.org/gcc-resources-portal>

John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation Curriculum Resource

<https://www.jhfcenter.org/curriculum>

The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission Resource Page

<https://www.tulsa2021.org/resources>

Questions/Follow up

Please direct questions or requests for additional information to Jarica Walsh, Director of Art in Public Places, at jarica.walsh@arts.ok.gov or (405) 521-2030.

The Oklahoma Arts Council administers the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Program in accordance with HB1824.





