



Request for Qualifications

Mamook Tokatee Public Art Sculpture

Applications Due: Thursday, November 30,
2023, at 11:59pm PDT

Submit application to: bids@nayapdx.org

Overview

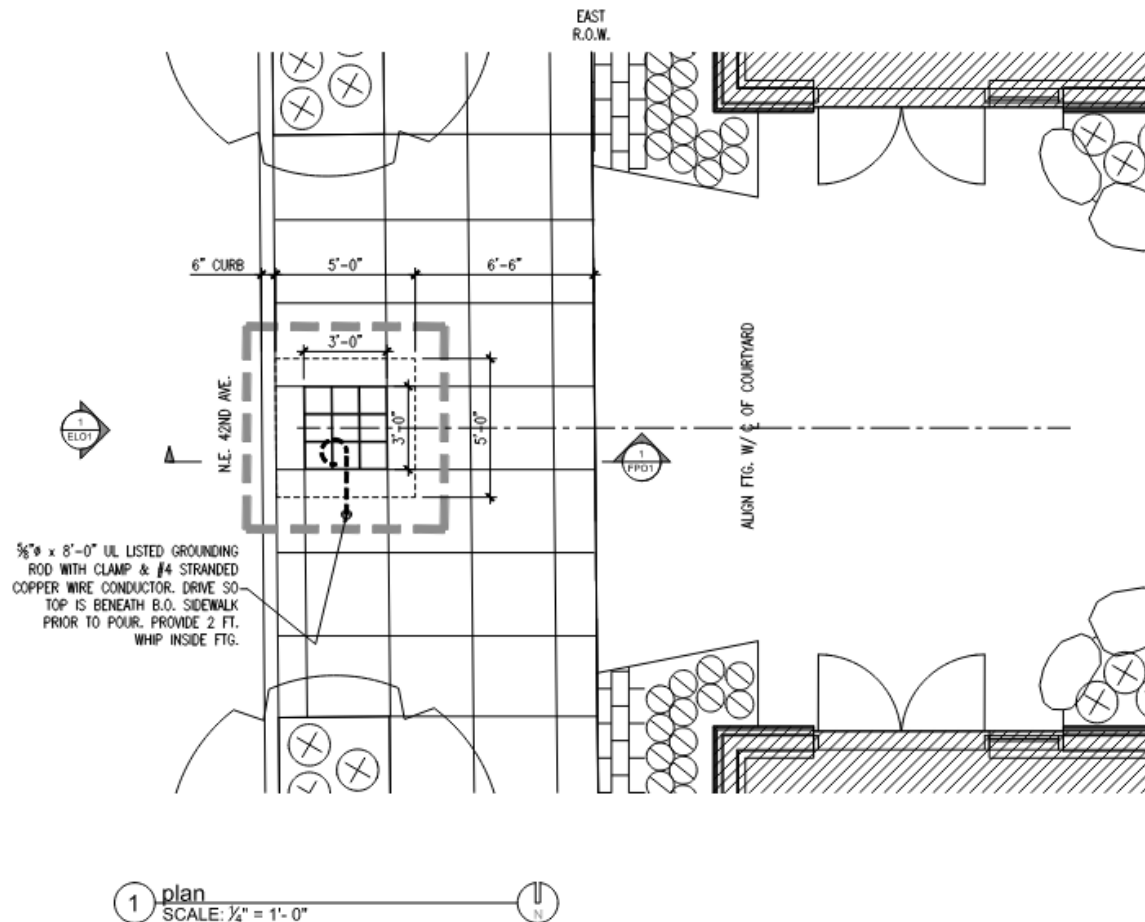
The City of Portland has allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the [Native American Youth and Family Center](#) (NAYA) to procure and install 3-5 public art installations in Northeast Portland's Cully neighborhood that celebrate Indigenous culture and artists. Public art is an important part of the City's identity, enlivening landscapes and promoting dialogue among people of all ages and backgrounds. Portland has been home to Indigenous populations for thousands of years, and the City wants this history to be celebrated and visible through its public art collection.



