

RFQ-20190430

**Request for Proposals for
Artists, Historians, Fabricators/Installers, Graphic Designers and
Webmasters Services**

**“Response to Request For Statement Of Qualifications
for Design, Fabrication and Installation
of Four (4) Corners Founders Monuments at Emancipation Park.”**

**For
OST/Almeda Corridors Redevelopment Authority
and Reinvestment Zone Number Seven, City of Houston, Texas - TIRZ #7**

**Advertised Date: April 12, 2019
Qualifications Due: April 30, 2019 3:00 PM Central Time**

Project Summary and Description

The OST/Alameda Corridors Redevelopment Authority and Reinvestment Zone Number Seven (“the Authority”) in collaboration with the Emancipation Park Conservancy (EPC), seeks qualifications from the following professionals to form a design-build team to design, fabricate and install long-term exterior artworks on existing monument structures at Emancipation Park’s four corners: Artists, Historians, Fabricators/Installers, Graphic Designers and Webmasters Service. Professionals who live and work within the City of Houston are eligible to apply with special consideration given to those professionals who live/have lived and/or work/have worked in the Historic Third Ward neighborhood and/or other historic African American communities in City of Houston.

Located in Third Ward Houston, Emancipation Park is bounded by Emancipation (to the east), Elgin (to the south), Hutchins (to the west) and Tuam (to the north) forming a square with four (4) corners. The 4 Corners Founders Monument at Emancipation Park has existing structures located at Emancipation at Elgin; Emancipation at Tuam, Hutchins at Elgin and Hutchins at Tuam. The park and the monuments are located in the heart of the Historic Third Ward and is surrounded by many opportunities for positive civic, community and play experiences within a parkland location. The existing monuments consist of Dekton panels and Corian panels and has lighting features to illuminate the Corian panels.

Artwork Goals

The Authority seeks to commission works of graphic art of exceptional quality that advance public understanding of visual art and enhance the aesthetic quality of the park’s monuments through the selection of qualified professionals as follows: Artists, Historians, Fabricators/Installers, Graphic Designers, and Webmasters to innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. The goal of the 4 Corners Founders Monuments Project at Emancipation Park is to select individual professionals listed; to assemble a design-build team who will design artwork that:

- Creates a visible, aesthetically pleasing experience at the four corners of the park that draws inspiration from the history of the park, the founders and individuals who assisted in creating the park;
- responds to current nearby artwork;
- integrates the artwork into the natural setting of the park and park history;
- repair or replace monument panel materials;
- is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment; and
- contributes to the depth/breadth of the City of Houston’s public art collection.

Artwork Location Description

This public art opportunity is open to a range of ideas to be proposed by the selected design-build team, in consultation with the Authority, the Emancipation Park Conservancy (EPC) and City of Houston Park Recreation Department (HPARD). The selected individual professionals will coordinate with HPARD to develop a comprehensive design for artwork to be integrated into the park’s monuments

Artwork locations include utilizing the four existing monuments' signage infrastructure at each corner of the park.

Park History

In 1872, Richard Allen, Richard Brock, Jack Yates, and Elias Dibble, all African-American ministers and businessmen along with former slaves, purchased 10 acres of land south of downtown Houston, in the city's Third Ward neighborhood, officially founding Emancipation Park. Acquired for \$800, the park was intended as a permanent site for the city's annual Juneteenth celebration, which memorializes June 19, 1865, the day the Union Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and belatedly put the Emancipation Proclamation into effect across Texas; two and a half years after it became official.

The City of Houston received the park in 1916 and officially designated it as a municipal park in 1918. From 1922 to 1940 it was Houston's sole park for African-Americans since the city government had declared its parks racially segregated in 1922.

Following a three-year \$33.6 million dollar redevelopment project of historic park and facilities including a renovated community center, new recreation building, renovated aquatic center, playground, splash pads, park and recreational/sports areas. The project's purpose was to refine and preserve historic elements of the park while creating functional green space for the surrounding neighborhoods and serve as a destination for local, state and international visitors. Emancipation Park re-opened in 2017 and was led by the OST/Almeda Corridors Redevelopment Authority with the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, was planned and designed in close collaboration with the Friends of Emancipation Park and other community partners.

