



CALL TO ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CITY OF TACOMA MUNICIPAL ART PROGRAM

Artist in Residence, Tacoma, WA

Deadline: September 6, 2017, 11:59pm

Budget: \$4,000 monthly stipend, plus material costs

Call Summary

The City of Tacoma is seeking an individual to act as an Artist in Residence (AiR) for 14 months, November 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018. The AiR will be embedded within the City, and will work collaboratively with staff to find creative ways to address homelessness and related issues in Tacoma. This residency is both proactive and responsive – the artist will be expected to equally address issues of Creative Site Reclamation and issues of Creative Prevention and Community Engagement.

Creative Site Reclamation

The AiR will act as an on-call artist and designer to help develop solutions for creative placemaking and site reclamation, to reclaim areas as positive community space.

Creative Prevention and Community Engagement

The AiR will work on creative solutions to address issues in the lives of people who are experiencing homelessness practically, emotionally, socially, or otherwise; and lead community engagement to create a more empathetic relationship with community members who are not experiencing homelessness.

Eligibility

- Applicant(s) must be a resident of the US. Applicants residing outside of Pierce, King, Thurston, or Kitsap counties at the time of application must be willing to relocate to Tacoma for the duration of the residency.
- Applicant(s) must apply as a single artist.
- Applicant(s) cannot be a member of the Tacoma Arts Commission or an employee of the City of Tacoma.
- Applicant(s) must be able to commit to a minimum average of 30 hours per week for the duration of the residency.
- Applicant(s) must be 18 years or older and not a full-time student during the residency.

People who are members of historically disenfranchised racial, ethnic, cultural, and other identity groups are encouraged to apply.

Background

On May 9, 2017, the Tacoma City Council passed Ordinance 28430, declaring a state of public health emergency. The declaration was in response to the growing concentrations of people living in encampments in Tacoma. Encampments pose safety and health concerns for people living in them and around them as they create concerns about human waste, garbage, exposure to communicable diseases, exposure to violence and other human health concerns.

To promptly address the health and safety of people, the City is implementing the Emergency Temporary Aid and Sheltering Plan, which has three phases:

Phase 1: Deploy rapid resource pop-ups offering services to mitigate immediate health and safety issues in the encampments while reducing impacts on citizens and businesses. This phase also involves enhanced enforcement efforts focused on illegal activities.

Phase 2: Establish temporary transitional centers focused on managed shelter options and rapidly connecting individuals with services to enhance self-sustainability and connection with permanent housing.

Phase 3: Explore opportunities to expand homelessness services throughout the County. Data collection from Phase 1 and 2 will ultimately help inform the implementation of Phase 3.

As part of this effort, the City engages in site reclamation to reclaim areas as positive community space.

Opportunity

The AiR will work from within the City to develop creative solutions related to homelessness. As an embedded artist, they will have access to information and people working on these issues every day. They will be expected to represent the City of Tacoma, but will be given creative license to take risk and push forward creative solutions. The AiR will be expected to start with a period of deep research and engagement; produce projects, events, and engagement; and act as an on-call designer to help the City creatively address site reclamation so that more public space is used as positive community space. While the artist must produce tangible outcomes, they need not work or think in a linear way.

The selected artist will have experience working with diverse cultural communities and be successful creating aesthetically strong artwork that results from meaningful community engagement. There will be an opportunity to leverage work happening City-wide, and a successful artist will take full advantage of investments and will be flexible, creative, and motivated by these opportunities.