Project Description

We are seeking an experienced Native American artist(s) to design and create a distinctive, site-specific, original public artwork for a designated space on the sidewalk, center front of NAYA's [Mamook Tokatee](#) building (photo above) located on NE 42nd Avenue. The Native American artist(s) should have established ties to the City of Portland. Collaborations between established and emerging artists are encouraged.

The public art piece should be a three-dimensional sculpture that will be placed on a base measuring 5' wide x 5' long. The sculpture's dimensions are limited by the footing base design of 3'x3' in width and not greater than approximately 12' projections from the monument can be up to 5' in width. The sculpture will be visible by both cars and pedestrians passing by Mamook Tokatee. The sculpture should have a visible design on two or four sides, or in the round.



Plan drawing of sculpture location at sidewalk.

Compensation

The project budget is \$120,000 to create a site-specific three-dimensional sculpture for a designated space on the sidewalk. This fee is inclusive of all project expenses including artist fees, design development, materials, fabrication, engineering, permitting, installation and communication/coordination with the design team, construction team and third-party contractors who may help to fabricate and install the artwork. If any of these services are requested, NAYA can provide services from a 3rd party consultant, within the project budget.

Artwork Goals

Through community engagement with Cully neighborhood residents, art organizations, artists, and members of the Portland Native American community, many common themes started to emerge regarding what the artwork(s) might represent or convey to the viewer. Though we want to honor the individual creativity of you the artist(s), the following community stakeholder themes should be considered when creating your proposal:

- Uplifting Activism: We Are On Native Land, Reclamation of Land, Place, and Space
 - “We are Many, We Are One”
 - Land back, Reclamation of Culture, Act(s) of Resilience
 - Honoring Community Leaders
 - Honoring Missing or Murdered Indigenous Relatives
- Importance of Nature
 - “Water is Life”
 - The Word “Water” Interpreted in Different Native Languages
 - Animals (including but not limited to Eagles, Horses, Salmon, Bears, Raven)
 - The Importance of Fishing: Salmon and Traditional Nets
 - “Animals Are Our Relatives”
 - Connection and Relationship to Land and Plants
 - Interpret Traditional Ecological Knowledge
 - Connect our Community, especially Children, with Nature
- Art as a Healing Agent
 - Creating a Sense of Pride, Belonging and Representation
 - “We Are Still Here, and We Are Thriving”
- Inclusivity and Being Inclusive
 - Representative of Many Tribes, Not Just Local Ones
 - Celebrate the Diversity of our Culture(s)
 - Representative of Intersectional Identities: Two Spirit, Queer, and BIPOC Communities
 - Inclusivity of Black Natives, Afro-Indigenous Contributions to Native Tribes
- Educational Opportunity by Sharing Indigenous History and/or Culture
 - Tell the History of Those Who Were Here Before Us

- Teaching Opportunity for Native Youth
- Include Native language in the Art
- Teaching Opportunity for Non-Natives
- Tell the History of “This Place” (Cully) and Local Tribes

The artwork should encompass one or more of the following elements:

- Bold and Highly Visible
- Traditional Images That Have Meaning
- Vibrant Colors That Bring Joy, Hope, Humor, and Happiness
 - Visually Stimulating, Colorful Art
- Balance of Representation of Local Tribes and Tribes from other Places
 - Including Honoring/Acknowledging Original People to this Area: “We Are On Chinookan Land”
- Integration of Technology
 - QR Codes Embedded Into The Art That Would Take Viewers to Websites, Audio Stories, Music, or Maps

Eligibility

- Open to Native American artists who live, work, or have multigenerational ties to the City of Portland, Oregon.
- Affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Applicants can apply as a single artist or as a team with Native American / Indigenous leadership.
- Emerging artists are encouraged to apply, especially in collaboration with established artists.

Selection Criteria

- Demonstrated experience and strength of past work reflected in the submitted application.
- Perceived ability and interest in creating artwork representative to the site.
- Availability to meet project completion timeline.
- Special attention will be given to applicants who are willing to take on an emerging Native American / Indigenous artist as an apprentice.

