



Call to Artists—Request for Qualifications

172nd Avenue Roundabout

Clackamas County and the Clackamas County Arts Alliance are seeking qualifications from artists/artist teams in the United States for a permanent traffic-mitigating public artwork that will signify entrance into the 172nd Avenue Roundabout and serve as a civic gateway to the City of Happy Valley. Main project goals are to improve traffic safety at the roundabout site and anchor the traffic circle in its location.

Total budget is \$33,750. Deadline to apply is January 13, 2010.



Project Background

The Site

The 172nd Avenue Roundabout is a part of a larger transportation enhancement project along 172nd Avenue undertaken as a partnership between Clackamas County and the City of Happy Valley. The project addresses anticipated industrial and residential growth in the area (eventually including the City of Damascus) and need for increased traffic capacity. The Roundabout is located approximately ½ mile South of the intersection of Sunnyside Road and 172nd Avenue and will form the intersection of 172nd and what is currently Big Timber Lane.

The corridor along 172nd Avenue connects the City of Happy Valley and Damascus. The land surrounding the roundabout was settled by Austrian, Swiss and German immigrants in the 1800's and was comprised of small family farms that produced filberts, berries, hay and a number of other diverse crops (such as potatoes

and barley). Today, the land is primarily residential, yet the spirit of family farms still exists in farms such as Siri and Son's Farms.

The Project

In January 2008 the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners (BCC) adopted the *Public Art in Clackamas County Project Plan, 2007-2010*, which describes the development process and importance of public art projects in various locations throughout the County. The 172nd Avenue Roundabout is part of this Plan because roundabout public art has been employed for decades as a component of creative transportation design throughout the U.S. and abroad.

A primary goal for the 172nd Avenue Roundabout is to improve traffic safety at the roundabout site. This could be accomplished through:

Education: The artwork's form could guide users around the roundabout or its content could provide cues on how to use the roundabout.

Traffic Calming: The artwork could slow drivers, signify a change in road or intersection patterns, and create a visual reference point for drivers.

Safety: The artwork could improve conditions for night driving and inclement weather when its purpose is that of a visual barrier. The art's form could shield oncoming headlights from drivers, yet maintain necessary sight lines for directional indication.

The second main project goal is to create a civic gateway to the City of Happy Valley that has lasting impact and integrity. The artwork in the roundabout should be a landmark / icon within the community and serve the purpose of anchoring individuals (citizens and visitors alike) to the place.

The Challenge

The design of artwork for a delicate traffic situation such as a roundabout requires the consideration of a unique set of technical and design challenges:

Technical Challenges

- The public artwork must improve and not detract from the safety of the site.
- The artwork should assist drivers unfamiliar with roundabout usage without creating a disorienting situation.
- To maintain the appropriate sight distance for approaching and circulating vehicles at the roundabout, artwork should be located within a 44-foot radius of the center of the inner circle.
- The artwork should be located and designed to minimize possible impacts from errant vehicles.

Design Challenges

- The diameter of the 172nd Avenue Roundabout is large (100 ft) and will take creative problem solving to have impact and meaning. **Additionally, there is a quick time line on this project with a two-step installation process required.**

- The artwork should be a landmark / icon for the young City of Happy Valley and create a sense of place and ownership along the corridor. **The artwork must contain text that reads “City of Happy Valley” or “Welcome to the City of Happy Valley”.** (See the *City of Happy Valley Style Guide* for more information.)
- Artwork should be designed “in the round” and be equally intriguing from all angles.
- The artwork should be designed to be viewed from the perimeter of the roundabout and should not require up-close inspection to be appreciated.
- The Roundabout is domed from 0 feet at the edge to 3-4 feet in the center. The artist may determine the specific placement of the artwork in the central area of the roundabout (within the 44-foot radius), but should consider the domed nature of the ground.
- Irrigation and electrical conduit will be provided to the roundabout, but will not be installed in / around the roundabout before the artwork is completed. Once the artwork is installed, landscaping will need to be planted and irrigation systems installed around the artwork. The selected artist will need to work with Harper Houf Peterson Righellis, Inc. landscape architects to select plant species and locations to fit within the presentation of the artwork.
- The 172nd Avenue improvement project will result in the County’s first “green street”. Artists are encouraged to reflect Clackamas County’s commitment to sustainability. (Refer to *Clackamas County’s 3-Year Art Plan and the Red Soils Public Art Element* for more information, found at www.clackamasartsalliance.org/publications.htm)

Artwork Opportunities

The 172nd Avenue Roundabout provides a large, open canvas for artwork design and will be prominent feature as vehicles travel south from Sunnyside Road and north from Highway 212 toward the roundabout. Conduits at the location will be added after the artwork is installed, which will provide artwork lighting possibilities. Any energy-driven object must require minimal energy consumption and maintenance needs (such as LED / light-emitting diode or solar powered lighting).

