



Request for Qualifications

Native Gathering Garden
Public Art Mural

Applications Due: Monday, May 6, 2024, 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 mural for the storage container (photo below) within Thomas Cully Park (5810 NE 72nd Ave) that holds maintenance equipment for the Native Gathering Garden. The container is the property of the City of Portland and modifications will be subject to an approval process. 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 two-dimensional mural painted directly onto the corrugated wall or onto another surface and affixed to the container without drilling into the main body. The container dimensions are 19'9" x 7'9" x 7'11". The mural will be visible by individuals walking through and connecting with the park. The mural will experience high winds and extreme temperatures of both heat and cold. There is the possibility of tagging on the mural, mitigation of which should be accounted for in the plan. An anti-graffiti topcoat or a washable topcoat is strongly recommended.



North Elevation



West Elevation



South Elevation



East Elevation

Compensation

The project budget is \$35,000 to create a site-specific two-dimensional mural that will be visible to those spending time or working within the park. The mural application will be at the preference of the artist. The existing surface is an uneven steel surface of corrugated panels and steel shapes and indentations. Any improvements needed for receiving the artwork or installation shall be costs carried by the artist and contingent on approval by the building owner. Anti-graffiti and other protective coatings shall be provided by the artist and available for review prior to installation.

This fee is inclusive of all project expenses including artist fees, design development, materials and protective coatings, 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:

- Representation
 - Historically accurate community representation of the tribes that used to live on the land
 - Intersectional representation of Native identities
 - Youth, elders, families (7 generations)
 - Afro-Indigeneity
 - Two Spirit
 - Disabled community
- Nature
 - Reflection of the nature and animals in the surrounding area
 - Plants: Tarweed, Camas (Quamash), Lupin, Fireweed, Nodding Onion, Rose, Yarrow, Thimbleberry, Chocolate Lily, Choke Cherries, Hazelnuts, Strawberries, Alder, Blackcap Raspberry, Salmonberry, Trailing Blackberry, Elderberry, or other traditional plants that can no longer be grown on this land
 - Animals: Eagles, Coyotes, Bugs, Voles, Pollinators, Killdeer, Birds, wetland animals, animals that have been displaced or gone extinct
 - Interconnectedness of people, animals, and plants

- Plant roots
 - Cyclical/seasonal living
- History
 - Telling the history of this land
 - Acknowledging colonial harm while celebrating the long-term joy that has been experienced at Native Gathering Garden
- Continued placemaking for urban Native youth and community

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

- Bold and Highly Visible (art that can be viewed by passing planes)
- Variety of vibrant colors, shapes, and patterns
- Many different styles of Indigenous art, not just PNW
- Incorporation of natural elements
- Incorporation of texture for low vision persons or otherwise accessible art
- Incorporation of technology (QR code)

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 actively engage a Native American / Indigenous youth or community members in the creation process.

Selection Process

The selection committee will review artists' qualification submissions and choose more than one semifinalist to invite to submit a design proposal. The committee will evaluate each design proposal of semifinalists before selecting an artist or team for the entry commission.

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 Native Gathering Garden Public Art Mural, a budget, and a timeline. If the applicant is looking for partnership or mentoring opportunities, please indicate this in the application.

Timeline

- April 17, 2024: RFQ (Request for Qualifications) launch
- April 17 – May 6, 2024: Open call for artists
- May 6, 2024: Applications due
- May 20, 2024: Semifinalists announced
- May 20 - 24, 2024: Pre-design walkthrough at site
- June 10, 2024: Design proposals due
- June 10 – 21, 2024: Panel review and artist selection
- July 1, 2024: Finalist announced
- August/September: Targeted date for creation/painting of artwork

The selection committee welcomes the opportunity to work with and support you in producing this public art piece. This is a monumental project for the Native community of Portland, OR. 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 3,000 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 would 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., Google Docs, Dropbox, SharePoint, etc.). Links to application material locations on the file sharing site must be submitted via email to: bids@nayapdx.org. Submissions due Monday, May 6, 2024, at 11:59pm PDT.

Please indicate in the subject line that the materials are submitted for the **Native Gathering Garden Public Art Mural 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.