Selection Process

The selection committee will review artists' submissions and choose more than one finalist to invite to interview. The committee will evaluate each submission and interview a selection of finalists before selecting an artist or team for the entry commission.

The purpose of the interview is to allow the artist(s) and committee to meet and engage in a mutually beneficial and informative conversation. It's an opportunity for the artist(s) to better understand the context of the project and the intentions the committee has for the final art piece. Both parties are given the chance to ask questions and determine the best alignment and artist selection for the project. After the interviews are completed, the committee will choose a final artist/artist team to award the public art opportunity to. The selected artist(s) will then be issued a Design Phase contract during which they will create a proposal that includes a design for the Mamook Tokatee Public Art Sculpture, a budget, and a timeline. If the applicant is looking for partnership or mentoring opportunities, please indicate this in the application.

Timeline

- October 18, 2023: RFQ launch
- October/November 2023: Open call for artists
- November 30, 2023: Applications due
- December-January 2024: Panel review and artist selection including interviews
- February-July 2024: Fabrication
- August-September 2024: Targeted date for artwork to be completed and installed

The selection committee welcomes the opportunity to work with and support you in the production of this public art piece. This is a monumental project for the Native community of Portland, OR, and we look forward to your participation, and being a part of your creative process.

Application Requirements

- Artist bio/resume. Submit a PDF, no more than two pages, that outlines your creative activities, artistic accomplishments, and experience. If applying as a team, submit one PDF that includes a bio/resume for all team members.
- Statement of interest. In 3000 characters or less, provide a statement that outlines the following:
 - Your interest in this project.
 - Why this project, its focus and themes are of interest to you
 - Why you'd be a good match for the project
 - How do you foresee your work connecting to the goals and the community stakeholder themes of the project
 - Describe your connection to the Native American community of Portland, OR
 - Describe your capacity and/or experience to complete the scope of work
 - If you are applying as a team, describe your individual roles and how you anticipate working together
- Up to 5 past work samples. Please list title, year, description of the work (including concept), materials used, dimensions, and project budget (1,000 characters max per image).

How to Apply

Only electronic submissions of the application will be accepted. All application materials must be submitted electronically via a file sharing site (e.g. GoogleDocs, Dropbox, SharePoint, etc.). Links to application material locations on the file sharing site must be submitted via email to:

bids@navapdx.org. Submissions due Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 11:59pm PDT.

Please indicate in the subject line that the materials are submitted for the **Mamook Tokatee Public Art Sculpture RFQ**.

Questions

We are here to support and assist you! If you have questions about the overall opportunity or submitting your application, please contact Cecily Quintana at 503-810-7525 or

director@quintanagalleries.com.

About the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)

NAYA serves self-identified Native Americans, infant to Elder, in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. Our mission is to enhance the diverse strengths of our youth and families in partnership with the community through cultural identity and education. NAYA was founded by parent and Elder volunteers in 1974 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1994. Over the last 49 years, NAYA has become a gathering center for Native Americans to practice tradition, teach culture, and build community in a safe and inviting space. NAYA's wraparound programs directly serve more than 2,000 Native American youth, adults, and Elders every year and positively impacts more than 10,000 individuals from over 380 tribal backgrounds living in Portland's growing Native American community. With a 10-acre campus located in Portland's Cully neighborhood, NAYA is the city's leading Native American gathering center where clients access a continuum of critical self-sufficiency, asset-building, and educational programs.

About Mamook Tokatee

Mamook Tokatee translates from the Chinook Wawa phrase for "make beautiful," a fitting name for the development that provides housing, studio, and display space for members of Portland's dynamic Native American artist community. Native artists are revered as culture keepers in tribal communities. By providing affordable housing and workspace for Native Americans and artists, Located at 4620 NE 42nd Avenue, Mamook Tokatee helps ensure that Native culture remains ever-present in Portland. Site visits are welcome, as the sculpture site is located within the public right of way. The courtyard remains private to residents and visitors should contact on-site management if entering.