EPC was establish as a Texas Non-profit Corporation on June 19, 2014 its mission is to restore, manage, and enhance Emancipation Park in partnership with the public. The EPC aspires to build a great organization that sets the standard for and spreads the principles of world-class park management – emphasizing environmental excellence – to improve the quality of open space for the enjoyment of all. The EPC is committed to sustaining this operating model to provide a legacy for future generations of park users.

Eligibility

All professionals associated with this artistic team must be at least 18 years of age and live in the Greater Houston area. Professionals of diverse backgrounds with knowledge of African-American culture, art and history are encouraged to submit their qualifications. A professional is defined as a “practitioner in their prospective area with an original self-conceptualized body of work, generally recognized by critics and peers as a professional possessing serious intent and ability.”

Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.

Application Requirements

Resume: 3 page(s) maximum

Work examples: 1 - 10

Letter of Interest: 700 word maximum

Please describe your interest in the project and what makes you a good fit.

References: 3

Selection Information

Selection Process

The Authority will convene a Selection Panel to evaluate the submissions. The Selection Panel shall review applications, select a professional Artist, Historian, Fabricator/Installer, Graphic Designer and Webmaster and form a "Design-Build Team". This recommendation will be presented to HPARD and Authority Board for approval.

The selected professionals will be put under a contract to coordinate with the Authority and EPC to develop a comprehensive design for artwork. The final design is subject to approval by the HPARD.

Selection Criteria

The selection of the individual professional, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in this Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The 3-organization Selection Panel will be composed of the Authority, HPARD and EPC's executive leadership team. The Selection Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- » Professional's merit and technical expertise;
- » previous experience in the repair, rehabilitation and restoration of public monuments;
- » demonstrated successful, innovative and effective approach to outdoor public art projects of a similar scope;
- » ability to successfully execute an outdoor public art project; and
- » expressed interest in creating artwork within this community setting.

Timeline/Schedule

April to June 2019 SCHEDULE **(subject to change)**:

- Friday, April 12th Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Advertised and Issued
- Monday, April 22th Request for RFQ Clarification and/or Additional information at 5:00 PM (CST)
- Wednesday, April 24nd, Responses to Clarification/Additional Information and Addendum at 5:00 PM (CST)
- Tuesday, April 30th Deadline for RFQ submission at 3:00 PM (CST).
- Wednesday, May 1st Selection Panel to (Authority, HPARD and EPC) review and evaluate submissions and select professional finalists

- Monday, May 6th Authority Board of Directors approval of selected professionals
- Monday, May 6th Contract negotiations with selected professionals
- Monday, May 6th Selected professionals announced
- Tuesday, May 7th Contract negotiations with selected professionals
- Wednesday, May 8th Issue NTP letter to selected professionals
- Friday, May 13th Design-Build Team to submit Preliminary Design to Authority, HPARD and EPC
- Tuesday, May 21st Design-Build Team to submit Final Design to Authority, HPARD and EPC
- Wednesday, May 22nd Final Design approval by HPARD
- Tuesday, May 28th Fabrication/Installation/Procurement of Materials/IT Design for QR Code
- June 27, 2019 Site restoration, Website Launch and HPARD Acceptance

For Questions Contact **(DO NOT CONTACT AFTER MONDAY, APRIL 22nd AT 5:00 PM (CST)):**

Gerald P. Wilson, P.E. - Capital Projects Manager

OST/Alameda Corridors Redevelopment Authority - TIRZ #7

5445 Alameda Rd., Suite 545

Houston, TX 77004

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SUBMIT SOQ TO: OST/Alameda Corridors Redevelopment Authority and TIRZ No 7
Attn: Theola Petteway, Executive Director
5445 Alameda Rd., Suite 545
Houston, TX 77004

Phone: 713-522-5154

Fax: 713-522-1105

Qualifications Due: April 30, 2019 3:00 PM Central Time

Visit www.ostalmeda.org for more information.