A successful AiR will:

- Be passionate and driven by this opportunity
- Be deeply compassionate and collaborative, with strong social skills
- Be comfortable and have experience working with people experiencing homelessness or similar hardship
- Be deeply creative and experimental
- Be able to listen and relate to a wide variety of people
- Be an active learner, critical problem solver, and motivated self-starter
- Create work that is informed by deep community engagement
- Be a strong organizer, with an ability to deliver projects
- Be able to work within bureaucratic systems (policy, code, etc.) successfully, flexibly, and creatively
- Be able to read and produce working drawings to inform landscape design and the built environment
- Have a strong sense of materials and fabrication methods
- Work collaboratively with City staff and community members to leverage other investment and energy

A successful residency will:

- Build empathy for individuals experiencing homelessness in Tacoma
- Create more of a human, listening relationship between the City of Tacoma, the larger community, and individuals experiencing homelessness
- Create opportunities for diverse groups to interact, connect, and communicate in meaningful ways
- Be informed by deep community engagement and research
- Help uncover creative solutions to a variety of challenges related to homelessness
- Work within the City of Tacoma government and the larger community
- Produce tangible outcomes, including: site designs, projects/programming, and community outreach events
- Further productive discussions and solutions to homelessness and related issues in Tacoma

Support

The selected artist will work closely with City of Tacoma staff, especially in the Neighborhood and Community Services and Community and Economic Development Departments. The artist will be managed by the City of Tacoma's Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality and will have a desk at the City. Besides deep partnership and support from City of Tacoma staff, the artist can expect the following:

- \$4,000 monthly stipend (\$56,000 total, over 14 months)
- Up to \$40,000 in flexible programmatic/material budget
- Access to additional funds, to be used for site reclamation
- Access to key City staff and inclusion in site visits/meetings
- Workspace at the City
- Logistical support

Selection Criteria

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Artistic quality as exemplified in past work
- Exhibited background or ability designing outdoor spaces
- Exhibited background or ability creating artwork that is informed by community engagement
- Experience working with, and compassion for, people experiencing homelessness or similar hardship
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to work within bureaucracy, and with architects, engineers, and City staff
- Ability to come up with creative solutions to a variety of problems
- Ability to think conceptually
- Ability to successfully organize, curate, and implement events and community programming
- Ability to work with durable, low-maintenance materials
- Ability to think and work in a scale and with materials appropriate to a site

Timeline*

July 28, 2017	Call to Artists available
September 6, 2017, midnight	Deadline for submissions
Week of September 18, 2017	Review of submissions and selection of finalists
Week of October 9, 2017	Finalist site visit, interviews, and selection of artist
November 1, 2017	Start of contract
November 2017 – December 2018	Artist Residency

**All dates subject to change*

Questions? Contact Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist, 253-591-5564, rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Eligible artists interested in this opportunity must submit the following four items via Submittable:

<https://tacomaarts.submittable.com/submit>

1. Short Written Responses

Please submit responses to the following questions:

- Why are you interested in this project?
- Describe your experience with homelessness and/or working with individuals experiencing homelessness.
- What is your experience working with and designing outdoor spaces? If you do not have any direct experience as a landscape architect or designer, what skills or experience would allow you to be successful in this residency?
- How have you successfully engaged community in past projects?
- Anything else you want to tell us? (optional)