The site provides opportunity for a sculpture scaled to the attention of approaching drivers, but should not be so detailed that it requires up-close or extended inspection for appreciation. Possible opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Lighted gateway sculpture (with low energy use to embody the value of sustainability)
- Sculpture as a dramatic icon that creates a sense of place
- Abstract / non-figurative work
- Artwork that responds to the City of Happy Valley’s goals or the surrounding natural environment.

Artwork safety and durability requirements are as follows:

- Must comply with public safety and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.
- Must be safe, durable and easily maintained.
- Must consider exterior climate conditions and ensure ability to withstand the elements.
- Must reasonably discourage and/or deter theft and vandalism.

Eligibility

The 172nd Avenue Roundabout project is open to professional artists or artist teams in the United States. Interested artists or artist teams must submit qualifications, and a brief artist’s statement providing adequate

information to describe a conceptual approach to the project. Artists/artist teams must be available for an interview *on or about* February 17, 2010, and the selected artist/team must be available for project development and coordination between March and June 2010.

Project Budget / Compensation

A total budget of \$33,750 has been established for this project, including all artist fees, materials, insurance, travel, fabrication, installation and periodic communications and / or Steering Committee meetings. Finalists selected will receive a stipend of \$750 to develop a proposal and present it during a personal interview with the Steering Committee.

Artist Selection Process & Criteria

All submitted and complete applications will be subjected to a juried evaluation process. The Steering Committee serves as the project's selection panel and will select *up to* three finalists to develop a project proposal and participate in a personal interview with the Steering Committee. Selection criteria include:

- Successful completion of other creative projects of a similar nature
- Mastery or skill in an artistic media
- Strong communication and organizational skills
- Creative, cost-effective solutions to the project goals
- Ability to work within a budget

Application Guidelines and Calendar

Contact information, including name, phone number and email address must appear on each page of written material submitted with the application. Teams must identify one person as the primary contact.

Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. All applications must include:

- **An artist statement (PDF document)**, not exceeding 1 page, addressing broad conceptual approach to this project and relevant past project experiences.
- **Visual documentation in digital format of past work** similar to what is proposed in the concept approach (Maximum 10 images):
 - Format all images as (.jpg) with each image no larger than 1024 x 768 pixels (should not exceed 250 KB per image).
 - Images other than JPEG format will not be reviewed.
 - Internet connections to personal websites cannot substitute for provided images
 - Name each image with Artist's last name, first initial and number corresponding to the number on the image list (e.g. SmithC-01.jpg).
- **1 copy of an annotated image list (PDF document)** including project title, media, dimensions, completion date, location, brief description and budget for each project
- **1 copy of current résumé (PDF document)** not to exceed 3 pages for each artist
- **Contact information for 2 professional references (PDF document)**

The Selection Committee will not consider applications that do not follow these Application Guidelines.

All materials may be submitted electronically to:

betsy@clackamasartsalliance.org

or mailed to:

Clackamas County Arts Alliance
172nd Avenue Roundabout
P.O. Box 2181
Oregon City, OR 97045

Calendar

Submission Deadline.....January 13, 2010

*Finalist Selection.....January 20, 2010

*Finalist Interviews.....February 17, 2010

*Artist Contract.....March 8, 2010

Installation of base/footing..May 1, 2010

Installation.....June 1, 2010

** these dates are targets and may be subject to slight adjustment*

Steering Committee

Chuck Clemans	Clackamas County Public Art Steering Committee
Bill Garrity	Clackamas County Transportation and Development
James Grady	Artist, Local Resident
Matt Grady	Gramor Development
Terry Mungenast	Clackamas County Transportation and Development
Mel Stout	Harper Houf Peterson Righellis, Inc.
Jason Tuck	City of Happy Valley
Renee Ugrin	Artist, Local Resident
Neil Waibel	Harper Houf Peterson Righellis, Inc.
Cheryl Snow	Executive Director, Clackamas County Arts Alliance

Staff Contact

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