

Region 6W

Call for Regional Public Art

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2014

Region 6W seeks artists interested in creating a public art project for the region. We are open to all mediums and ideas but project ideas should address the majority of our outlined project goals.

About Region 6W:

Region 6W includes the counties of Big Stone, Swift, Lac qui Parle, Chippewa and Yellow Medicine along the upper Minnesota River Valley in Western Minnesota. Our counties consist of 37 small towns, most under 500 people each. Montevideo is our largest city with just over 5,200 people.

The Minnesota River valley travels through the prairie and agricultural land in our region. There are a few trails, quiet roads and wide open spaces. Many of our towns have vacant buildings in the downtown areas, or vacant lots that could be an opportunity for public art.

Western Minnesota Prairie Waters, our local regional tourism group, can offer more information on our area:

www.prairiewaters.com. We are also home of the Meander Art Crawl, www.artsmeander.com.

While our communities have had occasional public art projects, our goal is to increase the amount of public art in our region. Two recent projects have been mosaic benches in Appleton, MN and a sculpture along a trail near Ortonville, MN.

Opportunities for funding art projects are primarily through Southwest MN Arts Council (SMAC), our local regional Arts Council, but there are additional potential funding sources depending on project such as community foundations, artist school programs and active living grants.



Public Art projects in Region 6W

Opportunity and project description:

We are looking to create a regional public art project. A regional public art project includes multiple towns or locations, and is something that connects our region. Our timeframe for this project is 12-18 months. This call is to find qualified and interested artists, and to align them with our committee to create a proposal for a regional public art project.

The attachment includes a list of ideas created from talking with our regional cities and committee members. Some examples of a regional public art project include: a) a theme of artwork and each town address it differently, b) similar objects, such as bike racks or benches, in two or more towns in our region or c) artwork along trails or sidewalks in two or more towns or locations. These ideas are to illustrate our concept of a regional art project.

We are not looking for a full proposal at this time, but your letter of interest should briefly identify how your project idea will meet these goals.

Project goals:

- Be unique and have a high artistic quality.
- Include multiple towns or locations, and be something that connects our region. Each city should have the opportunity to structure the project slightly to their unique features.
- May address a city/county need (see attachment).
- Artists may involve community members in process.
- Artists may involve students through artist in residence or other methods.
- Artists may submit multiple project ideas. Please keep each project idea in a separate letter of interest.

Selection process

This RFQ will be reviewed by a committee including representatives from the region, artists, city staff and community members. A group of three finalists will be selected and paid \$250 to prepare design concepts and budgets. Finalists will have approximately six weeks to prepare preliminary proposals. The committee will then review and possibly interview artists.

This committee's next step will be to find funding for selected proposals. Many of these ideas will require contact with the cities involved to gauge interest and research feasibility. The committee will be in charge of this process and will work with the artist chosen to implement this project. Grants will need to be written and matching funds found. This process will likely take 6-18 months.

All RFQ/project ideas received may be kept for future consideration as funding becomes available.

Selection Criteria:

Our criteria in selecting an artist to create a full scale proposal will be:

- Letter of interest content
- Ability of artist(s) to complete project based on prior work experience
- Quality of work samples submitted

Budget:

The budget for this project is approximately \$20,000 or less.

We currently have funding to solicit proposals but not for implementation. The final proposal will allow us to fundraise and write grants. The committee will be responsible for fundraising. We expect this to take 12-18 months.

Submission materials:

1) Letter of interest

- a) Briefly outline your project idea and how you would accomplish it (up to one page).
- b) Identify experience with the following:
 - i) Experience working with local artists do to develop a local capacity for public art.
 - ii) Experience working within communities to create art.
 - iii) Experience with the medium in your project idea.
 - iv) Experience with similar projects or partnerships.
 - v) Other relevant experience depending on project proposal (for example, working with kids)

2) Three References

3) Up to 10 Work Samples in electronic format (PDF or JPEG format)

Digital images CD, DVD or via Dropbox, Dimensions: 1920 x 1920 pixels, File Format: Save all images as a Standard JPEG. File Size: JPEGs must be under 1.8 MB

4) Work Sample description (1 page limit)

Name, Title, Medium, year and a 1-2 line description of the project.

5) Complete contact information

Timeline:

June 15: Request for Qualifications due – **EXTENDED ONE WEEK – now due June 23rd!**
End of June: Three artist selected to prepare full proposal with design concepts and budget.
Beginning of July: Artists notified and contracts written
August 22: Full Proposals due

All materials should be sent electronically to:

Kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.org

Large documents can be shared via dropbox or sent to:

Kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.info

Questions:

Kristi Fernholz

320-289-1981x106

Kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.org

Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission

323 W Schlieman Ave.

Appleton, MN 56208



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

ATTACHMENT

Some of our top City/County needs:

downtown beautification
playground equipment
place to display art in public
w/kids, artist in residence
internet in public
teenagers involved
community bikes
picnic tables
garbage cans/recycling
trails – use art to identify additional trails

Ideas:

Downtown beautification

Murals
Bike Racks
Benches
Mosaic
Lighting projects - LED

Trails/natural areas:

Crosswalks
Artwork/design to mark the trails
Art installations in the landscape
Sculpture park along the trails
Gardens commissioned along trails/spaces
Gathering spaces
Trailhead sculpture
Canoe portage locations, functional and artful (benches and signs)
towns with canoe portage areas: Granite Falls, Montevideo, Appleton, Dawson, Ortonville, Benson, etc.

Art to address the following:

Gathering space
Unique signage in each town/directional signage.
Window paintings on vacant buildings
Art in vacant lot areas.

Sculpture near baseball fields and sports facilities.
Moveable art from town to town
Interactive art

Themes:

Birds – in folk art and craft, paintings and sculpture, creating artful bird habitat
Agriculture
Local materials – local clay, found materials, metal murals, etc.