2. Professional Resume and Three References

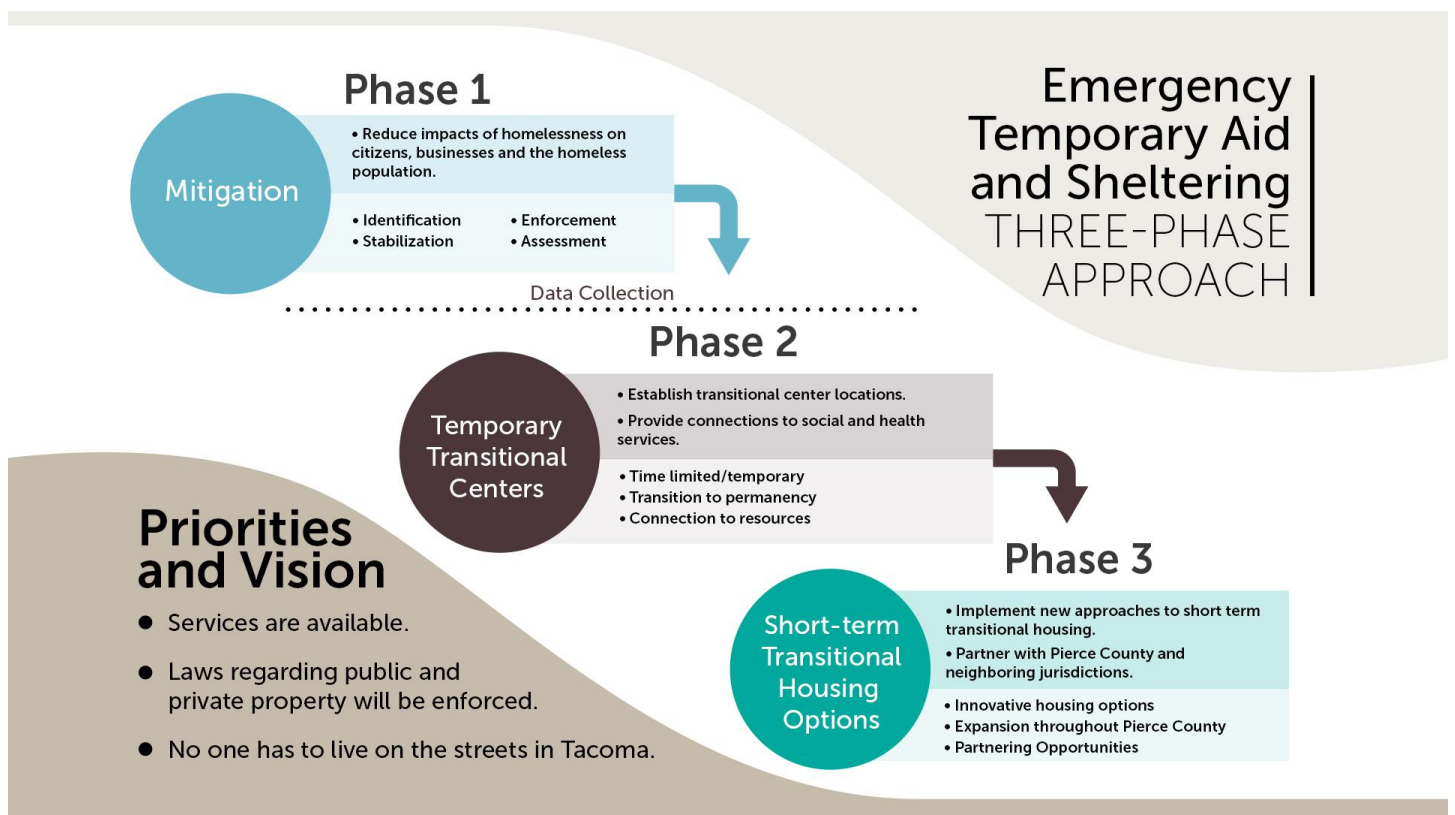
Resume should not exceed three pages and should include the names, titles, addresses, emails and phone numbers of three professional references.

3. Three Case Studies

Send us 3 case studies of past projects with short descriptions. At least one case study should show how you work with community, and at least one should show your skill designing and implementing landscapes.

Samples uploaded for each case study can include videos, articles, images, marketing materials, project webpages, screenshots, lesson plans, planning documents, etc. – anything that helps tell the story of a relevant past project in a complete and nuanced way. Samples can be uploaded as separate files (5 maximum) or combined into a single document or video. After reviewing your case studies, we should understand your working style, aesthetic, and how your past work relates to this residency.

The panel will review up to 3 minutes of each video and audio clip, and up to 5 pages of each document submitted. If uploading a longer video or audio file, indicate what time into the start of the URL or digital file the panel should begin review. If submitting a longer document, indicate which pages the panel should review. If work is presented as part of a collaboration, explain your role in the larger project and credit design team or individual collaborators by name and role (e.g. landscape architect).



Graphic representing the City's approach to the emergency.